

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **December 13, 2016**

OPENING OF MEETING – RANDY UHRMACHER

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Uhrmacher called the meeting to order at 7:30 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, James Cunningham, Tim Else, Ross Fisher, Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Mason Hoffman, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Charles Rainforth, Matt Spencer, Gene Thomas, Alan Wiedel and Randy Uhrmacher. Kevin Kissinger arrived at 7:35.

Directors Absent:

Lyle Schroer

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Daryl Andersen, Dylan Long, Marie Herbek, Kent Thompson, Marlene Faimon, Janet Valasek, Dave Bedlan and Peggy Shaw McBee representing NRCS; numerous members of the Public.

PUBLICATION OF MEETING NOTICE

Legal notice of the regular meeting was provided to the *FAIRBURY JOURNAL NEWS* and the *HASTINGS TRIBUNE*. The agenda was provided 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 under Item 10, Agency Reports, Joe Hergott would report on the NRC meeting. **MOTION # 1 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the corrected agenda for the December 13, 2016 Board of Director’s Meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

Onnen noted Schroer had notified the office of his intended absence.

Minutes of November 8, 2016 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the absence of Schroer and minutes of November 8, 2016 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

ACTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT – Warren Brakhahn

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Brakhahn reviewed the report and noted check #46248 would be held until action later in the meeting. **MOTION # 3 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the report and payment of bills as presented except check #46248 which would be held for action to be taken later.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report.

MOTION # 4 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Dave Bedlan

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

NRC Report – Joe Hergott

Hergott reported on the NRC meeting held on December 12th in Kearney. He reported that two applications of the Little Blue NRD for Water Sustainability Funds have been approved.

STAFF REPORTS – Kent Thompson

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

PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT – Marlin Kimle

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

Action on Bids for Prairie Lake Recreation Development

One bid was received for the Prairie Lake Development project. **MOTION # 6 - Kimle moved, seconded by Kissinger to reject the bid of Nemaha Landscaping Construction Inc. for construction of the Prairie Lake Recreation Area facilities, and work with the engineer to develop the project with the District serving as the general contractor.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action on Roseland Municipal Water System Assistance Program Application

The Village of Roseland has applied for funds through the Municipal Water System Assistance Program.

MOTION # 7 – Kimle moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the Municipal Water System Application for Roseland in the amount of \$4,700 and authorize the signing of an interlocal agreement for the project. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action on Nebraska Buffer Strip Applications

Two Nebraska Buffer Strip applications were submitted for approval. **MOTION # 8 – Kimle moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve two buffer strip applications of Roger Wright, one 5.6 acres in Sec. 18-7-10 with an annual payment \$1,260, and the other 6.1 acres in Sec. 29-7-10, with an annual payment \$1,372.50.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion of Additional Stream Gauge for Little Blue River

The National Weather Service made a presentation at the October meeting and suggested we consider placing and maintaining another stream gauge on the river. **MOTION # 9 – Kimle moved, seconded by Wiedel to cooperate with the USGS in the installation and operation of a third stream gauge on the Little Blue River on Highway 5 north of Deshler up to 1/3 of the cost of the gauge and operation.**

Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Else, Fisher, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Rainforth, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Heinrichs.

Discussion of Rural Water Supply and Future Users

Discussions was held on the Rural Water Projects policy on reconnections and new hookups. No action was taken, however, it was reported that discussion will be held with the Projects Advisory Board about this.

ACTION ON BIDS FOR HACH WATER SAMPLING MACHINE

Quotes for the purchase of a new Spectrophotometer for water sampling were requested and two received. **MOTION # 10 – Rainforth moved, seconded by Cunningham to accept the bid of Hach Company of Loveland Colorado for the purchase of a new DR 3900 Spectrophotometer.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes

BOARD DEVELOPMENT – GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT ACT COALITION

Onnen gave a presentation on the Groundwater Coalition.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met December 6th.

Action to Authorize Bids for New Pickup

The purchase of a new pickup was included in the FY 2017 budget. **MOTION # 11 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Fleharty to solicit bids for a 2016-2017 ½ ton pickup with stated options and advertise to dealers within the Little Blue NRD, including all Hastings dealers.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action on Nominations Committee Selection for 2017

The Committee reviewed the list of board members who have served on the Nominations Committee in the past. **MOTION # 12 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to recommend the following be appointed to the Nominations Committee to prepare a slate of candidates for the January election of officers to be held January 10, 2017: Lyle Heinrichs, Everett Kellogg and Lyle Schroer.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Else, Fisher, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Rainforth, Spender, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. Abstain: Heinrichs.

Action on NARD Legislative Dinner Senators

Discussion was held on hosting a dinner for Senator's on January 24, 2017 which coincides with the NARD Legislative Conference. **MOTION # 13 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Rainforth to host a legislative dinner for the State Senators which represent the Little Blue NRD in conjunction with the NARD Legislative Conference on January 24, 2017.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to Authorize Bids for Storage Building Expansion

Plans and specifications have been provided for the addition to the District's shop building. **MOTION # 14 – Rainforth moved, seconded by Hoffman to advertise for a building contractor within the District for the construction of the shop building addition.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion of Medical Insurance Coverage

Discussion was held about providing a portion of employee's family medical coverage as an added benefit. No action was taken.

Action on Groundwater Management Act Coalition Contribution

Additional dues are being requested by the Groundwater Coalition to help with added expense of assisting with the cost of a lawsuit against a partner district. **MOTION 15 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Brakhahn to authorize the payment of check # 46248 to the Groundwater Management Coalition for dues in the amount of \$1,500.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion on Voluntary IMP Consultant Contract Extension

The contract for the IMP consultant has been expended, but the process is not yet completed as additional meetings are necessary. **MOTION # 16 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to solicit bids for an outside facilitator, if DNR cannot pay their portion of the additional proposed costs to finish the IMP process.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Else, Fisher, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Rainforth, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Kissinger.

Phone System Replacement

The office phone system is beginning to fail. It was recommended the District look into the possibility of obtaining a new system capable of internet calling but as of yet not all information has been gathered necessary to make that decision. **MOTION # 17 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Thomas to give staff authorization to replace phone system in an emergency situation with the system determined to be in the best interest of the District up to \$6,000.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Recognition was held for three outgoing Board members, James Cunningham, Ross Fisher and Tim Else. They were presented plaques in appreciation for their service to the District.

