

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 28, 2026

Ord, Nebraska

The May 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 May 28, 2026. Chairman Thoene called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance:

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Colton R. DeBower
Jeremy Eschliman
Gary A. Kruse
Todd Nitsch
John Shadle
Clifford Sterner
Rick Vlach, Vice Chairman

Robert L. Bauer
James Eschliman
Thomas L. Knutson
Larry Mohrman, Secretary
Chad J. Podolak
Gerald Smith
Henry J. Thoene, Chairman

Directors absent:

Timothy E. Bartak
Justin W. King
Alexander L. Vlach

Randy Kauk
Alan Petersen

Staff in attendance:

Russell G. Callan, General Manager
Irene Kreifels, Administrative Assistant
Alan Bartels, I & E Coordinator
Dell Harris, Water Resources Specialist
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist
Aron Lewis, District Conservation Forester
Dan Ruterborries, Rangeland Mgmt. Specialist

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager
Kim A. Lyons, Financial Secretary
Brant Bechtold, I & E Specialist
Kevin Gustafson, District Engineer
Ann Freeman, Water Programs Secretary
Abigail Lyons, Agronomist

Guests in attendance:

Miles Anderson, NRCS, DC East

Lee Obermeier, St. Paul

VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICE AND ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Chairman Thoene asked for verification of the meeting notice. General Manager Russ Callan stated that the agenda was current, and that the meeting notices were properly published in all newspapers, posted at the NRD Headquarters office in Ord, on the NRD website, and in the eight field office locations.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Thoene stated that Directors Bartak, Kauk, and King had asked to be excused.

Smith motioned, seconded by Knutson, to excuse Directors Bartak, Kauk, and King. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bauer, DeBower, James Eschliman, Jeremy Eschliman, Knutson, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Podolak, Shadle, Smith, Sterner, Thoene, R. Vlach. Directors absent: Bartak, Kauk, King, Petersen, A. Vlach.

MINUTES

Thoene asked for corrections and/or additions to the April 23, 2026, Board meeting minutes. None being heard, Thoene announced that the minutes will stand approved as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Russell Callan, General Manager, highlighted expenditures of \$21,244.67 to In-Situ for transducers which track the water levels year-round. Callan also highlighted additional expenditures of \$13,858.00 to Edghill Motors, Inc, for a new Hustler lawnmower and \$6,300.00 to Avant Agricultural Technology for subscription service for telemetry on vadose project meters.

Mohrman asked if we got new furniture. Callan replied that they redecked a few desks and tabletops throughout the office.

Jim Eschliman motioned, seconded by R. Vlach, to approve the May 28, 2026, Treasurer's Report. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

The Treasurer's Report Approval Policy states that the approved expenditures are to be published and each director who has per diem and/or reimbursement of expenses included in such financial reports abstains from voting for the approval of his or her own per diem and/or expense reimbursement.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO LOWER LOUP NRD RECREATION AREA RULES AND REGULATIONS

Callan announced that the Public Hearing notice was not published in the Grand Island Independent as required by law, so the hearing would be postponed until June 25th at 5:15 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Thoene asked for public comments, none were heard.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Aron Lewis, District Conservation Forester, reported that we had a successful tree planting season with about 47,774 trees and 11,459 coconut mats sold, and 50 machine plantings completed. We were about 13,000 less trees than last year because of the drought. He added that the drip irrigation crew followed plantings closely and got drip installed within a couple of days after planting.

Lewis added that a sugar maple tree was planted where the cottonwood tree fell last year by the handicap dock at Davis Creek and that the windbreak by the big cottonwood at Pibel Lake was replanted as well. He also reported that there is a small nursery set up at Headquarters with Aspen, Douglas fir, and some other unique trees that we don't see often around here, adding that they will be planted at Davis and Pibel after they have grown some.

Lewis reported that tree cuttings have been shut down for the Northern long-eared bat. He has also been meeting with producers about potential hazardous fuel cutting projects.

Lewis announced that he has been named lead forester for a \$10 million 3-year Rock County grant for community wildfire defense, allowing him to be the fuel and fire forester. He added that another forester will be hired for the NRD and will be a split position between the LLNRD and the Nebraska Forest Service. The new forester position will remain for the unforeseeable future. He added that seven interviews will be conducted in June for the position.

Thoene asked about the fuel reduction and cutting that was to take place at Jones Canyon and Calamus. Lewis stated that he is writing a \$10 million grant for the District and he is not sure if it will go through the Forest Service or the new Fire Service that is being created.

Jeremy Eschliman asked if there were any lessons learned about fighting fires. Lewis replied that the Morrill fire had high winds and power lines were being blown over. He added that the Western fires have been caused by dry lightning, adding that the area still has not received rain. He also stated that there was no cell phone service or radio communication in a lot of the areas during the events, so they are looking into improving communication.

Sterner asked if the Pressey fire was caused by dry lightning. Lewis replied that they believe it was manmade and are investigating.

Callan added extra explanation to the forester position, stating that Lewis is a Nebraska Forest Service employee with wages paid by the Nebraska Forest Service. Previously, we had Rich Woollen, and are in the process of resetting up that position with a 60/40 split. He added that the new forester will share the same office with Lewis.

NRCS REPORT

Miles Anderson, NRCS, DC East, reported that the interns have begun working in the Burwell, Ord, and St. Paul offices. He added that they have been meeting with producers and working on contracting. He stated that they received about \$6 million for the District and it has all been allocated. Staff is now working on writing contracts and sending them into the State Office to be obligated.

Anderson reported that they are trying to go off the Local Work Group concerns for local dollar money allocation and it has worked well this year. He added that the next local work group meeting will be held June 15th at 10 a.m. and discussion will be about some of the work that has been done and the changes that may need to be made on how to allocate money for next year. He added that they will also try to display what has been done this year.

Anderson added that the signup deadline for grassland CRP deadline is Friday, and that they look at ones that are at a high risk for conversion to row crops and can sometimes offer to help keep it in grassland.

Anderson stated that there are cutoffs for signing up but they can talk to the producers throughout the year about possible projects to improve their property and get applications ahead of time.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Educational Events

Alan Bartels, I&E Coordinator, reported that he and Brant Bechtold, I & E Specialist, had attended the Children's Groundwater Festival on May 12th, adding there were 798 5th graders and 41 teachers from 23 schools in attendance. There were 32 partnering presenters from various partnering organizations including DWEE, NRCS, NPPD, National Weather Service, Nebraska Extension, USGS, and other NRDs. Lower Loup NRD has participated in this event since 2009.

Bartels reported that ACE Camp registrations are due June 1st with 17 registrations. He said 15 different partnering organizations will be presenting. Farm Safety Day will be held next week at the Valley County Fairgrounds.

He also reported that MUDFEST would be held in the Arboretum on September 17th and that we will be hosting the North Central Land Judging contest in October.

UNL Soil Judging Team

Bartels reported that the UNL soil judging team received runner-up at the American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Soil Judging Contest in April. The team was able to attend, in part, with financial support from the LLNRD.

Other

Bartels stated that planning is taking place for a District Discovery Educational Expedition on September 14-15 for the Directors. He added that it would highlight current projects and partnerships, as well as future projects, drivebys of completed projects, and interesting attractions. Bartels also stated that it would begin in either Columbus or Broken Bow and travel across the District. He stated he hopes to have information put together in the next couple of weeks and that this would replace the September Committee meetings.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Flow Meter Cost-Share – Required Meters

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that in Areas 18 & 20 there are meters on all operational wells that are registered. He added that there will be more cost-share money going out as the bills come in. Naprstek stated that the focus now is on Area 19, adding that everything up to the boundary to Central Platte NRD will be metered east of Custer County. He also added that there are about 100 meters installed in Area 19, with about 300 total required in the area, stating that they can go through this season without a meter, but one will need to be in place before next season. Naprstek announced that there are 2,125 confirmed meters across the District, which is around 1/5 of our total number of high-capacity registered irrigation wells in the District.

Recreation Areas

Naprstek reported that the solar well is helping to keep the water level at the lagoon at Davis Creek above the wintering elevation all winter. He added that staff is working on replanting grass and keeping it watered. Naprstek also reported that the toilets will be pumped at Davis Creek.

Naprstek also reported that the Curly-leaf Pondweed at Pibel Lake is heavier now than it usually is; however, mid to late June it should die back on its own. He also reported that the goose control efforts have been effective and that there are only a few goslings.

Davis Creek is almost 95% full. Total pool elevation is 2,076 feet when full. The last 1½ to 2 feet take a while to fill. Wintering elevation is 2,056 feet.

Chemigation Reminder

Naprstek reported that chemigation applications are coming in fast with the June 1st renewal deadline approaching. He added that a reminder letter went out in the mail, and announcements have been on the radio, the website, Facebook, and the newsletter. He stated that there are 1,714 applications in and 35 inspections done so far.

Drought Status

Naprstek reported that the drought forecast is not looking good. With our SWL in and the ongoing drought forecast, a majority of the District is in “Moderate” to “Severe” drought. He added that the drought plan states to look at static water levels and local drought report and long-term trends. He showed a map of the monthly changes and stated that this is not the worst we have seen it, but is the earliest in the year that the drought conditions have been this bad. Area 18’s SWL continue the downward trend. Areas 19 and 20 are actually looking a little better than they have been, largely in part to some timely rains. Naprstek showed areas of exceptional drought in the western Sandhills and the upper Platte, and a little bit south of Dawson County. Naprstek also showed the local groundwater status and regional drought forecast, with several areas in the “watch” status. The long-term forecast is essentially saying that drought will continue. We’ve been watching streamflows and the Middle Loup, North Loup, and South Loup rivers are 10-25% of what their normal flows should be. The Beaver and Cedar rivers are holding their own within normal readings of 25-75%. The summer of 2024 was the last time we saw removal of any drought in this area of the state.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2026 Quantity (Static Water Level) & Transducer Report

Nitsch reported that the Committee held discussion on drought response based on the static water level readings and transducer reports. He added that, overall, water levels improved for statics from 2025, utilizing data from the 501 wells across the District. He reported, though, that Areas 18 & 19 are still declining. He added that the Committee also discussed drought triggers.

Naprstek showed the District map comparing long-term trends on wells from the 1970s to the 1990s to current. As the older wells are eventually decommissioned, replaced, etc., they “fall off” of providing older data. He also showed a map of the drought plan analysis and a combined version.

Callan pointed out the irrigation district area and stated that some of the declines show because there was a mound and we are measuring off the high level, adding that you do not see a big mound in some areas because of when the NRDs were formed. Naprstek added that Sargent Irrigation canals are right by the Middle Loup River, so any gains are lost. Callan stated that in the valley, the aquifer was deeper at that point so recharge water could be stored at a higher depth.

Thoene asked what would cause the increase in Boone County. Naprstek stated that he does not know, however, the lows are getting lower but spring levels are still coming back up.

Naprstek showed some transducer reports. Transducers hang in a monitoring or irrigation well, giving us the ability to run a mini-aquifer test at each location. He explained how drawdowns happen, oftentimes with levels dropping as soon as the well is turned on, but then goes back up as soon as irrigation season starts. Naprstek also showed the long-term trends for

some of the wells. At one location there is no irrigation within miles and, overall, the annual trends are going up but there are still daily fluctuations, possibly from barometric pressure.

Another example is in two wells by Columbus – one in the shallow part of the aquifer and the other in a deeper part. The deep is directly impacted when the irrigation wells turn on and the shallow, not so much. What this tells us is that the aquifer pressures or head pressures in the separate levels of the aquifer are impacted by totally separate things. Callan said this can cause a big fluctuation in water quality.

Naprstek discussed the drought plan, which is available online, and the requirements for “Moderate” level, where most of the District is sitting. Staff recommendation is to follow the drought plan and put a stay in place on new irrigated acres and transfers-in to any areas in the “Moderate” drought zone.

Kruse asked if it would be for one year. Naprstek replied that it would.

Jeremy Eschliman asked about restrictions on water use. Naprstek stated there are no restrictions.

Bauer asked what a supplemental well is. Naprstek stated it is in addition to a main well to help with pumping, adding that they are not allowed unless the well was put in prior to 2006.

Thoene asked if transferring would be beneficial to the drought area. Callan stated that requests could be reviewed through a variance if they are beneficial.

Knutson motioned, seconded by Shadle, to place a stay on transfers and supplemental wells, to be reviewed in one year. Motion carried by electronic vote. All present voting yes.

Nitsch motioned, seconded by Smith, to approve the 2026 Static Water Level Report as presented. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bauer, DeBower, James Eschliman, Jeremy Eschliman, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Podolak, Shadle, Smith, Sterner, Thoene, R. Vlach. Director absent for vote: Knutson. Directors absent: Bartak, Kauk, King, Petersen, A. Vlach.

NUE - Corn Board Program

Nitsch provided an update on the NUE corn board program and stated that 21 producers had turned in 95 applications for \$137,000 of requested funding which exceeds our current allocation of about \$64,000. He added that DWEE is reviewing and redistributing funds for the final ranking system.

Dan Ruterbories, Rangeland Management Specialist, gave a program summary. He went over application data and reported that as of May 22nd all statewide applications have been approved and fully funded with a little over \$1 million statewide, so as of May 22nd, all \$137,000 in applications were approved. He added that no ranking was needed and all projects statewide

were approved. Ruterbories stated that the contract will be drafted for the \$137,000 funding and the deadline is January 15th to get producers' soil and water test information turned in and the data will be reviewed. If the producer achieves 1.0 or lower, they will receive the payment. All money spent by LLNRD for this project will be fully reimbursed by DWEE and the Corn Board.

Nance County Water Model

Nitsch reported that the Nance County Water Model, being developed by HDR, is being used to address water quality and quantity concerns, including interference between wells, and elevated nitrogen and selenium levels. The report is expected by March. 2027. Naprstek mentioned a new request to get the Twin Loups diversion totals that went down the canal.

Large Water User Rule

Nitsch reported that work will be done on the proposed Large Water Rule with DWEE to address potential concerns on future transfer and resale of rights when needed.

Callan stated that he was asked to attend a County Board and Planning Committee meeting in Broken Bow where a data center was being proposed. He stated that the operation that was proposed was smaller than what he thought it would be, adding that they are looking at a 50 gpm well and stated that if it were less, they would not need a permit from us. He added that the proposed center stated that they do not operate during peak load times, as they cannot afford to operate when costs are higher, which would take less water as cooling would not be needed during those times.

Sterner asked if the user was planning to dump water back or what would be done with it. Callan stated that it mostly evaporates.

Callan added that the NRD currently has a large water rule that we are looking at redoing, looking at it more in a section-by-section, county-by-county for what a large water user would be.

City of Fullerton - Well Decommissioning Project

Nitsch reported that the City of Fullerton has twelve wells in the City that qualify for cost-share, and some have been decommissioned already.

Vadose Sampling Update

It was reported that soil temperatures dropped below 32 degrees for about 2 weeks last winter, so it may affect nitrogen levels.

It was reported that Brant Bechtold, I&E Specialist, is creating additional outreach materials for soil sampling cost share, etc.

Jeremy Eschliman asked about the Nance County Water Model and what it costs. Naprstek stated it is about \$200,000 and grant funding was not received for it. Callan added that there is a well interference zone that we are trying to set boundaries for.

PROGRAMS/PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Fullerton Dam Removal

Kruse reported that the contract has been signed with EA Engineering and site work surveying began on May 27th, adding that the final design is expected by the end of 2026.

Columbus Grant

Kruse reported that the City of Columbus received a Hazard Mitigation grant for area regional flood mitigation assessment. He added that the total cost of the study is \$142,500 Federal funded and \$47,500 local match, adding that the City of Columbus is requesting an NRD contribution of \$9,000, and it should come before the Board next month.

Loup City Dewatering Well Discussions

Kruse reported that DWEE is interested in the Loup City Dewatering Well project. No further information is available at this time.

Broken Bow Flood Risk Reduction Plan

Kruse reported that a project kickoff meeting was held in Broken Bow for the Flood Risk Reduction Plan.

Mud Creek WFPO

Kruse reported that the Mud Creek agreement with NRCS was signed May 8th and the design contract with JEO was signed May 11th. He added that the kickoff meeting was held May 26th.

Mira Creek WFPO

Kruse reported that a request has been submitted through Senator Deb Fischer for congressional funds. It was added that there was information passed along stating that there is \$14.5 million for our project included for congressional review.

Pibel Wetland 319 Grant

Kruse reported that a meeting was held with Nebraska Game and Parks and DWEE. He stated that a 319 grant for \$500,000 is available, with \$300,000 federally funded and \$200,000 locally funded, adding that we are still revising the project implementation plan.

Monroe Area Recharge Project

Kruse reported that there was a meeting with LLNRD, DWEE, and NRCS to discuss the possible recharge project. He added that there was favorable response and that the next step will be to look at an agreement with an engineering firm and talking with landowners that may be affected.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Jeremy Eschliman, to seek an engineering firm for a feasibility study on the Monroe Area Recharge Project.

DeBower stated that one property that was identified for recharge has “For Sale” signs up.

Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bauer, DeBower, James Eschliman, Jeremy Eschliman, Knutson, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Podolak, Shadle, Thoene, R. Vlach. Directors abstaining: Smith, Sterner. Directors absent: Bartak, Kauk, King, Petersen, A. Vlach.

Sargent Flood Project

Kruse reported that the project design is complete and has been submitted to FEMA for review and approval. He added that NEMA has suggested that the NRD apply for BRIC grant funding.

Discussion was held and it was added that the NRD had applied for a BRIC grant in the past for this project; however, it may be worth pursuing and the recommendation from the Committee is to apply.

Kruse motioned, seconded by R. Vlach, to apply for BRIC grant funding for the Sargent Flood Project. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Other

Callan reported that the garage at Headquarters is being worked on and that it was used Memorial Day weekend due to hail. He added that there is no liner on the ceiling, and that there will be insulation there but nothing to hold it. He stated that we are looking at doing metal sheeting on the roof but the walls will not have sheeting; we can do that on our own in the future if the need arises.

Kruse motioned, seconded by Jeremy Eschliman, to approve additional costs of \$9,000 for the Headquarters garage ceiling sheeting.

Sterner asked if it would be regular or ribbed metal. It was replied regular.

Jeremy Eschliman asked what the intention was for the building. Callan stated we intend to use it for vehicles, tractors, etc. and storage.

James Eschliman asked if it was non-heated. Callan stated yes, it is not heated.

James Eschliman asked why spray foam was not used instead. Callan stated that it will be insulated but not heated and to cut original costs we took out the interior sheeting, so there is no sheeting inside with the current approved work.

Kevin Gustafson, District Engineer, stated that it is set up to add heat in the future if there is a need.

Jeremy Eschliman asked if, long-term, it is intended to have it heated. Callan stated he does not know what the future will look like but does not think we would need full heat at this time. He added that the insulation is batting insulation.

Podolak stated that he does not know why something like this even comes back to the Board. Kruse stated that the original motion was to come back to the Board with any changes.

Vote was held. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bauer, DeBower, Knutson, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Podolak, Shadle, Sterner, Thoene, R. Vlach. Directors voting no: James Eschliman, Jeremy Eschliman. Directors abstaining: Smith. Directors absent: Bartak, Kauk, King, Petersen, A. Vlach.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Powerhouse Dam Removal, Fullerton

Gustafson reported that the kickoff meeting with EA Engineering for the Powerhouse (Fullerton) Dam was held May 26th and that surveying began earlier in the day. He added that they are done with the surveying in the water and will finish elsewhere tomorrow. Affected landowners have been contacted asking permission to survey.

Mud Creek WFPO

Gustafson reported that the kickoff meeting with JEO and NRCS was Tuesday morning and that JEO will begin surveying and doing the geotechnical investigations soon.

Cedar Creek-Pibel Wetland

Gustafson reported that a meeting was held with NRCS. He also showed images of Gracie Creek by Calamus Reservoir. He said that we will be looking at doing a similar structure at Pibel Lake, a rock-chute type. He also highlighted the area near Pibel, where it would be constructed.

Podolak asked what the purpose of the structure would be. Gustafson stated that it has basically wetland type functions, giving better access to the floodplains. It gets potentially open water off the channel with some potential grade stabilization.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE

Smith stated that there was a variance request and it was the first appearance, so more information will be available next month.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Water Strategies

No update.

Litigation

No update.

New Hires

Callan reported that the summer help and NRCS interns have started for the season. He added that Dylan Peterson is in Burwell NRCS, Riley Bishop is in St. Paul NRCS, Kyleigh Muller is our water sampler in Fullerton, Elijah Pollard is in Ord NRCS, and Parker Walahoski is vadose sampler at Headquarters. He also added that Talan Bruha, Blake Hinrichs, and Marin Reilly are at Headquarters.

He also reported that Abigail Lyons has been hired for the Agronomist position.

Non-action Reports

None

FY 2026 BUDGET WORK SESSION #1

Callan explained the budget process and went over the following budget codes and suggested amounts for budget.

Code 405 – Auto & Truck Expense - \$120,000
Code 167 – Auto, Trucks, & Other Equipment - \$250,000
Code 407 – Directors Expenses - \$110,000
Code 409 – Directors Per Diem - \$50,000
Code 413 – Dues & Memberships - \$80,000
Code 417 – Personnel Expenses - \$90,000
Code 419 – Fees & Licenses - \$30,000
Code 421 – Public Information, Education, and Promotion - \$250,000
Code 425 – Insurance - \$110,000
Code 426 – Chemigation - \$9,500
Code 431 – Legal Notices - \$40,000

Code 432 – Miscellaneous Expenses - \$25,000
Code 433 – Office Supplies & Expenses - \$110,000
Code 169 – Office Equipment - \$80,000
Code 436 – Employment Security - \$5,500
Code 437 – Postage - \$75,000
Code 439 – Professional Services - \$150,000
Code 452 – Telephone - \$50,000
Code 453 – Utilities - \$60,000
Code 463 – Building Maintenance - \$50,000
Code 213 – Loan Repayment - \$2,000,000
Code 464 – Farm Account - \$50,000
Code 467 – Davis Creek Recreation Area & Maintenance - \$180,000
Code 469 – Wildlife Habitat Program - \$55,000
Code 479.00 & 454 – Pibel Lake Recreation Area & Maintenance - \$550,000

Shadle motioned, seconded by Kruse, to tentatively approve the FY 2027 Budget Work Session #1. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

NARD REPORT

Toene stated he did not have any updates.

James Eschliman added that the Basin Tour is coming up.

Callan added that the Managers recommendation for the health insurance plan this year is 0% increase, adding that this makes 3 years in a row they have been able to do that.

Podolak asked how that is possible. Callan stated that we have mostly healthy employees, so costs have stayed down, adding that since the NRDs are self-insured, sometimes there is a profit.

NRC REPORT

Amsberry reported that there was an NRC meeting April 29th in Kearney, and that the DWEE merger was discussed. He said that Nemaha NRD gave updates on the Burr Cook aquifer and pivot efficiency update due to low water. The next meeting will be in June.

Jeremy Eschliman motioned, seconded by Podolak, to enter into Executive Session at 6:51 p.m. to discuss staff salaries. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

James Eschliman motioned, seconded by Kruse, to exit Executive Session at 7:09 p.m. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Smith motioned, seconded by Amsberry, to increase staff salary 3.5% for cost of living with an additional 1% to be used at the General Manager's discretion and increase

the General Manager salary to \$185,000. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

James Eschliman asked how many are signed up for the Basin Tour. Bartels stated that Lower Loup has 12 and 88 in total attending.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Thoene declared the meeting adjourned at 7:12 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 in the Grand Island Independent. The next Board of Directors meeting will be held June 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Larry Mohrman
Secretary