

LEWIS & CLARK NRD MINUTES

May 21, 2026

Chair Schmidt called May 21, 2026, meeting of the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District (LCNRD) Board of Directors to order at 7:16 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, Johnson, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Schmidt, and Steffen.

CONSENT AGENDA

Consent agenda reviewed. It was moved by Kollars, seconded by Johnson to approve minutes of April 16, 2026, board meeting and the April 17 to May 21, 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, Johnson, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Steffen, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Condon, Kinkaid, Schweers, and Weinandt. Motion carried (7-0-4).

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

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

1. Timothy & Jean Kathol well permit LC-585 in the SWSW Section 29 T32N R2E. They will comingle this new well with well G-156602 to irrigate 70 existing acres and comingle wells G-152877 and G-168969 to irrigate 130 existing acres.
2. Mark & Julia Oltjenbruns well permits LC-586, LC-587, LC-588 in the SESW & NESW Section 29 T29N R5W, expanded acres permit X-26011 for 133 irrigated acres in the SW Section 29 T29N R5W, and flow meter cost share FMLC-586. They will comingle all three wells together.
3. George Steffen Trustee expanded acres permit X-26012 for 95 acres in the N1/2NW Section 3 T31N RIW & SWSW Section 34 T32N RIW.
4. Merdian Bridge RV Resort well permit LC-589 in the NWNE Section 11 T33N R. This well will be used to supply water for a pond and new water fountain feature in the RV Park. Engineers stated 800 gallons per minute is needed and will be running similar to an irrigation well.
5. Roger & Kim Lemke well permit LC-590 in the NESE Section 32 T30N R5W, expanded irrigated acres permit X-26013 for 33 irrigated acres in the SWSE Section 32 T30N R5W, and flow meter cost share FMLC-590.
6. PHH Farm LLC, %Pam Howell expanded acres permit X-26014 for 28 irrigated acres in the NESW Section 3 T31N RIW. Well G-191338 will irrigate a total of 138 acres owned by PHH Farms and 78 acres owned by Norma Sparks, and 66 acres owned by Nebraska Board of Education for a total of 282 acres.
7. Norma Sparks Trustee expanded acres permit X-26015 for 12 irrigated acres in the W1/2NW Section 3 T31N RIW. Well G-191338 will irrigate a total of 78 acres owned by Norma Sparks and 138 acres owned by PHH Farms
8. Roman & Janice Heimes expanded permit X-26016 for 14 irrigated acres in the SWSW & SESW Section 15 T31N R2E.

Roll call vote: AYE: Johnson, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Steffen, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSTAIN: Christensen. ABSENT: Condon, Kinkaid, Schweers, and Weinandt. Motion carried (6-0-1-4).

Certification of District Irrigated Acres: Trenhaile presented the irrigated acres report for certification. It was moved by Johnson, seconded by Steffen to approve certification of 6,943 acres on 51 parcels as presented and included in the file copy of the minutes. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Johnson, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Steffen, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Condon, Kinkaid, Schweers, and Weinandt. Motion carried (7-0-4).

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

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

PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The planning committee recommendations were reviewed and discussion continued. *It was moved by Steffen, seconded by Lamb to approve the FY26-27 planning committee report and recommendations, draft budget items, and proposed special projects (file copy included with the minutes):*

- *To migrate to the cloud supported version of QuickBooks to include time keeping and task tracking at an initial cost of \$7,200 annually.*
- *To increase data service through In-Situ for the purpose of transmitting observation well data for the LCNRD website at an initial cost of \$12,118 annually.*
- *To approve the contract with IPI to work with four (4) producers over three (3) years to evaluate economic benefit of conservation adoption at a cost of \$50,000 total.*
- *To approve the Memorandum of Agreement with UNL and partner NRDs for the Bazile Extension Educator Position.*
- *To continue working with DWEE to secure funding for a position housed in LCNRD to facilitate district support of cost share activities through the OneRed Program and other DWEE supported programs.*
- *To continue working with NRCS in development of an agreement to support development of a five (5) year agreement that can support LCNRD and other districts with conservation staff.*
- *To continue working with the Bow Creek Coordinator to request funding through the Nebraska Environmental Trust in support of the Bow Creek Watershed Project.*
- *To approve a contract with Mike Sorenson for trapping in the Aowa Creek Watershed to minimize damage to existing structures.*
- *To approve the FY2027 cost of living wage increase of 2.5% for all employees and merit raises for three employees of an additional 5% and to change the Office Coordinator Position to Office Manager and the Bow Creek Watershed Coordinator to Watershed Manager.*

Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Johnson, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Steffen, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Condon, Kinkaid, Schweers, and Weinandt. Motion carried (8-0-4).

DIRECTOR & AGENCY ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NRC): Steffen provided and update on NRC current activities.

Wau-Col Rural Water Project: Kollars provided a report on the Wau-Col Rural Water meeting on May 13th.

NARD activities: Schmidt had no report. The next meeting will be June 8th.

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

Bazile GMA Updates: Reports from Bazile Coordinator, Marcus Blunck and Bazile Extension Educator was included in the packet.

Weinandt entered the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Rural Water Advisory Committee Activities: S. Fiedler reported on CKRWP activities and presented recommendations from May 14, 2026; meeting of the Cedar Knox Rural Water Project Advisory Committee as follows:

- *To approve the minutes of the April 9, 2026, Cedar Knox Rural Water Project Meeting.*
- *To approve the expenses from April 10, 2026, through May 14, 2026, as presented.*

- To approve granting Merle Tramp and Rod/Bert Tramp each, one (1) half price water service connection and agree to current terms, that must be purchased and installed by June 30, 2027. The half price water service connection is in lieu of payment for the extended property use for parking and staging during the water system upgrade project, in addition to payment for crop damages.
- To approve voiding and reissue checks, for damage to cropped land, for Merle Tramp and Rod/Bert Tramp if they opt to proceed with the half price water service connection instead of payment for parking and staffing during the water system upgrade project.
- To approve the rural water applications for Kyle Kramer in Sec 25 T33N RIW in Cedar County for 1 Benefit Unit and Joe Merchant Estate in Sec 8 T33N RIW in Cedar County for 1 Benefit Unit.
- To approve adjournment of the meeting.

It was moved by Steffen, seconded by Loecker to approve the Cedar Knox Rural Water Project report and each recommendation as stated above. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Johnson, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None. ABSENT: Condon, Kinkaid, Schweers. Motion carried (8-0-3).

NRD CKRWP Board Representative Weinandt presented a Power Point that reviewed history, management, connection, Source Water Project, and future rate charts for CKRWP (file copy attached to the minutes).

EXCUSED ABSENCES - CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW

Excused Absences: Condon, Kinkaid, and Schweers.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Johnson seconded by Lamb to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. Roll call vote: AYE: Christensen, Johnson, Kollars, Lamb, Loecker, Steffen, Weinandt, and Schmidt. NAY: None, ABSENT: Condon, Kinkaid, and Schweers. Motion carried (8-0-3).

MEMBERS PRESENT

Carly Christensen
 Chris Johnson
 Dan Kollars
 Carl Lamb
 Ryan Loecker
 Russ Schmidt
 Jeff Steffen
 Matt Weinandt

GUESTS PRESENT

Annette Sudbeck, Manager
 Scott Fiedler, CKRWP Program Manager
 Kristi Hochstein, Office Coordinator
 Myles Lammers, Assistant Manager
 Dustin Weinandt, Water Resources Technician
 Cole Fiedler, Water Resources Technician
 Reed Trenhaile, I&E & Water Resources Coordinator

I, the undersigned Secretary for the Lewis & Clark Natural Resources District, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the proceedings of the Board of Directors held on May 21, 2026. I further certify that all subjects addressed in these proceedings were included on the agenda at least twenty-four hours prior to the meeting; that the minutes of the Chair and Board of Directors were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and before the next convened meeting of the Board; and that all news media requesting notification were informed of the time, place, and subjects to be discussed at the meeting.

 Board Secretary