

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Minutes

April 11, 2017

OPENING OF MEETING – RANDY UHRMACHER

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Uhrmacher called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Uhrmacher led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Uhrmacher noted that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was posted and available for any one who may want to review the document

Roll call was held.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board members present:

Warren Brakhahn, Edward Fleharty, Joe Hergott, Mason Hoffman, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Charles Rainforth, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Matt Spencer, Gene Thomas, Alan Wiedel and Randy Uhrmacher.

Board members absent:

Lyle Heinrichs and Jesse VonSpreckelsen

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Kevin Orvis, Marie Herbek, numerous members of the public; Dave Bedlan representing NRCS.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL DISTRICT PUBLICATIONS FOR NOTICES

Legal notice of the regular meeting was provided to the *FAIRBURY JOURNAL NEWS* and the *HASTINGS TRIBUNE*. The agenda was mailed to all board members, radio, television and newspapers in the district and posted at the NRCS offices in the district and the Little Blue NRD office.

ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION # 1 – Hergott moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the agenda for the April 11, 2017 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

Onnen noted Heinrichs and VonSpreckelsen had notified the office of their intended absence.

Minutes of March 14, 2017 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the absence of Heinrichs and VonSpreckelsen and the minutes of March 14, 2017 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chairperson of the Village of Gilead addressed the Board with concerns of not being able to get additional hookups onto the Rural Water Projects.

ACTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT – Warren Brakhahn

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Brakhahn reviewed the report.

MOTION # 3 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project – North Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Dave Bedlan

Bedlan gave a brief report on the happenings in the NRCS.

“Fix-it” – Presentation on Ephemeral Erosion

A video on ephemeral erosion was presented.

STAFF REPORTS – Dylan Long

The staff report was mailed to the Director’s earlier. Long reviewed the report and answered questions.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Water Resources Committee met March 28th.

Groundwater Transfer Request for Michael Haake

A transfer request for Michael Haake was presented for approval. **MOTION # 6 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the groundwater transfer request of Michael Haake from the NE¼ 27-T4N-R1E to the N½ SE¼ 27-T4N-R1E, Jefferson County.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Transfer Request for Alan Wiedel

A transfer request for Alan & Gregg Wiedel was presented for approval. **MOTION # 7 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the groundwater transfer request of Alan and Gregg Wiedel from the NW ¼ 17-T2N-R3W to the NE¼, SE ¼ and SW ¼ 17-T2N-R3W, Thayer County.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas and Uhrmacher. Abstain: Wiedel.

Well Spacing Variance Request for Mark Kimle

A variance request on well spacing was presented for approval. **MOTION #8 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the variance request of Mark Kimle for the placing of a new irrigation well in the E ½ SE ¼ 16-T7N-R12W Adams County closer than the NRD 1,000 foot spacing rule, but require that the minimum 600 foot spacing still be enforced according to state law.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. Abstain: Kimle.

Report on Groundwater Management Planning Activities

Discussion was held on the progress of the Groundwater Management Plan and the IMP.

Other Business

There was no other business.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE – Marlin Kimle

The Projects and Planning Committee met prior to the regular board meeting.

Discussion of Liberty Cove Bathymetric Survey Status

FYRA Engineering attempted to conduct the bathymetric survey of Liberty Cove but due to the pondweed was unable to do so. They offered to do a survey manually this fall. **MOTION # 9 – Kimle moved, seconded by Brakhahn to forgo the contract with FYRA for the bathymetric survey at this time and cooperate with DEQ to do some lake investigations to determine what management options are available to improve lake water quality.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Action on Cost-Share for Dam for Lyle Schroer

A dam cost-share was presented for approval. **MOTION # 10 – Kimle moved, seconded by Wiedel to give tentative approval and planning authorization for the design of the Schroer dam in SE ¼ 22-3N-R8W, Nuckolls County with the intent to provide 80% cost-share.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. Abstain: Schroer.

Action on Stream Gauge Contract with DNR

A contract with DNR for installation and maintenance of two stream gauges was presented for approval. **MOTION # 11 – Kimle moved, seconded by Thomas to sign the proposed contract with NeDNR on stream gauges for the Hebron and Rose Creek Sites for the construction and operation of the gauges as presented, and move funds from the Monitoring Well Development budget category to a Stream Gauge Program budget category to facilitate immediate installation of the gauges.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

MOTION # 12 – Kimle moved, seconded by Thomas that contingent on the approval of Thayer County, to sign a contract with USGS for the installation and operation of the stream gauge at Highway # 5 with anticipated costs as presented, and move funds from the Monitoring Well Development budget category to a Stream Gauge Program budget category to facilitate immediate installation of the gauges. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Action on Village of Hubbell Drainage

A request for assistance with drainage improvements from the Village of Hubbell has been received.

MOTION # 13 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the Urban Conservation Assistance cost-share request of the Village of Hubbell for drainage improvements and match the Village’s project funds up to a five-year period at 50% of the actual cost not to exceed \$20,000.

Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business

There was no other business.

EDUCATION & RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Education & Research Committee met prior to the regular board meeting.

Action on College/High School Scholarships

Six \$500 scholarships are offered to qualified students that reside or originate from within the District each year. The student must be attending a two or four year-college majoring in a conservation, agriculture or environmental field and academically be in good standing. **MOTION # 8 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the following students as the recipients of the Little Blue NRD 2017 Secondary Education Scholarships: Drake LeBar, Adams Central; Jacob Durflinger, Meridian; Carley Swartzendruber, Shickley; Patrick Ondrak, Fairbury; Garrett Whitley, Ohiowa; Cole Epley, Superior.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. Absent: Hoffman.

Action on Envirothon Sponsorship

The NARD will be hosting the 2020 North American Envirothon and is requesting assistance from the NRD’s. **MOTION # 15 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Rainforth to support the National Envirothon with District funds of not more than \$4,245 for each of the next three years.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Fleharty, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Brakhahn and Kissinger.

Trailblazer RC&D Dues

The Trailblazer RC&D is requesting a sponsorship fee again. **MOTION # 16 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Thomas to pay \$200 dues to the Trailblazer RC&D for 2017.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business

There was no other business

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT – Mike Onnen

Onnen highlighted a few bills pertinent to NRD’s.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were offered.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

