

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **December 8, 2015**

OPENING OF MEETING – CHARLES RAINFORTH

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Rainforth called the meeting to order at 7:35 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, Tim Else, Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Lyle Schroer, Matt Spencer, Randy Uhrmacher, Alan Wiedel and Charles Rainforth.

Directors Absent:

Ross Fisher, Kevin Kissinger and Gene Thomas.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Daryl Andersen, Kevin Orvis, Kent Thompson, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon; Shanda Spurgeon and Janet Valasek 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

Onnen noted the following change had had properly been added to the posted board meeting Agenda at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting: Add item 13(c), Release of Operators Names. **MOTION # 1 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the agenda for the December 8, 2015 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

Onnen noted Kissinger and Thomas had notified the office of their intended absence.

Minutes of November 12, 2015 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the absence of Kissinger and Thomas and the minutes of November 12, 2015. Carried by roll call vote – 13 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 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Brakhahn to accept the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills, but delay action on Checks # 45481, 4306 and 3877 to Schulz & Associates pending review of the audit. Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 4 - Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Brakhahn to accept the LBPWP Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Uhrmacher reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Brakhahn to accept the LBPWP-S Treasurer's Report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Shanda Spurgeon, Hastings RC

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

STAFF REPORTS – Kent Thompson

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

ACTION OF FY 2015 DISTRICT & WATER PROJECT AUDITS – Christy Haddan, Auditor

A copy of the audit was provided to each board member at the November meeting. **MOTION # 6 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the FY 2015 Audits of the Little Blue NRD and Rural Water Projects, and authorize the payment of Checks # 45481, 4306, and 3877 to Schulz & Associates for auditing services.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

ACCEPT BOARD MEMBER RESIGNATION & DECLARE VACANCY

Neal Hoff resigned his position on the District Board at the November meeting. **MOTION # 7 – Hergott moved, seconded by Schroer to declare a vacancy in Sub-District # 1 of the Little Blue NRD and advertise for potential candidates, with the appointment to be made by the Board at the January 12, 2016 Board of Director's meeting.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT – Randy Uhrmacher

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular board meeting.

Action on Extension of Irrigated Acre Certification Deadline

An extension of the December 31, 2015 deadline for certification of irrigated acres was proposed.

MOTION # 8 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Heinrichs that the deadline for the certification of acres be extended to March 31, 2017 to correspond with the deadline date for the installation of flow meters. Carried by roll call vote - 13 yes votes.

Action on Dustin Corman Transfer Permit Request

One Transfer Permit was presented for approval. **MOTION # 9 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the irrigation transfer permit of Dustin Corman from the SW ¼ Section 12-T4N-R5W to the SE ¼ of Section 11-T4N-R5W, in Nuckolls County, provided that a pivot or more efficient irrigation system is used.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Release of Operators Names

Requests for Operators names and addresses have been received. **MOTION # 10 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Brakhahn that the District not release the names and addresses of owners and operators in the District for business and commercial purposes.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Report and Discussion on Meeting with Tri-Basin NRD Water Committee

Discussion was held on the meeting held with the Tri-Basin NRD Water Committee on November 30.

ACTION TO APPROVE BIDS FOR WATERSHED DAM MAINTENANCE

Three Bowman Springs WS Dams are in need of tree removal from the structures and ROW. Bids were requested and two were received. **MOTION # 11 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Uhrmacher to accept the bid of Plains Excavating LLC at a bid price of \$4,995 to conduct watershed dam maintenance on three Bowman Springs Dams.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular board meeting.

Policy on Smart Phones/Cell Phones

Policy was proposed which allows employees the option of using their personal phones for NRD work rather than carrying two phones, and being reimbursed \$25/month for such use. **MOTION # 12 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Fleharty to adopt the Policy on Smart Phone/Cell Phone Devices as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Cyber Insurance Coverage

Discussion was held on purchasing cyber insurance. No action was taken at this time.

Bids for New Vehicle

The 2016 budget includes the purchase of a new vehicle for the District. **MOTION # 13 - Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to authorize bids for a new vehicle for NRD staff use.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Table Skirts for Board Room Tables

The purchase for skirting for the Board room tables was presented for approval. **MOTION # 14 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Uhrmacher to approve the purchase of table skirts for the Board room as proposed.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Hiring of Watershed Coordinator

The Watershed Plan recommended creating a position and hiring a Watershed Coordinator to implement the plan and its recommendations. **MOTION # 15 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to create the Watershed Coordinator Position with the duties and compensation as recommended in the 319 Grant Application, and advertise the job to prospective candidates.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Nominations Committee Selection for 2016

The Committee reviewed the list of board members who have served on the Nominations Committee in the past. **MOTION # 16 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve Chuck Rainforth, Ross Fisher and Alan Wiedel as the Nominations Committee for the election of officers for 2016.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

2016 Director Filings for Election

Onnen reviewed the Board positions that will be up for election in 2016 as well as the filing deadlines

Membership for Water Balance Alliance

No recommendation was made by the Committee.

NARD Legislative Dinner for Senators

Discussion was held on hosting a dinner for Senator's on January 26, 2015 which coincides with the NARD Legislative Conference. **MOTION # 17 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hergott to host a dinner for the senators who represent the Little Blue NRD during the Legislative Conference in Lincoln.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Else, Fleharty, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Schroer, Spencer, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Heinrichs.

NARD Annual Washington DC Trip

The NARD annually conducts a trip to Washington DC to make legislative contacts with national legislative delegations and conservation agencies. **MOTION # 18 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hergott to authorize the Manager to attend the NARD Legislative trip to Washington DC in March 2016.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT – EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM

Onnen gave a presentation on the Erosion and Sediment Control Program.

Other Business

Onnen presented certificates of appreciation to Chuck Rainforth, Randy Uhrmacher and Ed Fleharty for their three years of service in their respective positions as officers on the Board of Directors.

ADJOURNMENT

Rainforth adjourned the meeting at 8:55 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 December 8, 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.
