

Chair Schmidt called March 19, 2026, meeting of the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District (LCNRD) Board of Directors to order at 1:34 p.m. in the conference room at the LCNRD office. Chair Schmidt stated that prior notice of the meeting had been publicized according to policy designated by the board and that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the west wall of the meeting room. Roll call of members. Present: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Schmidt, Steffen, and Weinandt.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda reviewed. *It was moved by Kollars, seconded by Condon to approve minutes of February 24, 2026, board meeting and the February 25 to March 19, 2026, consent agenda. The consent agenda includes financial reports, cost share approvals, claims, corrections, and additions (attached to file copy of minutes). Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (10-0-1).*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Schmidt opened the floor to public comment. There were no comments.

REVIEW OF DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RECENT LAWS AND LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS IMPACTING NRDS

Don Blankenau from Woods Aitken LLP reviewed director’s responsibilities and obligations as board members and conflict-of-interest disclosure laws. He also reviewed recent legislative activities.

Items 7a. – 7c. under Administrative Activities were moved ahead.

Chalkrock Agreements for Public Access: Following discussion, *It was moved by Kollars and seconded by Kinkaid to approve a \$75 per acre access payment for 2026 and for 2027 for the property owners of Chalkrock and to investigate opportunities to acquire the property for review by the landowners and board of directors over the next years. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, and Weinandt. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Schmidt. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (9-0-1-1).*

Aowa 31-5, Consent and Crossing Agreement Consideration: Sudbeck informed the board that NE NE Public Power are considering putting up a solar panel array south and east of Aowa structure 31-5. LCNRD has a blanket easement for this property and NE NE Public Power has requested consideration of the consent and crossing agreement. *It was moved by Loecker, seconded by Weinandt to allow management to complete a consent and crossing agreement with NE NE Public Power to construct and maintain an easement for a solar panel on the south and east side of the Aowa 31-5 that does not interfere with management and maintenance of Aowa structure 31-5. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (10-0-1).*

LCNRD Pilot Program for Sensor Based Nitrogen Recommendations Participation: Sudbeck reviewed a proposed agreement with the Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) for a pilot program to help expand producer sign up for Sensor Based Nitrogen cost share. *It was moved by Lamb, seconded by Kollars to approve management entering into an agreement with the Department of Water, Energy and Environment (DWEE) for a Pilot Program for Sensor Based Nitrogen Recommendation contingent on the final agreement review by LCNRD manager Sudbeck. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (10-0-1).*

DIRECTOR & AGENCY ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

Rural Water Advisory Committee Activities: Weinandt and S. Fiedler reported on CKRWP activities and presented recommendations from February 12, 2026; meeting of the Cedar Knox Rural Water Project Advisory Committee as follows:

- To approve the minutes of the January 8, 2026, Cedar Knox Rural Water Project Meeting.
- To approve the expenses from January 9, 2026, through February 12, 2026, as presented.

- To approve payment of \$7,600.00 to Nebraska Department of Water, Energy and Environment for the Plan Review Fee for Phase II Water Supply Improvement Project.
- To continue to work with the Village of Maskell to provide water service which would include a 4-inch service line.
- To approve the lease agreement for 31.66 acres to Dale Burbach and Tom Burbach as reviewed.
- To approve the Water User Agreement for the Village of St Helena for a term of 25 years.
- To approve the Water User Agreement for the City of Crofton for the term of 25 years pending approval by the City of Crofton Council.
- To approve the Water User Agreement for the Village of Fordyce for the term of 25 years pending approval by the Village of Fordyce Council.
- To approve the Forfeiture of Water Service for Stanley Hans for Water Service Connection B100.
- To approve adjournment of the meeting.

Rural Water Advisory Committee Activities: Weinandt and S. Fiedler reported on CKRWP activities and presented recommendations from March 12, 2026; meeting of the Cedar Knox Rural Water Project Advisory Committee as follows:

- To approve the minutes of February 12, 2026, Cedar Knox Rural Water Project Meeting.
- To approve the expenses from February 13 through March 12, 2026, as presented.
- To approve management to complete the Land Purchase Agreement with Charles and Rita Mueller for 1.78 acres at \$8,188.00 plus authorize payment for closing costs.
- To approve management to complete the Land Purchase Agreement with John and Patricia Merkel for 1.68 acres at \$7,728.00 plus authorize payment for closing costs.
- To authorize the use of eminent domain to acquire the Stevens property of 0.91 acres for the one-million-gallon Ground Storage Tank site for the rural water project.
- To approve adjournment of the meeting.

It was moved by Kollars, seconded by Steffen to approve the Cedar Knox Rural Water Project report and each recommendation as stated above and previous recommendation from the February 12, 2026, meeting and the March 12, 2026 meeting. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (10-0-1).

NARD activities: Schmidt reported on the NARD board meeting on March 9th.

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NRC): Steffen reported on the February 25th meeting

Wau-Col Rural Water Project: Kollars reported on the March 5th meeting in Belden.

NE NE RC&D Report: Trenhaile reported on the February 24th meeting in Plainview.

NRCS Report: Rebekah Poppe, District Conservationist provided updates on current activities.

Bazile GMA Updates: Report from Bazile Coordinator, Marcus Blunck was made in person, and a written copy was provided in the packet. Report from Bazile Extension Educator, Pablo Duarte was included in the packet.

EXCUSED ABSENCES - CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

Excused Absences: Johnson

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Nitrogen Use Efficiency Program: The Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment with support from the Nebraska Corn Board is providing funding for producers to receive payment for Nitrogen Use Efficiency that is at 1 pound per bushel or less when growing corn and accounting for available N credits. Consensus of

the board is to take applications for the program and to consider the contract when the application period is closed.

Nitrogen Reduction Incentives Act Program (NiRIA) Second Amendment to NeDNR contract #1556: Sudbeck presented the 2026 amendment and funding level for the 2026 amendment to the NiRIA Program. It was moved by Steffen, seconded by Weinandt, to approve the Nitrogen Reduction Incentives Act Program (NiRIA) Second Amendment to NeDNR contract #1556 in the amount of \$46,567.00. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinand, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (10-0-1).

NSWCP – Consideration of Drip Irrigation as Eligible Practice for Windbreak Establishment: Sudbeck reviewed windbreak establishment and requested to make drip irrigation a cost shared component through NSWCP. It was moved by Schweers, seconded by Kinkaid to include Drip Irrigation as a cost shared practice through the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Program. The rate for the 2026 program year is set at the 2024 EQIP rate for 2026. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. ABSENT: Johnson. NAY: None. Motion carried (10-0-1).

Review Aowa Creek Rehab Structures 22-3 and 1-3: Sudbeck informed the board of a meeting in Ponca on April 7th at 6:30 pm for the purpose of informing the public about the possible options for rehabbing Aowa Creek structures 22-3 and 1-3 and answering any questions they may have.

LCNRD Summer Intern Positions: Consensus of the board is to hire summer interns.

Manager's Report: Sudbeck provided an update on current NRD activities.

Selection of 2025 Patefield-Green Scholarships: The packet containing scholarship application was sent to the directors prior to the meeting and their rank scores were returned to the office. Trenhaile presented the rank scores, and the recommendation based on the ranking for two recipients each to receive a \$1000 scholarship. It was moved by Kollars, seconded by Loecker to award Ava Stewart of Cedar Catholic High School and Christopher Neuharth of Crofton High School to each receive a \$1,000 Patefield Green scholarship. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (10-0-1).

Certification of Irrigated Acres: Trenhaile reviewed the acre certification process with the directors. Trenhaile presented the certified irrigated acres report for certification. It was moved by Condon, seconded by Kollars to approve certification of 7,799 acres on 60 parcels as presented and included in the file copy of the minutes. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (10-0-1).

Well Permits, Expanded Acres, Flow Meter Requests: Fiedler reviewed permit applications and requests. It was moved by Steffen, seconded by Schweers to approve the permit applications as stated below:

1. Robert Sudbeck well permit LC-572 in the NESW Section 4-T32N-R01E and comingle it with G-165042 to irrigate the 130 existing acres located in the E1/2SW & W1/2SE Section 4-T32N-R01E. He applied for the flow meter cost share FMLC-572.
2. Chad Potts well permit LC-573 in the NESE section 30-T31N-R1W. He plans to expand 120 new acres with X-26005 in the SE section 30-T31N-R1W. He applied for flow meter cost share FMLC-573.
3. Tyler Fuchtmann and Garrett Carpenter plan on using well G-075073 located in SWSW section 22-T29N-R5W to continue irrigating 103 existing acres in the SW section 22-T29N-R5W and expand 8 new acres with X-26006 in the SWSW section 22-T29N-R5W.
4. Hulstein Feedyards LLC well permit LC-574 in SWNW section 20-T29N-R5E. He plans to supply water to the cattle in their feedlot located in section 20-T29N-R5E.
5. Dale & Mary Ketelsen well permit LC-575 in the SESE section 34-T31N-R5W. He plans to comingle well G-038867 that is also located in the SESE section 34-T31N-R5W. Together the two wells will irrigate 27 existing acres in the SESE section 34-T31N-R5W. He applied for flow meter cost share

FMLC-575.

6. Earl & Rose Berkey Trustee well permit LC-576 NESE Section 7-T31N-R1W. He is reapplying for the expired well permit LC-533. He plans to irrigate the 133 approved acres (X-25009) in the SE section 7-T31N-R1W. He applied for flow meter cost share FMLC-576.

Roll call vote: AYE: Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Christensen. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (9-0-1-1).

Staff Reports: Reports for Lammers, Hochstein, Ravenkamp, Trenhaile, D Weinandt, C Fiedler, A Fiedler, and Olson were provided in the director’s packet.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Kinkaid seconded by Christensen to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 pm. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Condon, Kinkaid, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schweers, Steffen, Weinandt, and Scmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Johnson. Motion carried (10-0-1).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carly Christensen
Dave Condon
Scott Kinkaid
Dan Kollars
Carl Lamb
Ryan Locker
Russ Schmidt
Tyler Schweers
Jeff Steffen
Matt Weinandt

GUESTS PRESENT

Annette Sudbeck, Manager
Scott Fiedler, CKRWP Program Manager
Kristi Hochstein, Office Coordinator
Reed Trenhaile, I&E Tech/Water Resources Coord.
Cole Fiedler, Water Resources Technician
Rebekah Poppe, District Conservationist
Jeanne Rosen, Program Assistant
Marcus Blunck, Bazile Coordinator
Don Blankenau, Woods Aitken LLP

I, the undersigned Secretary for the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of proceedings had and done by the Board of Directors on March 19, 2026 and that all of the subject included in the foregoing proceeding were contained in the agenda for at least twenty four hours prior to said meeting; the minutes of the Chair and Board of Directors of said district were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of the said body, that all news media requesting notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subject to be discussed at said meeting.

Board Secretary