

MINUTES

LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 3, 2026

Ord, Nebraska

The August 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 September 3, 2026. Chairman Thoene called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Directors in attendance:

Rollie D. Amsberry, Treasurer
Robert L. Bauer
James Eschliman
Thomas L. Knutson
Larry Mohrman, Secretary
Alan Petersen
Gerald Smith
Henry J. Thoene, Chairman

Timothy E. Bartak
Colton R. DeBower
Randy Kauk
Gary A. Kruse
Todd Nitsch
Chad J. Podolak
Clifford Sterner
Rick Vlach, Vice Chairman

Directors absent:

Jeremy Eschliman
John Shadle

Justin W. King
Alexander L. Vlach

Staff in attendance:

Russell G. Callan, General Manager
Kim A. Lyons, Administrative Assistant
Brant Bechtold, I & E Specialist
Kevin Gustafson, District Engineer
Brian Kolar, Projects Technician
Ken Sheets, Field Data Liaison
Ann Freeman, Water Programs Secretary

Tylr Naprstek, Assistant General Manager
Irene Kreifels, Financial Assistant
Dell Harris, Water Resources Specialist
Abigail Lyons, Agronomist
Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist
LeeAnn Smith, Water Admin. Asst.
Cheryl Hornickel, Programs Assistant

Guests in attendance:

Bryce Bauer, NRCS, DC West

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 announced that Directors Jeremy Eschliman, King, and A. Vlach had asked to be excused.

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

MINUTES

Thoene asked for corrections and/or additions to the July 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 \$3,450.00 to Adventure Bus & Charter for bus rental for the Director's Tour; \$13,982.84 to Olsson for work on the Groundwater Management Plan; \$44,596.57 to JEO for work in Ansley; and \$10,493.67 to EA Engineering Science & Technology for work on the Fullerton Dam design. Callan also highlighted additional expenditures of \$2,300.00 to B52 Spraying, LLC, for spraying the channel for the Columbus Recharge Project.

Mohrman asked about the payment to Loup Power District, if it was for the entire year of pumping. Callan stated that it is usually two payments.

Knutson motioned, seconded by Bartak, to approve the September 3, 2026, Treasurer's Report. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, DeBower, James Eschliman, Kauk, Knutson, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thoene, R. Vlach. Director abstaining: Sterner. Directors absent: Jeremy Eschliman, King, Shadle, A. Vlach.

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 COMMENTS

Thoene asked for public comments, none were heard.

LLNRD FY 2027 BUDGET

Callan presented historic budget numbers. He showed the notice posted in the paper and went over the budget summary that was posted. He explained each line item on the hearing notice and the difference from last year's numbers to this year's numbers as published. He reported that this year valuations were up about \$1.5 billion.

Callan also showed the levy numbers from 2021 to current and reviewed the changes over the years. He explained that the NRD's budget is not based on valuations, but rather on the projects we do and what is needed to do them. He also explained that, over the years, the budget fluctuates regularly.

Callan showed a comparison of the District valuations in billions from 2018 to current as well as the property tax asking from 2018 to current adding that there was a decline last year so the increase this year is in line. Callan stated that there was about half a million dollars under *Projects* this year that was removed for the final figures.

Mohrman asked what the \$500,000 breaks down to and what percentage that represents. Callan stated close to 19% or something close to that.

Callan continued, showing the total District budget from 2021 to current. He stated that all the figures are not cash on hand, explaining that we have grants involved and also have \$2 million in for borrowing authority.

Knutson asked if the auditors put that in. Callan stated that is their recommendation, adding that a few years ago that number was upped from \$1 million.

Callan also explained that the levy numbers have dropped despite valuations rising.

Kruse stated that the CDs are set aside for projects and asked if there is a list of what they are set to be used for. Callan replied that the list of projects is in the worksheets done last July, and that some could be used for unforeseen requests. Irene Kreifels, Financial Assistant, also added that the CD amounts are listed on the balance sheet provided monthly.

PUBLIC HEARING ON LOWER LOUP NRD FY 2026-2027 BUDGET

Henry Thoene: I am Henry J. Thoene, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

Our purpose for this meeting here this evening is to hear public comments on proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District. Notice of this public hearing has been published according to law in the Grand Island Independent and the Columbus Telegram.

The time is 5:19 p.m., I will formally open the Budget Hearing. I will ask for comments from the public concerning the proposed budget. I will ask that you give your name, legal residence, and whom you represent.

None heard.

Henry Thoene: Hearing none, I will now ask for comments from the Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

None heard.

Henry Thoene: Ok.

Thomas Knutson: Mr. Chairman, I'll at least say "Thank you" to Russ in regard to the illustration of where we've been and where we're at. It's helpful.

Henry Thoene: Good comment. Anyone else?

None heard.

Henry Thoene: If there are no other comments, I will close this hearing at 5:20 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING TO SET FINAL TAX REQUEST FOR FY 2025-2026

Henry Thoene: I am Henry J. Thoene, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

Our purpose for meeting here this evening is to take testimony relating to the governing Board's decision to set the levy at a different amount than the Platte County Clerk's preliminary tax rate as established pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02.

Notice of this public hearing has been published according to law in the Grand Island Independent and the Columbus Telegram.

The time is 5:22 p.m. I will formally open the Hearing. I will ask for comments from the public. I will ask that you give your name, legal residence, and whom you represent.

Henry Thoene: Hearing none, I will now ask for comments from the Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District.

None heard.

Henry Thoene: Hearing none, if there are no other comments, I will close this hearing at 5:23.

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

LLNRD FY 2027 BUDGET

Thoene presented Resolution Number FY2027-001 as follows:

Resolution Number FY2027-001

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE BUDGET OF THE LOWER LOUP NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District, a political subdivision organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has held two (2) Budget Work sessions to hear suggestions as to what reoccurring expenses and new projects the District will incur in the coming Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has compiled a list of proposed funding sources to help cover those expenses and projects planned for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District recommends a budget expenditure of \$22,039,613.00 for Fiscal Year 2026-2027; and

WHEREAS, said Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has held a public hearing in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, for the purpose to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations from the general public and the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District relating to their proposed budget and no dissenting comments were heard;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District assembled on this 3rd day of September, 2026, adopt Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget as presented.

Kruse motioned, seconded by James Eschliman, to adopt Resolution FY2027-001: Resolution to Adopt the Budget of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, DeBower, James Eschliman, Kauk, Knutson, Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Smith, Thoene, Vlach. Directors not voting: Sterner. Directors absent: Jeremy Eschliman, King, Shadle, A. Vlach.

FINAL TAX REQUEST FOR FY 2027

Action to Adopt Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase

Thoene introduced Resolution FY2027-002 as follows:

Resolution Number FY2027-002

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADDITIONAL ONE PERCENT INCREASE

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has completed and approved their FY-2027 Budget; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held on September 3, 2026, as required by law, to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 13-519 provides a governmental unit may exceed the limit provided in subsection (1) of this section for a fiscal year by up to an additional one percent upon the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of the members of the governing body constituting a quorum authorized to conduct business; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District has determined the one percent allowable increase is necessary for the financing of proposed District programs and projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District approves the adoption of the additional one percent increase allowed to their FY-2027 budget.

Smith motioned, seconded by R. Vlach, to adopt Resolution FY2027-002: Resolution to Approve Additional One Percent Increase. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

Bartak asked for an explanation of the one percent increase. Callan stated that it gives the Board the ability to add an extra one percent if needed for emergencies, adding that we have never done it; however, the accountant has advised us to have it available. Vlach added that all public entities do it.

Action to Adopt Resolution to Set the Property Tax Request

Thoene introduced Resolution FY2027-003 as follows:

Resolution Number FY2027-003

***RESOLUTION
TO
SET THE PROPERTY TAX REQUEST***

WHEREAS, Nebraska Revised Statute 77-1601.02 provides that the property tax request for the prior year shall be the property tax request for the current year for purposes of the levy set by the County Board of Equalization unless the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District passes by a majority vote a resolution setting the tax request at a different amount; and

WHEREAS, a special public hearing was held as required by law to hear and consider comments concerning the property tax request; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District that the property tax request for the current year be a different amount than the property tax request for the prior year;

WHEREAS, the total assessed value of property differs from last year's total assessed value by 7 percent;

WHEREAS, the tax rate which would levy the same amount of property taxes as last year, when multiplied by the new total assessed value of property, would be \$0.023285 per \$100 of assessed value;

WHEREAS, the Lower Loup Natural Resources District proposes to adopt a property tax request that will cause its tax rate to be \$0.027231 per \$100 of assessed value;

WHEREAS, based on the proposed property tax request and changes in other revenue, the total operating budget of Lower Loup Natural Resources District will change from last year's by 2 percent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Governing Body of the Lower Loup Natural Resources District, by a majority vote, resolves that:

1. *The 2026-2027 property tax request be set at \$6,373,237.31.*
2. *A copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the Platte County Clerk on or before October 15, 2026.*
3. *Any levy which is not in compliance with this section and section 77-1601 shall be construed as an unauthorized levy under section 77-1606.*

Kauk motioned, seconded by Nitsch, to adopt Resolution FY2027-003: Resolution to Set the Property Tax Request. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

FORESTER'S REPORT

Callan stated that Aron Lewis was not present to give report.

NRCS REPORT

Bryce Bauer, NRCS, DC West, reported that they are working on CRP contracts, adding that they have until September 18th to get them finished. He stated that they are also working on 2027 EQIP applications and added that they are about a month to 6 weeks ahead of schedule this year.

Bauer stated that Dylan Petersen, Elijah Pollard, and Riley Bishop worked as interns this summer in Burwell, Ord, and St. Paul, and that all went well, adding that they have all returned to school. He also announced that Jean Keber has started as a Field Office Secretary in Spalding.

Bauer stated that the RCPP grant has been submitted and that the request was for the maximum of \$10 million, with about \$8.3 million of that for cost-share to producers for installing pivots on gravity irrigation. He stated that it may be a month or two until we hear back on the application. Callan added that the applications from the last time would about use up all the funds. Bauer stated that, this year, there is an emphasis on shovel ready projects; however, we will be a step ahead since some applications are on the books already.

INFORMATION & EDUCATION REPORT

Educational Events

Brant Bechtold, I&E Specialist, reported that there are a lot of educational events coming up. He added that Upper Loup NRD hosted an 8th grade presentation day, at which Bartels presented on turtles and Bechtold did Biodiversity Jenga.

Bechtold stated that he and Bartels would be assisting next week with the 2026 Conservation Day in Ord, put together by Ben Wheeler and also with Lower Niobrara NRD's 8th Grade Conservation Day in Butte on the 22nd. He added that he will also be helping with the Scantron at Central Platte NRD's land judging in a couple of weeks. Bechtold reported that our land judging event will be held October 7th.

Bechtold also reported that the NRD's annual MUDFEST event will be held on September 17th in the Arboretum.

Bechtold reported that Bartels is working on an educational event centered on the American Plum with the 3rd Grade class at Ord Elementary School.

LLNRD Fall Directors Tour

Bechtold reminded everyone that the Fall Directors Tour will take place September 14-15 and that there will be no Committee meetings in September.

NRD Annual Conference

Bechtold stated that the 2026 NRD Annual Conference will be held September 28-29 in Kearney.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Vadose Sampling Update

Tyler Naprstek, Assistant General Manager, reported that all fields have been sampled down to 8 feet and that Jason Moudry, Water Programs Specialist, and Abigail Lyons, Agronomist, have been attending field days that our constituents are having – Keller's in the East and Govier's in the West. General public attendance has been phenomenal, with Govier's having over 100 attend theirs in Custer County.

Moudry showed provisional sampling data and explained that the probes from Campbell Scientific are used to record moisture readings down to about 40". We put them in before planting in the spring and typically leave them in until just before harvest. He showed readings from the Keller site from June 14th to August 2nd showing different depth and moisture readings for each depth. Moudry explained that there can be different readings at various times of the day because of crops using water. He added that when samples are taken down to between 30 and 40 inches, they are not seeing the changes in the moisture-holding capacity as much as in the shallower sensors. We are confident that this data gives us an indication of rooting depth. Data shows that our rooting depths are a lot less than we thought they were. It will be interesting to look at data from Custer and Wheeler Counties with differing soil types.

Moudry also reported that samples are being tested using potassium bromide, which is being tracked to indicate leaching of nitrates. He stated that samples were taken in June, July, and August and that they are hoping to see how quickly water moves. He added that early indicators show water moving ¾"-1" per day. He added that earlier today the rest of the data was received for August for review.

Callan reported that funding for the vadose project has been suspended. He added that it was a 2025 Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) grant and that Governor Pillen took money out of the Environmental Trust to fund WSF projects and NSWCP cost-share and that the State is being sued over it. In turn, the judge has suspended use of those funds and that anything that hadn't

gotten paid out was suspended. Callan stated that we do have information right now that has not been submitted yet and that, going forward, we do not know if we will be reimbursed. He added that they are thinking that it will potentially take a year and a half to find out if we'll receive reimbursement from WSF. He added that our portion of the study is close to \$300,000 to continue forward, stating that he doesn't want to stop the project, saying that we have equipment and have been working with producers and don't want to pull out of it with only half of the data collected. He added that he thinks it is a project we would have funded even without the grant and hopes that we can get paid eventually.

Kruse asked if the Board acted already to continue with the project. Mohrman stated it may have been discussed in Committee meetings. Callan stated it may have been discussed in Executive Committee, but he would like an official Board motion to continue the work on the study and to work on reimbursement from WSF later.

Nitsch stated that he feels the work being done is valuable and shows leadership to the rest of the state and other NRDs. Smith asked if we could continue with the budget that passed, adding that he does not see any reason to stop, as it will just cost more to start over later.

Smith motioned, seconded by Amsberry, to continue work on the vadose sampling project and to work with the state for reimbursement. Motion carried by electronic vote, all present voting yes.

RCPP Application Submission

Naprstek reported that the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) application was submitted and, if approved, it will offer cost-share for irrigation water management, pipelines, pumping, planting cover crops, and nutrient management.

Chemigation Inspections

Naprstek reported that field staff is working on chemigation inspections and are down to 200 or less to complete. He added that this year we have not caught anyone illegally chemigating and that suspensions were down to only 52, adding that we usually have between 80-100 fails each year.

Naprstek stated that all techs have tablets that allow them to view in real time the data that we have available. Smith stated that it stands out that our staff is carrying equipment such as the MrMr check valves; it makes a difference. Naprstek stated that they do carry the MrMr's, low pressure drains and some hose. He added that we also install a spigot on some for easy testing. Naprstek stated that he and Bechtold are working on an interlock video and how to show a test failure.

Naprstek added that while doing chemigation inspections, staff has collected about 3,000 water samples.

Drought Status

Naprstek reported that the drought status is looking to be in much better shape right now than in previous months. He showed the monthly change from last month to current and showed the drought status as of now compared to June. He stated that there have not been any junior rights shut down recently. He also showed the local reporting and regional drought status from last September to current. Lower Loup NRD has been sponsoring, per Board approval, drought reports on KOLN/KGIN TV.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Board of Educational Lands & Funds Financial Request

Naprstek reported that the Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds has submitted a request for funding. He stated that they are putting together a grant for NET to treat woody encroachment on school lands. They need to provide a 25% match and they also need a public partner. Naprstek stated that the ET grant application is due next Tuesday and will be for \$820,000 to treat west of North Platte and east of Columbus, which is largely encompassed by Lower Loup NRD. They are mainly seeking active partners, as far as range control goes. He added that their request to the NRD is for \$10,000 to be used toward range and weed improvement and will implement a wide variety of proven techniques to stop encroachment of wooded problems, wildfires, and work with lessees to keep the land free of invasive species.

Naprstek stated that these requests usually run through Committees: however, with the due date next week, it would need action now.

Kruse asked why they have not approached any other NRDs. Naprstek stated that we are the largest NRD and have a lot of school land in our District.

Thoene asked if they have done anything in the past as far as woody cedar tree encroachment is concerned. Callan replied that in their application they stated that they spend about \$400,000 a year on treating land.

Amsberry stated that they have done a few properties around his area and that after they do the treatment, they put in a contract that the lessee has to do upkeep after the initial treatment.

Callan stated that it comes down to if we want to participate at that level. Kruse asked Callan's opinion. Callan stated that he thinks it is good to be involved, and that we do not do much with range management, but it would be good to do so.

Mohrman asked if their grant application is due next Tuesday and they need a public partner. Callan stated that it is due next week and that they do have other partners.

Bartak motioned, seconded by Sterner, to partner with the Board of Educational Lands and Funds and to contribute not to exceed \$10,000. Motion carried by electronic vote. Directors voting yes: Amsberry, Bartak, Bauer, James Eschliman, Kauk, Knutson,

Kruse, Mohrman, Nitsch, Petersen, Podolak, Sterner, Thoene, R. Vlach. Directors not voting: DeBower, Smith. Directors absent: Jeremy Eschliman, King, Shadle, A. Vlach.

Fullerton Dam

Kevin Gustafson, District Engineer, reported that everything is in the agenda and that they are waiting for some information from EA Engineering, adding that they are finalizing alternatives and costs.

Columbus Area Regional Flood Mitigation Assessment

Gustafson stated that this is the project that Rick Bogus came to discuss and that we are part of the stakeholders, adding that the kickoff meeting will be held September 22nd.

St. Edward Flood Mitigation Request

Gustafson stated that he met with the City of St. Edward and JEO and that they did not have a good direction to go. Callan stated that JEO did a lot of work to see if the project was worth doing and they came back and said that it was not.

Podolak asked how long flooding has been an issue. Smith stated there has always been a problem.

Callan said that in the past they built a structure but nothing has completely solved the issue, adding that the NRD helped, maybe 15 years ago, with culverts and it was basically a band-aid and added that nothing too obvious stands out as to what needs to be done to fix the issue.

Mud Creek WFPO

Gustafson stated that the crew that is working on the GEO Technical investigation had to pull off the site, but have started again as of last Monday. They are working on the upstream structure. Once everything is done there, they will start design and finish up. Everything is moving along. He added that they may be finished with the one structure within the next week.

Pibel Trail

Gustafson reported that the final documents from JEO have been received and that we received the plans and specs. Permitting has been done, so we will be sending out for construction bids soon with an opening in October and construction late spring or early summer next year.

Sargent Flood Resiliency Project

Gustafson stated that, per FEMA/NEMA's recommendation, a different grant has been applied for and that the existing grant that we had was cancelled the day after the BRIC grant was applied for. As far as we know, as of now, we have no grant funding for Sargent. He added that they have heard nothing back from BRIC, which can take 6-9 months. He reported that the design is complete. He stated that everyone is hesitant to do anything until they know what is going to happen with funding.

Callan stated that the Hazard Mitigation grant was pulled and there is currently no money there to pay the unsubmitted \$47,000 of expenses that Lower Loup NRD has incurred. He added that they asked us to submit a letter, after the fact, asking to close out the Hazard Mitigation grant, but we are not going to do that, as we haven't completed that project yet. We were funded for the design and now they are asking us to switch to a BRIC grant. The Hazard Mitigation grant was shut down before they let us know about the shutdown. He stated that he has a letter drafted, with help from Blankenau, for our response stating that they still owe us \$47,000 from the previous contract.

Kruse asked if the money from the BRIC grant could be used for the \$47,000 if awarded. Callan answered no. Gustafson added that with federal funds you cannot get reimbursed for work done before awarded.

Callan stated that his letter will be sent in the next few days.

Podolak stated that some of these projects are frustrating and it feels like we have a lot of projects in various stages and then things change all the sudden. He asked for a layout of projects so the Board can see where they are all at, adding that he feels like there are a lot that are not moving much.

Broken Bow Flood Resiliency Study

Gustafson reported that there will be a meeting on October 6th on the project.

Smith asked about the Fullerton Dam removal and if the railroad signed onto it, adding that it would be cheaper to haul rock by train. Callan stated that most of the land involved is abandoned, so they do not have that property anymore. He does not know if the tracks could manage the load. Gustafson added that there should be a final design by the end of the year.

VARIANCE COMMITTEE

Smith stated this was the first hearing for the variance and there will be more at the next meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Water Strategies

No update. Callan said that he attended a conference in Boise, Idaho, last month and there was a lot of discussion on the Colorado River. He stated that there were comments put together for Congress and that they are looking for funding for the Colorado River water issues, which affects Nebraska in the long run.

Litigation

No update.

New Hires

Callan reported that Jean Keber has started as the secretary in the Spalding Field Office and that Kyleigh Muller was a water sampling intern and is staying on as an agronomy technician.

Non-action Reports

Callan reported on resolutions that will be voted on at the NARD conference later this month. He stated that the first is the resolution on chemigation, adding that, since 1987 when the program was started, the NRDs have been doing 90% of the work, so the resolution would move it from the state to the NRDs. He reported that the state does not currently do anything with chemigation and that even the legal side falls onto the District. Callan added that when DWEE did their restructuring, they talked with Jesse Bradley about chemigation. He also added that this resolution proposes that the NRDs take over the program completely and that they would still be responsible if there is a spill, adding that it would get reported to the State Patrol and they would turn it into DWEE.

Callan stated that the second resolution addresses payroll expenditure and salary publication requirements. He said that the resolution addresses changes to salary listings as a total lump sum amount, adding that we have always listed salaries individually instead of listing as a lump sum.

Callan stated that the third resolution addresses bonding. He added that only Papio NRD can bond as of now, but that it may have sunset. He stated that they are buying land in flood control areas before it gets built on. He added that Central Platte NRD is working with the Younes Center in Kearney on a \$37 million project, so CPNRD would have to do a bond. This resolution would open bonding if needed to build projects.

Knutson asked if bonding would go into a bill with the Legislature. Callan stated yes, this is just a resolution; it would have to be passed as a bill after a senator backs it.

NARD REPORT

James Eschliman reported that a week before the NARD Conference there will be Zoom calls for committees.

NRC REPORT

Amsberry reported that there has not been a meeting since July and that the next meeting will be held at the NARD conference on Tuesday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETING TOPICS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, Chairman Thoene declared the meeting adjourned at 6:32 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 September 24, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., at the Headquarters Office in Ord, Nebraska.

Larry Mohrman
Secretary