

**LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD MINUTES
BOARD MEETING
April 13, 2026**

The regular monthly meeting of the Lower Platte North NRD Board of Directors was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at Lower Platte North NRD Office, Wahoo, NE on Monday, April 13, 2026.

1. NOTICE OF MEETING

The agenda and supporting documents are available on the district's website – www.lpnrd.org. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law has been posted on the NRD's website.

The advanced notice of our April 13, 2026, board meeting was posted on the Lower Platte North NRD website and posted in the Fremont Tribune on April 3, 2026.

Chair Sabatka informed those present that a copy of the "Open Meetings Act" is posted for public viewing. Chair Sabatka declared this meeting as a "virtual meeting" so any director on Zoom will be able to vote.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. ROLL CALL - INTRODUCTIONS

DIRECTORS PRESENT AND CONSTITUTING A QUORUM:

Bailey	Engel	Hanson
Harders (Zoom)	Hilger	Johnson, Duane
Johnson, Jerry	Lawrence	McKnight
Olson	Saeger	Seier
Tonnies	Yosten	Sabatka

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Birkel	Goldsberry	Meduna
Saalfeld		

STAFF AND GUESTS:

Gottschalk	Breunig	Chapman
Lausterer	Heimann (Zoom)	Elliott
Andersen	Shupe	Beethe (Zoom)
Danielle Allen (Zoom)	L. Jha, JEO	Fujan
Schultz	Pillard (Zoom)	Sabatka (Zoom)
Jon Mohr		

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. COMMENTS - ADVISORS/GUESTS/DIRECTORS

a. Guest Comments

Fujan addressed the Board.

b. NRCS Report

Bryan Shupe gave the NRCS Report.

c. NARD Report

Hilger gave the NARD Report.

d. NRC Report - None

e. Manager Report

Gottschalk gave his monthly report.

f. Education Program

Jon Mohr, Speros (formerly LRE) updated the Board on Groundwater Modeling.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tonnies, made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the minutes from March 9, 2026, Board Meeting. Motion carried on consent agenda.

6. REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

2. Meetings

a. Pending

b. Reports

1. NRD Open House – Update Given

2. NARD Washington DC Meeting – Update Given

3. Management Items

a. Director Absences – Update Given

b. Monthly Education Program – taken earlier

c. Office Seed/Sod Estimates

Olson made the motion, seconded by Lawrence, to accept the bid from Steager Lawn Service to place sod around the front and back of the office totaling \$9,072. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

d. Wanahoo Amphitheater Project – Update Given

e. WCW Funding - Update Given

4. Equipment - None

5. Personnel

a. Assistant Water Manager Position

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to ratify the hiring of Nate Doresey to fill the newly created position of Water Resources Assistant Manager. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Returning Wanahoo Recreation Staff Wages

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to increase Wanahoo Summer Technician salaries to \$16.00/hour if they have been employed for over two years and those under two years will be paid \$15.50/hour. It is further recommended to increase Richard Mullan, Sharon Kremlacek and Abby Borchers' salaries by \$1.00/hour effective immediately. Motion carried on consent agenda.

6. Finance

a. Approval of Financial Reports

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the February Financial Statements as attached to the Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Approval of Managers' Expenses

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve Manager Gottschalk's time and expense sheets as attached to the Executive Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

c. Accounts Over 90 Days - Update Given

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, that the April LPNNRD Executive Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

B. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

2. HABITAT AND OTHER PROGRAMS – Update Given

3. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE & OTHER ITEMS

a. Rehabilitation of Cottonwood 21-A – NRCS & HDR

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Engel, to approve the second amendment to the agreement with HDR for Engineering Services for a non-structural alternative on Cottonwood 21-A adding \$27,050. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

b. Wanahoo Basin Damage & Repair, FEMA & Houston Engineering – Update Given

c. NET Grant for No-Till Grass Drill – Update Given

d. Lower Platte Weed Management Area

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Saeger, to approve the Second Amendment to the Phragmites Management Interlocal Agreement between LPNNRD, LPSNRD and Papio-Missouri River NRD as attached to the Operations Committee Minutes. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to pay the \$60,000 dues to the Papio Missouri River NRD for the management of invasive vegetation in the Lower Platte Basin. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. ROCK AND JETTY – Update Given

5. LAKE WANAHOO

a. Lake Wanahoo Permit Sales - Update Given

b. Lake Wanahoo Camping Revenue – Update Given

c. Lake Wanahoo Memorial Benches

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the purchase of 3 benches from Outdoor Recreation Products totaling \$3,997.45 Motion carried on consent agenda.

d. Clint Johannes Education Building

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the new rental rates as proposed for 2027 and 2027 effective Aril 15, 2026 as listed in the Operation Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

6. INFORMATION & EDUCATION

a. Information

1. Radio and Digital Ads – Update Given

2. Analytics – Update Given

3. County Fair Sponsorship

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to donate \$500 each to the following local 2026 county fairs: Dodge County, Saunders County and Butler County. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Education

1. Past Events – Update Given

2. Upcoming Events – Update Given

3. Shell Creek Watershed Scholarship

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve \$1,000 scholarships each to Hayden Bailey, Kailey Patzel and Aubree Whitaker. Motion carried on consent agenda.

7. RURAL WATER SYSTEMS

a. Colon

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the proposed 2026 rate increase for Colon RWD as attached to the Operations Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. Bruno

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the proposed 2026 rate increase for Bruno RWD as attached to the Operations Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

c. Other – Update Given

Tonnies, made the motion, seconded by Yosten, that the April LPNNRD Operations Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

C. WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

2. REGULATORY

a. GROUNDWATER MANGEMENT AREA

1. Transfer Request in the Hydrologically Connected Area (Limited Development Area)

Hilger made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to approve Taylor Farms to transfer 15 acres from NW-NW-12-17-5E to SE-S-12-17-7E Dodge County. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

2. Irrigation Clarification in the Non-Hydrologically Connected (Normal Development Area) -Update Given

3. Transfer Request in the Restricted Development Areas

Hilger made the motion seconded by Tonnies, to allow the transfer of 40 acres for Greg Fujan from

Robert Shanahan located in the SE-SE-21-15-5E and NE-NE-28-15-5E to SW-SW-28-15-5E, Saunders County. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

4. Well Permit Program

5. Well Permits Requested for Duck Ponds

Hilger made the motion seconded by Johnson, J., to approve two high-capacity wells for Kalend McCurdy in the SE-NE-S34-17N-R3E and NW-SW-S35-17N-R3E, Butler County for the purpose of a duck pond. Stipulation on the well permits are; if interference complaints are received the wells will need to be shut down, installation of PVC tube for water level measurements and a water flow meter are to be installed. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Hanson, Johnson, J., McKnight, Olson, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies

NAY: Engel, Harders, Hilger, Johnson, D., Lawrence, Yosten, Sabatka

6. Dewatering Well Permits – Update Given

7. Change of Water Use Policy – Update Given

8. Re-Certification of Irrigated Acres – Update Given

9. Cost-Share Programs – Update Given

10. Lower Platte River Basin Water Management Coalition – Update Given

b. Chemigation – Update Given

c. Ground Water Energy Levels – Update Given

d. Ground Water Quality Sampling

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the quote from Fondriest Environmental Inc. for \$1,180.21 for the purpose of updating the NRD in field water parameter meter as attached to the Water Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

3. GROUND WATER PROGRAMS

a. Decommissioned Well Program

1. Well Estimates – Update Given

2. Plugged Wells

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve payment to Mary Norton Trust for an Irrigation Well decommissioning for \$1,073. Motion carried on consent agenda.

b. LOWER PLATTE NORTH NRD GROUND WATER STUDIES

1. Phase Area Update

Tonnies, made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the following flow meter cost share payments to Timothy Rickert - \$1,000; David Hahn - \$1,000; Jeremy Theilen - \$1,000 and Roger Wilshusen - \$1,000. Motion carried on consent agenda.

2. Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA) Update Given

3. Lower Platte River Consortium – Update Given

c. New Monitoring Wells

Hilger made the motion, seconded by Seier, to proceed with he bid offered by Dvoark Well Drilling to drill a new monitoring well in Newman Grove no to exceed \$53,000. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

1. Newman Grove CSD Test Holes

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to pay Conservation and Survey Division \$5,000 to dig a 400-foot test hole at the Newman Grove Monitoring Well Site on May 11th as outlined in the contract attached to the Water Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

d. Source Water Protection – Update Given

1. Transducer Agreement – Update Given

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten to payment InSitu the quoted price of \$9,309.18 for the three transducers to be placed in Wellhead Protection Areas as attached to the Water Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

2. Malmo WHP – Update Given

e. Scoring Sheets and Water Quantity Project – Update Given

4. SURFACE WATER PROGRAM -Update Given

5. OTHER

a. Comments from the Public – None

Tonnies, made the motion, seconded by Yosten, that the April LPNNRD Water Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

D. PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

1. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

2. SWCP

a. SWCP Application Approvals - None

d. SWCP Payments

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the listed SWCP applications for DWEE reimbursement payment totaling \$14,921.95 as listed in the Projects Committee Minutes. Motion carried on consent agenda.

e. SWCP Cancellations – None

f. Wahoo Creek Cost Share Approvals – None

3. JOINT WATER MANAGEMENT ADVISORY BOARD – Update Given

4. SHELL CREEK WATERSHED

a. Shell Creek Implementation – 319 and NET

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve septic system upgrade application to Lyle Klug for 60% cost-share \$6,120. Motion carried on consent agenda.

6. WAHOO CREEK WATERSHED

a. Construction – Update Given

b. Dam Site Planning – Update Given

1. Design Olsson – Update Given

2. Real Estate Olsson & Great Plains Appraisal – this item will be taken at end of meeting

3. Funding – NRCS WFPO and NeDNR JEDI – Update Given

c. Water Quality – NWQI & 319 – Update Given

6. LOWER PLATTE RIVER COOIDOR ALLIANCE – Update Given

7. MORSE BLUFF FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT – Update Given

8. LESHARA DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT – Update Given

9. EROSION AND SEDIMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS - None

10. RC&D Membership

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to renew our 2026 membership with the Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D totaling \$350. Motion carried on consent agenda.

11. OTHER - None

Tonnies, made the motion, seconded by Yosten, that the April LPNDR Projects Committee Minutes be received and placed on file. Motion carried on consent agenda.

7. ADDITIONAL ACTION ITEMS

7a. Office Generac Generator Warranty

Lawrence made the motion, seconded by Hanson, to purchase the 10-year extended warranty on our Generac Generator for a total cost of \$3,446.00. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

7b. SWCP Payments

Tonnies made the motion, seconded by Olson, to approve a \$10,289.72 SWCP payment to Tom Samek for the completed terrace/basin project. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

7c. Shell Creek Implementation – 319

Seier made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to approve 60% cost-share payment of \$6,131.36 to Tom King for onsite wastewater upgrade. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

8. BILLS TO BE APPROVED

Johnson, J. made the motion, seconded by Yosten, that all bills be approved, and warrants be drawn in payment of the same. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

9. CONSENT AGENDA ADOPTION

Tonnies, made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to approve the April Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

AYE: Engel, Hanson, Harder, Hilger, Johnson, D., Johnson, J., Lawrence, McKnight, Olson, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Yosten, Sabatka

ABSTAIN: Bailey

Item 6.D.5.b.2. - Real Estate – Olsson and Great Plains Appraisal was taken at this time.

Sabatka made the motion, seconded by McKnight, to go into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m. for the purposes of discussing Upper Wahoo Creek Watershed land rights and authorize the following to stay: Danielle Allen, Olsson; Legal Counsel Lausterer; and Staff: Gottschalk, Breunig, Elliott and Chapman. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

At 8:59 p.m. Sabatka recused himself from Executive Session.

Hanson made the motion, seconded by Bailey, to go out of executive session at 9:13 p.m. Motion carried all members present voting aye.

Hanson made the motion, seconded by Yosten, to authorize Chair Sabatka to sign purchase agreements with Emma Buechel and David Polk - Site 86, Bryan Machovec - Site 66 and Rezac Farms - Site 85. It was further recommended to authorize Secretary, Bill Saeger, to sign purchase agreement with Ryan and Melissa Sabatka - Site 86. Motion carried.

AYE: Bailey, Engel, Hanson, Harder, Hilger, Johnson, D., Johnson, J., Lawrence, McKnight, Olson, Saeger, Seier, Tonnies, Yosten

ABSTAIN: Sabatka

10. COMMENTS FROM DIRECTORS/GUESTS

11. MEETING ESTABLISHMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

The May Board of Directors Meeting will be held on Monday, May 11, 2026, 6:00 p.m. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Discussion on all agenda items that have “Update Given” can be found in corresponding Committee Minutes.

The undersigned, the duly elected and acting Secretary of the Lower Platte North Natural Resources District (the “District”), hereby certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held on April 13, 2026, that all of the matters and subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the above minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurred earlier; and, that reasonable efforts were made to provide all news media requesting notification of the meeting and of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Bill Saeger, Secretary