

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **January 12, 2016**

OPENING OF MEETING – CHARLES RAINFORTH

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 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 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, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Kevin Kissinger, Lyle Schroer, Matt Spencer, Gene Thomas, Randy Uhrmacher, Alan Wiedel and Charles Rainforth.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Kevin Orvis, Kent Thompson, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon, numerous members of the public ; Janet Valasek and Aaron Hird 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.

ACTION TO ADOPT BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION # 1 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the agenda for the January 12, 2016 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

No members were absent.

Minutes of December 8, 2015 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the minutes of December 8, 2015 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 16 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 Fleharty to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

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

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

Uhrmacher reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Report of Treasurer Bonding Requirements

District policies require the District Treasurer be bonded for no less than \$50,000. The District currently retains a \$150,000 Public Official Bond for the Treasurer. The District also carries a Government Crime Policy in aggregate of \$200,000 which covers the Assistant Treasurer, General Manager, Administrative Secretary, District Secretary, all NRCS Secretaries and our Water Project Clerk. These bonds provide some protection from fraudulent actions relating to the District finances by those covered.

Report on District Investment Procedures

Onnen explained the general procedures followed for making investments for the Little Blue NRD as well as for the North and South Water Projects.

ACTION TO APPOINT BOARD MEMBER TO FILL VACANCY IN SUB-DISTRICT # 1 & OATH OF OFFICE

A vacancy in sub-district 1 exists due to the resignation of Neal Hoff. The position was advertised and one letter of interest was received to fill the vacancy. Onnen explained the procedure for filling the position and the requirement that the board must first place the names of desired candidates in nomination. Due to only one person submitting an application the Board could make a motion to appoint rather than conduct a vote as usual. **MOTION # 6 – Kissinger moved, seconded by Brakhahn to appoint Mason Hoffman of Roseland to fill the Sub-district # 1 board vacancy for the remainder of the term.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Hoffman promptly took the oath of office.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Aaron Hird

Hird 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. Onnen then presented Gene Thomas with an award for 20 years of service as a member of the Board of Directors.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

Action Regarding District's Legal Counsel

Onnen reported to the board that Charles Shoemaker, with the assistance of Adam Pavelka, has represented the Little Blue NRD since 1985 and is interested in continuing to do so. His fee for 2016 will be \$150.00 per hour. **MOTION # 7 – Thomas moved, seconded by Uhrmacher to retain Adam Pavelka and Charles Shoemaker of Hastings as the District's legal counsel for 2016 at a rate of \$150/hour and continue to use Don Blankenau on an as needed basis.** Motion carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes

Report of Contract with Auditors

The District currently has a five year contract with Schulz & Associates P.C. for conducting the annual audit. The contract began in 2014 and will expire in 2018. The annual price of the contract was \$6,950 for the first two years and \$7,275 for the last three years.

Report on District Insurance Coverages

The League Association of Risk Management (LARM) and has been the District's insurance carrier since 2015. The premium for 2016 was \$34,622.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – Marlin Kimle

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

Action on Sale of Prairie Hay at Bruning Dam

Three bids were received for the prairie hay at Bruning Dam. **MOTION # 8 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve Jim Oltmans' bid of \$30 per bale for the prairie hay at Bruning Dam.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Action on Prairie Lake Cropland Lease

Four bids were received for the lease of 29 acres of dry land crop ground at Prairie Lake. **MOTION # 9 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to accept the bid of Scott Mousel of Juniata for a four-year lease of the 29 acres of Prairie Lake cropland.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Action on Contract for LBPWP Water Tower Maintenance

Bids were accepted for maintenance for the Little Blue Public Water Project water towers. Seven bids were received. **MOTION # 10 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve a 10-year contract with Maguire Iron of Sioux Falls, South Dakota for the regular inspection and cleaning of the water towers of the Little Blue Public Water Project at a contract price of \$10,290.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE – Randy Uhrmacher

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

2015 Pumpage Report

Orvis presented the 2015 pumpage report.

Action on Transfer Request for Jerrad Stroh

Jerrad Stroh of Adams County submitted a transfer permit for approval. **MOTION # 11 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the irrigation transfer permit of Jerrad Stroh from the NW ¼ Sec. 24-T7N-R11W, Adams County to the SW ¼ of Sec. 24, the NE ¼ Sec. 23, and SE ¼ Sec. 23 all in T7N-R11W, Adams County, and encourage end gun shut offs to eliminate double watering of lands where pivots overlap.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Action on Transfer Request for Riley Beal

Riley Beal of Adams County submitted a transfer permit for approval. **MOTION # 12 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the irrigation transfer permit of Riley Beal from the NW ¼ Sec. 7-T7N-R12W, Adams County to the S ½ of the SW ¼ of Sec. 6-T7N-R12W, Adams County.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Action on Agreement for Release of Mailing List

An agreement to be used for the release of the District's mailing list was presented for approval. **MOTION # 13 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the release of the District's mailing list with the stipulation that an agreement be signed by the requestor spelling out conditions of release and use of the mailing list.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Else, Fleharty, Hergott, Schroer, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Cunningham, Fisher, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger and Uhrmacher.

ACTION ON BIDS FOR VEHICLE

Bids were accepted for the purchase of a vehicle to replace the 2007 Ford Explorer. Four bids were received. **MOTION # 14 – Kissinger moved, seconded by Hoffman to accept the bid of \$21,000 from Friesen Chevy, Sutton for a 2016 Chevy Equinox LT AWD with trade of the 2007 Ford Explorer.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Else, Fisher, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kissinger, Schroer, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Hergott, Kimle and Uhrmacher.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT – Mike Onnen

Onnen reviewed legislative bills that relate to the NRD's.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominations Committee –Chuck Rainforth, Ross Fisher and Alan Wiedel met to select candidates for Board positions for the year 2016.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND NARD REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee proposed the names of Ed Fleharty and Randy Uhrmacher for the position of Board Chairman. Rainforth asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Fleharty – 8 votes, Uhrmacher – 9 votes. Uhrmacher was declared Chairman.

The Committee proposed the name of Marlin Kimle for the position of Board Vice-Chairman. Lyle Heinrichs nominated Lyle Schroer for the position and Warren Brakhahn nominated Charles Rainforth. The nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Kimle – 12 votes, Schroer – 3 votes Rainforth – 2 votes. Kimle was declared Vice-Chairman.

The Committee proposed the names of Warren Brakhahn and Alan Wiedel for the position of Treasurer. Rainforth asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Brakhahn – 10 votes, Wiedel – 7 votes. Brakhahn was declared Treasurer.

