

Logan County Commissioners Work Session
February 24, 2026

Present: Mike Brownell, Jim Santomaso, Jim Yahn, Alan Samber, Diana Korbe, Debbie Unrein, Brian Kailey, Mike Burri, Rick Cullip, Josilyn Lutze, Marilee Johnson, Gregory Griswinski, Callie Jones and Jennifer Crow.

Chairman Brownell called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS SESSION - Commissioner Santomaso moved to approve the Work Session minutes of February 17, 2026. Commissioner Yahn seconded, and the motion carried 3-0.

REVISIONS TO THE WORK SESSION AGENDA – Commissioner Yahn added discussion of the Perkins County Canal Project in Nebraska. Chairman Brownell added the proxy for the annual meeting of the Logan Well Users under New Business.

CANCER SURVIVOR’S BRUNCH - Elizabeth Gardiner, Director of the David Walsh Cancer Center at Sterling Regional MedCenter, requested the use of the Mitchek Event Center at the Logan County Fairgrounds for the Cancer Survivor’s Brunch on April 4. The event serves 80–100 current and former patients and includes a brunch and brief program. Commissioner Yahn moved to waive the facility fees, Commissioner Santomaso seconded, and the motion passed 3–0.

PERKIN’S CANAL - Commissioner Yahn reported that he received a call from the State Department of Natural Resources. The Corps of Engineers filed a public notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed Perkins County Canal. The action started a 45-day comment period. The project consists of a lot of things that were not known that Nebraska wants to do. They are looking at diverting water from Ovid for about 22 miles to a 17,000-acre foot reservoir. From there it would flow into the Western Canal which is the first canal in Nebraska. They’re going to enhance the Western Canal to carry water another 15 miles to a 77,000-acre foot reservoir called Roscoe Draw Reservoir. It will be two reservoirs and 61 miles of ditch that would deliver water there. The Corps is asking for comments and several public meetings have been scheduled.

There are also Cooperating Agencies which consist of federal and state agencies and local entities that express a commitment to participate in the scoping process and attend meetings and review documentation that the Corps of Engineers sends out within a certain time frame. Dual County Nebraska, Keith County Nebraska and Sedgwick County Colorado were all invited to be Cooperating Agencies. Commissioner Yahn thought since it could have a huge effect on local well users in Logan County that we should request to be a Cooperating Agency as well. Commissioner Yahn offered to prepare a letter to the Corps of Engineers requesting to be a Cooperating Agency. The Board agreed that Logan County should participate.

Commissioner Yahn moved that Logan County join and become a Cooperating Agency in the environmental impact statement process for the proposed Perkins County Canal Project. Commissioner Santomaso seconded and the motion carried 3-0.

LOGAN WELL USERS PROXY – Chairman Brownell noted that the Board received a notice of the annual meeting of the Logan Well Users meeting on March 7 at 10 a.m. at the DeSoto Building. The County would need to designate a proxy if it would like to be involved. Commissioner Yahn said that he might be able to attend the meeting in person. Commissioner Santomaso moved to appoint Commissioner Yahn as proxy for the Logan Well Users annual meeting. Commissioner Yahn seconded and the motion carried 3-0. Commissioner Yahn read the update on South Platte Water Alliance which was attached to the proxy form.

The Logan Well Users are members of the South Platte Water Alliance, along with a lot of ditch companies in District 64 which is from the Washington County line to the state line. It's a group that got together to make sure we watched over how the state handles the events surrounding the Perkins County Canal. It's a pretty large group of water users down in our area that have come together.

COUNTY EMPLOYEES' FAMILY MEMBER MEMORIALS – Diana Korbe met with the Board regarding the which family members of employees that the County will include in memorials. She would like to define the family members that should receive the donation. The County has donated \$50 to the designated memorial in lieu of flowers for family members of employees who have passed away. Several departments would like to use the definition of immediate family for employees using funeral leave in the Employee Handbook which includes “relatives by blood or marriage which includes spouse, children, stepchildren, parents, stepparents, in loco parentis, grandparents, grandchildren, brothers, sisters of yours or your spouse.” However, since these are County funds the Human Resources Department would like to keep this simple and define immediate family as spouse, children, parents, and stepparents. The Board agreed to this simple definition for the memorial donations.

EXTENSION OFFICE COPIER AGREEMENT – Brian Kailey met with the Board concerning a lease agreement for a new copier. It is a 63-month agreement. He explained that the reason that they are choosing to rent the copier is that the machines depreciate around \$1,000 to \$1,200 per year on a purchased machine. The life expectancy is only four or five years. The purchase price of the copier that they are looking at renting is \$5,600. The rental agreement is \$105 per month and includes maintenance and toner cartridges. They believe that this makes more sense to go with the rental agreement than to purchase the machine outright. If there is a major problem, they will bring a new machine. The machine must be added to the County's insurance. The cost per copy is 1.5 cents for black and white copy and 9.5 cents per color copy, which is what they currently pay. Alan Samber has briefly looked at the agreement. Since it is a multi-year obligation, he said the Board needs to approve it during a business meeting. He will review it further before Tuesday's meeting.

BNSF CROSSING CLOSURES AT PEETZ – Mike Burri reported that BNSF Railroad has contacted him about closing two crossings at Peetz. Instead of closing CR 74, they want to close CR 76 and CR 78. They would put crossing arms and lights on 74 so that way the two in town will be lights and cross gates. Commissioner Santomaso asked what their objective was. Burri said it sounds like because of the way the siding is now, they block CR 76 and CR 74, so traffic has to go around. If they move their crossing back a little bit they will not be blocking Peetz, but they will still cross two roads, CR 76 and 78 instead of CR 74 and CR 76. CR 78 is the last road before the state line. Commissioner Yahn stated that farmers with heavy equipment will have to go through the Town of Peetz.

Burri said he talked to some people in Peetz and was told that CR 76 and CR 74 are always blocked with trains. They either have to go south out of town or north out of town to get across the tracks. The Town of Peetz would rather have the two crossings out of town closed rather than the one in town.

The Board asked if BNSF would hold a public hearing concerning the proposed crossing closures. Burri said that the BNSF representative said he could meet with area residents if needed. Burri will set up a meeting in Peetz with the railroad and let the Board know the date and time of the meeting.

SENTINEL PROJECT MEETING DATE - Commissioner Yahn reported that there is a meeting concerning the Sentinel project, redoing the missile silos throughout the area. The meeting will be in Peetz on Tuesday, March 24 at the Peetz Community Center from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

PERKINS COUNTY CANAL MEETING DATE - Commissioner Yahn also reported that there is a meeting

in Julesburg on March 10 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Sedgwick County Community Center. Other meetings will be held in Denver, and Kearney, Nebraska and there will be a virtual meeting on March 18th.

EMERGENCY MANAGER OFFICE FURNITURE – Emergency Manager Josilyn Lutze met with the Board concerning office furniture. She will be moving her office to the Central Services Building soon. She would like to get a new desk. She priced desks online and at Journal Office Supply to see what they had. She does have a desk that she could move. However, she would like a lateral file cabinet and thought it would look nicer if everything matched. She does not have it in her budget this year as it was not known at budget time that she was going to be moving her office.

The Board thought it might be good to contact Dave Tennant and see what he will need for desks for the coroner’s office. Rick Cullip said that the desks can be separated and used anywhere. Debbie Unrein stated that Jerry Casebolt had a very nice desk when he was upstairs that he moved out to the current OEM office. Brian Kailey said there are two desks at the Extension Office that could be used, one metal and another wooden one. Commissioner Yahn will look at the desks in the office with Josilyn.

MAGNIFI INTERNET MODEM – Debbie Unrein reported that Magnifi came this morning to install a new internet modem for the Courthouse to speed up the internet. They plugged the new modem in, and it did not work. They rebooted the system and increased the strength temporarily, which should help for a couple of months. They feel that there is an issue with the fiber somewhere. They will research the issue and try to come in on the next work holiday as it will take several hours. The next County holiday will be April 3.

GREGORY GRISWINSKI – Gregory Griswinski addressed the Board concerning data centers. He owns property at CR 37 and CR 74. He stated he has no land, but his life has been disrupted by the windmills and then has lived with the noise they make for over twenty years. He states he is a disabled veteran with PTSD. He moved to the area for peace and quiet. Since then, he has had to deal with the windmill traffic bringing the blades and towers in when they were under construction. After that, Tallgrass came in and made a big storage tank underneath his house. His well has collapsed because of their fracking. He stated his house has no value because his well is collapsed. He wanted to voice his opinion on a third big business coming into Logan County and “ruining the peace”.

The Board said at this point all that has been done has been to adopt the rules and regulations. There have been no applications for data centers or other facilities as of this date. The Board thanked Mr. Griswinski for his service to the Country.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.