

# LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 24, 2016

Ord, Nebraska

The March meeting of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District was held at the Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska, on March 24, 2016. Chairman Citta called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

## CALL TO ORDER

### Directors in attendance

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer  
Timothy E. Bartak  
Joseph L. Citta, Jr., Chairman  
Virgil W. Gellermann  
Gary A. Kruse  
Matt Lukasiewicz  
Dean J. Rasmussen  
Dean G. Thede

Darwin B. Anderson  
Beth Boesch  
James J. Eschliman, Vice Chairman  
N. Richard Hadenfeldt  
Clifford P. Loseke  
James C. Nelson  
Gerald P. Smith  
Henry J. Thoene, Secretary

### Directors absent

James C. Adams  
Randy Kauk

Michael P. Gutzmer  
Alan D. Petersen

### Staff in attendance

Leon "Butch" Koehlmoos, General Manager  
Anne Freeman, Water Programs Secretary  
Cheryl K. Hornickel, Programs Assistant  
Jane Klanecky, Secretary/Receptionist  
Larry D. Schultz, I&E Coordinator  
Richard Woollen, North Cent. District Forester

Russell G. Callan, Assistant General Manager  
Dell R. Harris, Water Resources Specialist  
Rita A. Goldfish, Administrative Assistant  
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist  
LeeAnn Smith, Water Programs Assistant

### Guests in attendance

Bryce Bauer, LDC, NRCS, Ord  
Joe Novotny, Twin Loups Rec. Dist., Scotia  
Tom Klanecky, NDNR, Ord  
Shea Winkler, NDNR, Lincoln  
Jake Miriovsky, JEO, Lincoln  
Lincoln

Mike Wells, Twin Loups Rec. District, Scotia  
Jim Wurst, North Loup RPP&I Dist, Ord  
Tim Freed, NDNR, Lincoln  
Karen Griffin, Olsson Associates, Lincoln  
Wendy Cutting, General Reporting Serv,

## NOTICE OF OPEN MEETING LAW POSTING

Chairman Citta referred those in attendance to the open meeting law information posted in the Board room.

## APPROVAL OF VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE & ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Citta asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Leon “Butch” Koehlmoos verified that the meeting notices were properly published in all newspapers and that the meeting notice was also posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, the NRD web site, and the eight field office locations. Koehlmoos said there were no modifications to the agenda.

## EXCUSED ABSENCES

Koehlmoos told the Board that Adams, Gutzmer, Kauk, and Petersen had requested to be excused from the meeting.

**Boesch motioned, seconded by Anderson, to approve the verification of the meeting notices, adopt the agenda and excuse all absent directors. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## MINUTES

Chairman Citta asked for corrections and/or additions to the February 25, 2016, Board meeting minutes. None being heard, Chairman Citta ruled that the February 25, 2016, minutes would stand approved as submitted.

## TREASURER’S REPORT

Chairman Citta directed the Board’s attention to the Treasurer’s Report as published in the regular and supplemental agendas.

Koehlmoos highlighted bills for the trailer that was purchased to transport the new drill, payments to JEO for ongoing projects, and the yearly buffer strip payments.

**Smith motioned, seconded by Eschliman, to approve the February, 2016, Treasurer’s Report and pay all bills. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann, Hadenfeldt, Kruse, Loseke, Lukasiewicz, Rasmussen, Smith, Thede, and Thoene. Director abstaining: Nelson. Directors absent: Adams, Gutzmer, Kauk, and Petersen.**

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

## COMMENTS/QUESTIONS ON THE LLNRD/DNR VOLUNTARY IMP

Lukasiewicz asked if the stakeholders involved in the IMP process had been notified of the public hearing and Koehlmoos said that, other than the public notices and press releases in

newspapers, on the radio and on-line, no specific notifications had been made. Karen Griffin of Olsson Associates said that medical leave had prevented her from making the notifications.

· Mike Wells asked if the NRD planned to install meters on all groundwater wells in the District and Koehlmoos said that the costs for the 11,000 wells in the NRD, estimated at up to \$20 million when maintenance is included, could not be justified. He said that there are currently over 300 groundwater monitoring wells that monitor water levels across the District and since there is already such an extensive monitoring network, more would be unnecessary. Also, many of the monitoring wells have continuous measurements instead of two times a year. This provides much more informative data on the water levels across the District than the meters. Furthermore, the need for meters will be evaluated in the future as the plan is implemented. It was mentioned that currently flow meters are required on irrigation wells in Area 28 and the Board of Directors may require meters on all new irrigation wells in the future. Koehlmoos said that the IMP was a tool to deal with water issues and could be modified should the need arise. Wells asked if dams and/or structures would be built to help with groundwater recharge and Koehlmoos replied that such structures, if feasible, would be considered by the Board. ·

Wells asked if any newly proposed dams have canals for surface water distribution and if irrigation districts could benefit from groundwater recharge from such projects. Koehlmoos said irrigation water distribution options, such as canals, would be evaluated with any proposed new dam. If groundwater recharge is a benefit from proposed irrigation canals, the recharge credit could be assigned to the irrigation districts.

Wells asked that if a moratorium on new surface water irrigation appropriations was implemented, who would declare and administer this moratorium. Tim Freed said that NDNR would, in cases of a moratorium, make determinations on variances on a case by case basis. Wells asked about the phrase, “outside management control,” in Objective 3.2, and Callan replied that one example was soil conservation practices that affect water runoff and infiltration.

Wells asked about local funding opportunities and using the occupational tax as a last resort. Koehlmoos said that there were a number of funding opportunities that could be used under state law. The use of an occupation tax to implement a water project, program or activity would be considered if funds from the mill levy were going to be insufficient. Lukasiewicz said there should be some exemptions if an occupation tax was pursued. Currently, there are no projects proposed for which an occupation tax would be required; and if a project was identified, then the occupation tax would be applied to those who benefit. A public hearing would need to be conducted for all to provide testimony for or against the project.

Wells asked about DNR’s responsibilities listed under Section 7.0 and Freed said that DNR would be responsible for the same activities as are currently in place, including stream gages, surface water permits, and irrigation water use data.

Wells asked about modifications to the IMP and Koehlmoos said that the IMP would be reviewed annually to determine if modifications were necessary.

## PUBLIC HEARING ON THE LLNRD/DNR VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

The verbatim transcript of the public hearing follows –

BEFORE THE LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
STATE OF NEBRASKA

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE MATTER OF )  
THE PUBLIC HEARING RELATING TO )  
THE LOWER LOUP NATURAL )  
RESOURCES DISTRICT'S AND THE ) TRANSCRIPT  
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL ) VOLUME I of I  
RESOURCES' VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED ) (Pages 1 through  
16) MANAGEMENT PLAN. ) EXHIBITS 1-9  
- )

Lower Loup Natural  
Resources District  
2620 Airport Drive  
Ord, NE

Convened, pursuant to notice, at 5:35  
p.m., on March 24, 2016,

BEFORE:

JOSEPH L. CITTA, JR., Chairman and Hearing  
Officer.

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I N D E X

<u>EXHIBITS:</u>	<u>Marked</u>	<u>Offered</u>	<u>Ruled On</u>	<u>Found</u>
1 Integrated Management Plan (32 pages)	6	6	6	Appendix
2 Stakeholders List and Meeting Attendance List (4 pages)	6	6	6	Appendix
3 Affidavits of Publication (8 pages)	6	6	6	Appendix
4 Legal Notices (1 page)	6	6	7	Appendix
5 Letter to Department of Natural Resources from Leon Koehlmoos (1 page)	7	7	7	Appendix
6 Letter to Lower Loup Natural Resources District from Department of Natural Resources (1 page)	7	7	7	Appendix
7 Written Testimony of Randy Kauk (3 pages)	7	7	7	Appendix
8 Title 454 (2 pages)	9	9	9	Appendix
9 Letter from Gordon W. Fassett to Lower Loup NRD, 3-17-16 (2 pages)	9	9	9	Appendix

- - -

TESTIMONY:Page

Russell Callan

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Tim Freed

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Reporter's Certificate

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE:

State of Nebraska )  
 ) ss.  
County of Lancaster )

I, WENDY C. CUTTING, reporter for GENERAL REPORTING SERVICE, certify that I reported the proceedings in this matter; that the transcript of testimony is a true, accurate, and complete extension of the recording made of those proceedings; and further, that the disposition of exhibits is referenced in the index hereto.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand at Lincoln, Nebraska, this            day of March, 2016.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reporter

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1 PROCEEDINGS:

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Good afternoon. I am Joe  
3 Citta, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup  
4 Natural Resources District, and I will act as the hearing  
5 officer for this hearing. We are located in Ord, Nebraska,  
6 at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District Office. Our  
7 purpose this afternoon is to have a joint hearing for the  
8 Lower Loup Natural Resource District and the Department of  
9 Natural Resources, and to take testimony on the proposed  
10 integrated management plan of the District and the  
11 Department.

12 With me here today are Leon Koehlmoos, General  
13 Manager, and members of the Lower Loup NRD, and Tim Freed,  
14 Integrated Water Management Coordinator for the Nebraska  
15 Department of Natural Resources. Wendy Cutting is the  
16 court reporter, and she will be making a verbatim record of  
17 this hearing.

18 The authority for this hearing, the plan itself,  
19 and the decisions on the plan are enumerated in the  
20 Groundwater Management and Protection Act, specifically at  
21 the Nebraska Revised Statutes 46-743 and 46-718.

22 Notice of this special hearing was published  
23 according to law in the *Omaha World-Herald*, *Columbus*  
24 *Telegram*, and the *Grand Island Independent*. Additional  
25 notice was published in the *Albion News*, *Burwell Tribune*,

1        *Greeley Citizen, Nance County Journal, Ord Quiz,*  
2        *Phonograph Herald, Ravenna News, and Sherman County Times,*  
3        and was posted on the Lower Loup Resources District  
4        website and the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources'  
5        website.

6                The time of this meeting is 5:36 p.m. and I would  
7        formally open the hearing. I'm going to describe the order  
8        of the hearing. The order of the meeting today will be,  
9        first, we will ask for exhibits to be submitted by the Lower  
10       Loup NRD. Then we will ask for testimony by the Department  
11       of Natural Resources. Then I will ask for public testimony.  
12       And then I'll ask for comments from the Directors of the  
13       Lower Loup Natural Resources Board.

14               For recording purposes, I ask that no questions or  
15       comments be made from the audience and that questions from  
16       persons testifying be directed to the hearing officer and  
17       not to anyone else in the audience. I ask that anyone  
18       testifying today begin by giving their name, address, and  
19       who they are representing if it's someone other than  
20       themselves.

21               I will now call for exhibits from the Lower Loup  
22       Natural Resources District and all written testimony that  
23       was received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, to  
24       be entered into the record.

25               Russ.



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RUSSELL CALLAN

Hello, my name is Russell Callan, and I'm the Assistant General Manager for the Lower Loup Natural Resource District. I'm here today to present information regarding the proposed integrated management plan. I would like to enter into the record documents that are pertinent to the hearing today.

First, I would like to enter into record a copy of the integrated management plan. And Rita already has the copies.

MR. KOEHLMOOS: That will be Exhibit No. 1 entered into the record.

(Exhibit 1 was received in evidence. See Index.)

MR. CALLAN: Then I would like to enter into the record a copy of the stakeholders list and the meeting attendance list.

MR. KOEHLMOOS: That will go in as Exhibit No. 2.

(Exhibit 2 was received in evidence. See Index.)

MR. CALLAN: I would also like to enter into record the affidavit of publications from the *Omaha World-Herald*, the *Grand Island Independent* -- they're all in one.

MR. KOEHLMOOS: That will all go in as Exhibit No. 3.

(Exhibit 3 was received in evidence. See Index.)

MR. CALLAN: *Phonograph Herald, Sherman County*

1       *Times, Ravenna News, Ord Quiz, the Nance County Journal, and*  
2       *the Burwell Tribune.*

3               I'd also like to submit clippings from legal  
4       notices from the *Albion News, Columbus Telegram, and the*  
5       *Greeley Citizen.*

6               MR. KOEHLMOOS: That will be Exhibit No. 4. I  
7       think they were attached in the back, so just clip that.

8               (Exhibit 4 was received in evidence. See Index.)

9               MR. CALLAN: I would also like to read into record  
10       that IMP press releases were sent to the radio stations KNLV  
11       in Ord; KTTT and KLIR, KJSK, KZEN, and KNOT of Columbus;  
12       KCNI, KBBN of Broken Bow; KBRY of Broken Bow; and KRGJ of  
13       Grand Island.

14               I would like to submit into record a letter to the  
15       Department of Natural Resources from Leon Koehlmoos stating  
16       the Lower Loup Natural Resource District's intention to  
17       proceed with the draft plan.

18               MR. KOEHLMOOS: That would be entered as Exhibit  
19       No. 5.

20               (Exhibit 5 was received in evidence. See Index.)

21               MR. CALLAN: I would like to submit into record a  
22       letter to the Lower Loup Natural Resource District from the  
23       Department of Natural Resources stating their intention to  
24       proceed with the draft plan.

25               MR. KOEHLMOOS: That would be Exhibit No. 6.

1 (Exhibit 6 was received in evidence. See Index.)

2 MR. CALLAN: Now I would like to submit written  
3 testimony submitted by Randy Kauk that was received prior to  
4 the hearing, which a copy is available at each director's  
5 location.

6 MR. KOEHLMOOS: That will be listed or submitted  
7 as Exhibit No. 7.

8 (Exhibit 7 was received in evidence. See Index.)

9 MR. CALLAN: I'm good, Joe.

10 THE HEARING OFFICER: Is that all your --

11 MR. CALLAN: Yep.

12 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay, thank you.

13 I will now ask for testimony by the Department of  
14 Natural Resources.

15 TIM FREED

16 Hello, thank you for the opportunity to work with  
17 you. First, I thought I would just mention that I brought  
18 three pieces -- or three items for exhibits. I think Russ  
19 entered one of them. It's the agreement letter from the DNR  
20 to the NRD, and it included a copy of the IMP in draft form.

21 I also brought a copy of the Title 454, Chapter  
22 13, rules and the testimony letter that I'm about to read.

23 THE HEARING OFFICER: Do you want those submitted  
24 as exhibits?

25 MR. FREED: I think one of them may already be one

1 exhibit.

2 MR. KOEHLMOOS: Well, you had three pieces. They  
3 were kind of lumped together, so do you want those listed  
4 separately --

5 MR. FREED: Yes.

6 MR. KOEHLMOOS: -- so they show up -- okay, so.  
7 The letter's already been given an exhibit number.

8 MS. GOLDFISH: No. 6.

9 MR. KOEHLMOOS: Okay, that will be number 6 on the  
10 letter.

11 The Title 454 will be Exhibit No. 8, listed as  
12 Exhibit No. 8.

13 (Exhibit 8 was received in evidence. See Index.)

14 And the letter from Gordon W. Fassett to the  
15 District, dated March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, will be listed as Exhibit  
16 No. 9.

17 (Exhibit 9 was received in evidence. See Index.)

18 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

19 MR. FREED: I'm going to read into the record the  
20 testimony of Gordon Fassett, our Director of the Department  
21 of Natural Resources. It's dated March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

22 Oh, by the way, I'm Tim Freed, F-r-e-e-d. And the  
23 letter is dated March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016, addressed to Joseph L.  
24 Citta, Jr., Board Chairperson, Lower Loup Natural Resources  
25 District, 2620 Drive (sic), Ord, Nebraska 68862.

1           "Dear Mr. Citta: This letter is intended as the  
2 official testimony of the Nebraska Department of Natural  
3 Resources (the Department) for inclusion in the record of  
4 the Lower Loup Natural Resources District's (the District)  
5 March 24, 2016, hearing to take testimony on the proposed  
6 joint District and Department voluntary integrated  
7 management plan, an IMP. This testimony is offered in  
8 accordance with Nebraska Revised Statutes 46-743(7).

9           "The IMP contains goals, objectives, and action  
10 items that serve as an important first step toward the  
11 effective planning and management of hydrologically  
12 connected surface water and groundwater in the District.  
13 The Department is committed to working closely with the  
14 District to implement and to monitor the goals and  
15 objectives of this voluntary IMP. The IMP process will  
16 utilize an adaptive management approach to accommodate  
17 changing circumstances such as hydrology, economics, water  
18 demands and supplies. In addition, the IMP will evolve in  
19 incremental phases as elements of the plan are achieved and  
20 additional elements to the IMP are sought by the District,  
21 its stakeholder advisory committee, and/or the Department.  
22 Through the implementation of this IMP, the Department will  
23 work collaboratively with the District on a variety of  
24 activities aimed at advancing or understanding" -- excuse  
25 me, "our understanding of hydrologically connected waters

1 and increasing the level of coordination in planning for  
2 future water needs while protecting existing water users.

3 "The Department would like to enter into evidence  
4 two items," which I've already entered. "One, the IMP  
5 agreement letter from the Department to the District, dated  
6 March 17, 2016, and the Nebraska Administrative Code Title  
7 454, Chapter 13, Department of Natural Resources Rules for  
8 Practices and Procedures, Integrated Management Plans, which  
9 was approved on August 13, 2005.

10 "The Department appreciates the efforts of the  
11 stakeholders and the District staff in taking this important  
12 first step in managing hydrologically connected waters of  
13 the District and looks forward to working in close  
14 collaboration in the future. Sincerely, Gordon W. Fassett,  
15 Director."

16 And an enclosure for the two exhibits was  
17 included, and there's a copy for Leon Koehlmoos, the Lower  
18 Loup Natural Resources District General Manager. Thank you.

19 THE HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Freed.

20 Okay, I will now ask for public testimony. I will  
21 first ask for those who would oppose the rule. Any  
22 testimony from those that would oppose, please step forward.

23 (No response.)

24 Seeing none, I will now ask for testimony from  
25 those who are proponents of the rule changes. Anybody

1 wishing to testify on proponents?

2 (No response.)

3 Seeing none, I'll move on. I will now ask for  
4 neutral testimony on the proposed rules.

5 (No response.)

6 Okay, seeing none, I will now ask for comments  
7 from the directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources  
8 District Board of Directors.

9 MS. BOESCH: I guess I'll start. I'd like to know  
10 how the Board and management feel about the letter from  
11 Director Kauk? And I think we should consider some of the  
12 objections he brought forward.

13 MR. THOENE: Some of that was pertaining to our --  
14 was mentioned earlier about putting meters on all our wells.

15 MS. BOESCH: Right.

16 MR. THOENE: That was -- like it was mentioned,  
17 that would be a very expensive --

18 MS. BOESCH: Very costly, my understanding.

19 MR. THOENE: I think with the monitoring system we  
20 have now, we get a new average, and then considering  
21 consumptive use. The one thing that wasn't mentioned was --  
22 I don't believe it was mentioned is our water level  
23 readings. We can determine our water levels very well,  
24 because we've been doing that for -- as an NRD for almost 40  
25 years. So, we have a good track record to monitor that

1 also. It's always something we should look at. I mean,  
2 meters definitely be the most -- may be the most accurate,  
3 but I think we've got a pretty good handle on it now.

4 MS. BOESCH: Well, I also agree that \$20 million  
5 is very expensive. But I just think it's important to at  
6 least acknowledge that he sent this letter.

7 MR. KRUSE: I think the plan gives us the  
8 flexibility to any time to move in that direction, too.

9 MR. LOSEKE: How many monitoring wells are we  
10 monitoring at this time? Do we have a number on them?

11 MR. CALLAN: Sure, it's --

12 MR. LOSEKE: Using to gauge that?

13 MR. CALLAN: It's about 380 wells.

14 MR. LOSEKE: That's what I thought. I knew it was  
15 over 300.

16 MR. CALLAN: Yeah.

17 MR. LOSEKE: And recently you just added a bunch,  
18 right?

19 MR. CALLAN: Yeah, we do for certain projects.  
20 For example, we added some in the Sargent Irrigation  
21 District because we were looking at doing that project with  
22 those, so with those folks.

23 MR. LOSEKE: So, it is a good cross-section of the  
24 District in your opinion.

25 THE HEARING OFFICER: Any other questions or



1        comments from the Board?

2                MR. GELLERMAN: This is a follow-up question on  
3        that. Do you have a number, Russ, in your head of how many  
4        meters are out there now. We know the District -- or Area  
5        28 has got them all almost.

6                MR. CALLAN: Yeah, there's 400-and some in Area  
7        28, whatever that number was, 480 or something like that.  
8        And then there's another three or so approximately,  
9        scattered throughout the District that we helped pay for.  
10       And then there's other ones out there that producers have  
11       that we get readings from to just put into the modeling.

12               MR. GELLERMAN: You have a good reading from them  
13        also spread out around the territory.

14               MR. KOEHLMOOS: That was the goal of the ET grant  
15        was to try to get a good representation across the District.

16               MR. LUKASIEWICZ: Well, just along that same  
17        question, then. So, we've got roughly, say, 700-ish meters?

18               MR. CALLAN: Probably right, yeah.

19               MR. LUKASIEWICZ: And how many registered wells do  
20        we have in the entire District?

21               MR. CALLAN: It's approximately 11,000.

22               MR. KOEHLMOOS: That's even high-capacity wells.

23               MR. LUKASIEWICZ: That's only about ten percent or  
24        less than, I would guess.

25               MR. CALLAN: Yeah. And just, you know, the plan

1 gives us the flexibility -- it says that if we see the need  
2 to do that somewhere. That's what it says we can do, so if  
3 we see a need to put meters somewhere, then the plan says  
4 we're going to monitor irrigation. So, I think we can do  
5 that.

6 THE HEARING OFFICER: Anybody else?

7 MS. BOESCH: I guess I just have one more comment.  
8 I think this is a very well-done report. I learned a lot  
9 when I read it. I commend management for putting it  
10 together. I think it's a very important document for us to  
11 have. I'm also happy that we've had stakeholder involvement  
12 and I just hope that we will continue to listen to all sides  
13 of the issues and continue with focused input.

14 THE HEARING OFFICER: Okay, thanks, Beth.

15 MR. LUKASIEWICZ: I guess, again, another comment  
16 on off of what Beth said. I had a little heartburn as far  
17 as, you know, the stakeholders put a lot of time and effort  
18 into this and volunteered their time. I guess I would have  
19 liked to hear more comments from that group, maybe, by an  
20 additional meeting before the hearing or something of that  
21 nature. You know, I understand this is Holy Thursday, so  
22 maybe a lot of them couldn't be here. And I thank you for  
23 what stakeholders are here. But, I guess I would like to  
24 see or hear more comments on the final draft from them. I  
25 don't know if an additional meeting would have sufficed that

1 or not. But that's just my thoughts.

2 THE HEARING OFFICER: Other comments?

3 (No response.)

4 Thank you, Matt.

5 Okay, seeing none, is there anyone else that has  
6 not had a chance to testify that would like to share  
7 anything or testify with the Board?

8 (No response.)

9 Seeing none, there being no further testimony, the  
10 time is 5:52, and I officially close the hearing. Thank  
11 you.

12 (Whereupon, at 5:52 p.m. on March 24, 2016, the  
13 proceedings were concluded.)

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## BOARD ACTION ON THE VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Lukasiewicz repeated his concern that stakeholders were not notified by letter regarding the IMP public hearing. Koehlmoos said that each Director had a copy of proposed Resolution 2016-005 for their consideration in adopting the IMP. Hadenfeldt said that he thought the plan was well done. Lukasiewicz said that he likes the flexibility of the plan. Boesch asked if another meeting should be held before making a decision. Thoene asked if the Board would get more input if it was held another 30 days and Wells said he thought that was not likely.

**Smith motioned, seconded by Kruse, to adopt Resolution 2016-005 adopting the Lower Loup Natural Resources District portion of the Voluntary Integrated Management Plan and notify the Director of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources of said action. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

## FORESTER'S REPORT

North Central District Forester Richard Woollen reported that the 2016 Tree Care Workshop at the Lower Loup NRD headquarters had been successful. He said approximately 20 people attended the event, representing community tree boards, parks departments, and other entities. He said that a number of topics were discussed, including community forest assessment, tree health, and ideas for Arbor Day events.

Woollen said that Nebraska Buffer Strip Program payments are being distributed. He said that the payments are made in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and are made for a contract set for a specific amount of rental time. The buffer strips are either grass strips or rows of trees or shrubs and are designed to filter agrichemicals such as fertilizer and pesticides from runoff before it enters a water body.

Woollen reported that work was underway to prepare for the 2016 Conservation Tree Planting season. He said that over 83,000 trees had been sold in the District so far this year and over half of the seedlings sold were shrubs. He said that lifting of trees would begin soon at Halsey.

Thoene asked about bio-char cedar chips and Woollen said there was interest in the bio-char, which are the remnants of using woody materials for the creation of ethanol. He said it is used as a soil supplement as a means to return organic matter to the soil. He said there was interest in the potential bio-char has for reducing odor in livestock feeding facilities.

## NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, Liaison DC, reported that the 2017 EQIP Local Work Group met in Spalding. He said that not many changes had been made to the EQIP program. Bauer said it is very similar to the 2016 program. He said there would be an emphasis on cover crops in 2017.

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION REPORT

### Envirothon

Information & Education Coordinator Larry Schultz reported that a team from Ord had won the 2016 Central Region Envirothon held in Columbus. Schultz said there were 15 teams in the contest, with St. Paul, Boone Central and Palmer among the schools competing. He said Ord would advance to the State Envirothon to be held in Nebraska City. The North American Envirothon would be held in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada this summer. Boesch asked how the local contest was run and Schultz said that students competed in eight categories by taking written tests.

## ASSISTANT MANAGER'S REPORT

### Variance Committee

Assistant Manager Russell Callan reported that the Variance Committee met earlier in the day and heard one new request.

### *CK Farms Inc/CK Family Farms LLC*

Callan said that John Krohn of Albion had requested a supplemental well for property in Boone County. Krohn asserted that the field had been irrigated in the past to aid previous landowners, John and Mark Frey. He showed photographs he said indicated that irrigation. Harris told the Committee that the aerial photos owned by the NRD and those from Google Maps do not show signs of pivot tracks in the field prior to 2007. He said the field had not been certified as irrigated by FSA. Krohn provided a copy of checks received by the Krohns from Mark and John Frey for the irrigation done on the property. Callan said the request would be heard again in April before a Committee recommendation would be made to the Board.

### Pibel Lake Update

Callan told the Board that the pedestrian bridge had been placed across the lake and provided some photographs of the placement. He said that work is also underway on the outlet of the facility and on the two fishing piers. Callan said that the project was on track to finish on schedule.

### Columbus Area Water Resources Assessment Study Update

Callan told the Board that staff met with HDR and discussed how they rank projects. He said they will input numbers into the model. Callan said he will be meeting with the Christopher Cove group on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ELM Update

Callan told the Board that the calibration portion of the ELM project in its Phase 3 capacity had been completed. He said portions of the ELM model were being run on LLNRD computers. He said the final report will be finished once all SDF mapping is done and had an estimated completion of early Fall, 2016.

## PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Loup Basin RC&D Request

Kruse told the Board that the Committee had recommended that the Lower Loup NRD provide \$5,000 annually for a three-year period for funds for recycling. He said that following the third year, a written report from the RC&D would be made to the NRD.

**Kruse motioned, seconded by Rasmussen, to approve the recommendation from the Programs/Projects Committee to provide \$5,000 annually for three years, contingent upon a written report at the end of the third year. Motion carried by roll call vote, all present voting yes.**

Duncan East IPA Maintenance – Lee Blaser

Kruse said that the Duncan East IPA Maintenance request had been tabled until the April Committee meeting.

Powerhouse Trail – City of Columbus & CART

Kruse said that representatives from the City of Columbus and CART are requesting ten percent of the cost of an extension to the Powerhouse Trail. The additional two-mile stretch would cost \$1,237,985.54, meaning the request to the LLNRD would be \$123,798. This was the first time the request had been heard.

Section 14 Project South of Monroe – Platte County Highway Department

Kruse said that bank erosion on the Loup River was threatening a portion of 370<sup>th</sup> Avenue south of Monroe. The potential issues from the erosion include loss of the north-south road, loss of riparian forest and agricultural land. Kruse said that the Platte County officials invited NRD staff to attend a meeting to be held with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Davis Creek Recreation Area Expansion

Kruse said that the Committee had recommended that the District proceed with the first phase of the Davis Creek Recreation Area Expansion. He said the expansion would include 42 new campsites and electrical hook-ups, a new shower-house and primitive restrooms. Rasmussen expressed concern that, without another boat ramp, there would be excessive congestion on the current ramp. Smith suggested that a dump station would also be necessary due to additional usage or there could be issues with sewage being dumped on the access roads. Koehlmoos said that, if approved, the \$1.5 million project would likely stretch over two budget cycles.

**Kruse motioned, seconded by Eschliman, to approve the Programs/Projects Committee recommendation to proceed with Phase 1 of the Davis Creek Recreation Area Expansion, including electrical hook-ups at the 42 new campsites, boat ramp, and parking area. Motion carried by roll call vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Citta, Eschliman, Gellermann, Kruse, Loseke, Rasmussen, Thede, and Thoene. Directors voting no: Anderson, Bartak, Boesch, Hadenfeldt, Nelson, and Smith. Director not present during vote: Lukasiewicz. Directors Absent: Adams, Gutzmer, Kauk, and Petersen.**

Lillian Creek Dam Project

It was reported that staff was working on Requests for Proposal.

Pibel Lake Renovation Update

This topic was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Voluntary Integrated Management Plan

This topic was addressed earlier in the meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Litigation Update

Koehlmoos said that there was no update.

New Hires

Koehlmoos said that there were no new hires, but that the NRD was planning to hire help for the summer season.

Non-Action Reports

There were no reports.

NARD REPORT

Director's Report

Rasmussen reported that the NARD Board met in Lincoln and toured the National Guard Headquarters. He said that the proposed 4 percent increase in the health insurance rate was postponed until sometime in June. He said officers were elected. He said that there was plenty of legislation still to be considered by the Unicameral.

Washington, DC Conference

Boesch said she felt it was a great conference, with a number of informative speakers. She said she enjoyed the Nebraska Breakfast and hearing from each member of the state's delegation. Lukasiewicz said he felt the meetings were good and covered a variety of important topics.

NRC REPORT

Commissioner's Report

Hadenfeldt reported that DNR has reviewed the applications that have been submitted for water sustainability funds and NRC would meet on March 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> in Gothenburg to score the applications. He said another meeting was planned for April 19<sup>th</sup>.

### RC&D REPORTS

#### Loup Basin RC&D

Rasmussen said there was no report.

#### PrairieLand RC&D

Gellermann said there was no report.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Schultz announced the NET program on NRDs called “Keeping Nebraska Local: A Unique Approach to Resource Management” would air at 8 pm that night. He said that a second airing was set for Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Citta declared the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Roster for attendance of this meeting and tally of votes cast on motions at this meeting are being filed with the official minutes of this meeting at the Lower Loup Natural Resources District’s Headquarters Office, 2620 Airport Drive, Ord, Nebraska. Publication notification of this meeting was made via a newspaper in each county within the District. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held April 28, 2016, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

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Henry J. Thoene  
Secretary