

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **August 11, 2015**

OPENING OF MEETING – CHARLES RAINFORTH

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Rainforth called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Rainforth led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Rainforth noted that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted and available for anyone who may want to review the document

Roll call was held.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board members present:

Warren Brakhahn, James Cunningham, Ross Fisher, Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Lyle Schroer, Matt Spencer, Gene Thomas, Randy Uhrmacher, Alan Wiedel and Charles Rainforth.

Directors Absent:

Tim Else, Neal Hoff and Kevin Kissinger.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Daryl Andersen, Kevin Orvis, Kent Thompson, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon; Ken Burgert Representing NRCS, numerous members of the public.

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.

ACTION TO ADOPT BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION # 1 – Hergott moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the agenda for the August 11, 2015 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

Onnen noted Else and Hoff had notified the office of their intended absence.

Minutes of July 14, 2015 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the absence of Else and Hoff and the minutes of July 14, 2015. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT – Randy Uhrmacher

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

MOTION # 3 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Uhrmacher reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report.

MOTION # 4 - Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Uhrmacher reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Ken Burgert

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

STAFF REPORTS – Marlene Faimon

The staff report was mailed to the Director's earlier. Faimon reviewed the report and answered questions.

REQUEST TO ADDRESS BOARD – RON OLSON & STEVE MOSSMAN RE: STAY IN AQUIFER <10'

Steve Mossman representing Ron Olson requested permission of the Board to test-pump a well located in NW ¼ Section 31-T3N-R1W, Thayer County for the purpose of determining the ability of the well to meet District's 300 gmp standard under our rules and regulations. **MOTION # 6 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Brakhahn to deny the request to test pump the well located in the NW ¼ Section 31-T3N-R1W, Thayer County because it lies within the designated well drilling stay area.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT – Randy Uhrmacher

The Water Resources Committee met July 29.

Voluntary IMP Meeting and Status Report

The Water Resources Committee met with Tri Basin NRD to discuss goals, IMP facilitators, stakeholders and timing of the Integrated Water Management Plan. Onnen reported on the meeting and discussed the next steps that will be taken.

DISCUSSION OF MATTER OF NARD – NET PROGRAM FUNDING

Discussion was held on the Nebraska Educational TV NRD Video Project at the July Board meeting. It was decided to table the decision as to whether the District will participate until the August meeting.

MOTION # 7 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Fisher to approve participation in the NARD NET Video Production highlighting the NRDs projects and programs, and contribute \$3710 toward the effort. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

LITTLE BLUE PUBLIC WATER PROJECT MEETING REPORT – Kevin Orvis

Orvis reported on the meeting held with the Rural Water Board on August 5, 2015. Changes to the Rules and Regulations were presented for approval. **MOTION # 8 – Hergott moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve updated rules and regulations which included the new emergency plan and reference to minimum deposit amount moved to rate schedule.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

An application for assistance was made to FEMA for the recent storm damage. A request to let bids for repair to water lines after a meeting with FEMA was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 9 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Cunningham to let bids for River Crossing Replacement Project, FEMA Disaster #4225. Approval is given contingent on FEMA providing an assistance level of 75% of the construction specifications.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Fisher, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Schroer, Spencer, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Thomas.

A request was made to increase the water rates. **MOTION # 10 – Hergott moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve new water rates for the North and South project effective September 1st, 2015 based on exhibit presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

8:30 PM – PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY 2016 BUDGETS

Open Hearing & Public Notice

Rainforth opened the public hearing for the FY 2016 budget review at 8:33 p.m. and presented the publication of notice.

Presentation for Proposed FY 2016 Budgets of LBPWP-N, LBPWP-S and LBNRD

Onnen gave a presentation on the FY 2016 Little Blue Public Water Project, Little Blue Public Water Project – South and the Little Blue NRD Budgets.

Questions, Comments, Testimony

Questions, comments and testimony were accepted.

Close of Hearing

Rainforth closed the public hearing at 8:46 p.m.

ACTION ON DISTRICT BUDGETS

FY 2016 Budget Little Blue Public Water Project

FY 2016 Budget Little Blue Public Water Project – South

MOTION # 11 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Cunningham to approve the FY 2016 Budget of the Little Blue Public Water Project – North in the amount of \$218,860 and the Little Blue Public Water Project - South in the amount of \$220,260. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

FY 2016 General Little Blue NRD Budget

MOTION # 12 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the FY 2016 General Budget of the Little Blue Natural Resources District, with a total budget requirement of \$3,160,172 and a tax asking of \$1,574,007. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – Marlin Kimle

A Projects and Planning Committee meeting was held prior to the regular board meeting.

Action on Policy for Private Dams and Agreement Terms

A New Dams on Private Property Program amendment was presented for approval. **MOTION # 13 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the revised Policy for Cost-Share on Dams and agreement form as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Action on Repair of Ehlers Dam, Thayer County

A cost share application from Gaylord Ehlers for dam repair in Thayer County was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 14 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the cost-share of the Ehlers Dam in NW ¼ Section 3, T2N-R4W, Thayer County at a rate of 80% as specified in the District’s policy for Cost-Share for Dams.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Fisher, Fleharty, Kellogg, Kimle, Schroer, Spencer, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Heinrichs, Hergott and Thomas.

Action on Repair of Mark Hintz Dam, Thayer County

Mark Hintz submitted an application for cost share on repair of a dam in Thayer County. **MOTION # 15 – Kimle moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the cost-share of the Hintz Dam in SE ¼ Section 32, T3N-R2W, Thayer County at a rate of 80% as specified in the District’s policy for Cost-Share for Dams.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Action on Draft Cooperative Agreement with Skylarks Model-Airplane Club

Permission has been given to the Skylarks Model-Airplane Club to use Prairie Lake and a cooperative agreement was presented for approval. **MOTION # 16 - Kimle moved, seconded by Thomas to approve the Agreement between the Little Blue NRD and the Hastings Skylarks Radio-Controlled Airplane Club as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Authorization for Bids for Prairie Lake Recreation Development

Permission to let bids for improvements to Prairie Lake was requested. **MOTION # 17 – Kimle moved, seconded by Brakhahn to solicit bids for the recreation improvements at Prairie Lake as presented, and submit them to the Board for review and final approval.** Carried by roll call vote 14 yes votes.

Action on Draft Final Basin Watershed Plan

The draft final Blue Basin Watershed Plan was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 18 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the Blue River Basin Watershed Plan as a “Draft Final” for the purpose of submission of initial grant applications as prescribed in the document.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Action to Approve Consultant Contract for Watershed Project Applications

A consultant contract to assist with grant application for the Watershed Project was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 19 – Kimle moved, seconded by Thomas to approve the Consulting Services Agreement between the Little Blue NRD and LakeTech Consulting for the preparation of grants for NET and 319 Water Quality funds associated with the Basin Watershed Plan.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Action on Stutman Pheasants Forever Contract

A Corners for Wildlife application was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 20 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the Corners for Wildlife Agreement for Jim Stutman in Section 20-T5N-R2W, Fillmore County as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

RWBJV Discussion of Grant Sponsorship and Participation – Andy Bishop

Andy Bishop was present to request the District’s sponsorship of a grant to assist farmers in developing their irrigation systems around wetland basins.

Puddles Under Pivots – Environmental Trust Grant. **MOTION # 21 – Kimle moved, seconded by Heinrichs to sponsor the NET application for “Puddles Under Pivots” in cooperation with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Winter Wheat Initiative – Environmental Trust Grant. **MOTION # 22 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to participate in the NET application for “Winter Wheat Initiative” with a total commitment of \$25,000 over the next 6 years, in cooperation with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes

Action to Authorize Bids for Liberty Cove and Bruning Dam Tree Removal

MOTION # 23 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to authorize the solicitation of bids for the tree removal work at the Liberty Cove Recreation Area and Bruning Dam Public Use Area according to the Wildlife Habitat Extension Agreements approved February 10, 2015. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

ACTION ON LARM INSURANCE RENEWAL RESOLUTION FOR 2016

The insurance renewal resolution with LARM was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 24 – Schroer moved, seconded by Spencer to approve the 2015-2016 Renewal Resolution with LARM and commit to the 180 day notice, 3-year commitment for services.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

ADJOURNMENT

Rainforth adjourned the meeting at 9:20 P.M.

COUNTY OF THAYER)
)
STATE OF NEBRASKA)

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Little Blue Natural Resources District, hereby certify that these are true and correct minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the District held on August 11, 2015, that all of the subjects discussed at the meeting were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the District during normal business hours, and except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda was not altered later than twenty-four (24) hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting; that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted and available to the public; that at least one copy of all reproducible material discussed at the meeting was available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public; that the minutes were in written form and available for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting of said body; and, that all news media requesting notification of the meeting of said body were provided advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.