

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **January 10, 2017**

OPENING OF MEETING – RANDY UHRMACHER

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2017 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, Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Mason Hoffman, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Charles Rainforth, Lyle Schroer, Steven Shaw, Matt Spencer, Gene Thomas, Jesse Von Spreckelsen, Alan Wiedel and Randy Uhrmacher.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Kevin Daryl Andersen, Marie Herbek, Russell Ochsner, David Endorf; Janet Valasek and Robert Boettcher representing NRCS.

The oath of office was administered to all newly elected Board members.

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 – Kissinger moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the agenda for the January 10, 2017 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

No members were absent.

Minutes of December 13, 2016 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the minutes of December 13, 2016 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 17 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.

MOTION # 3 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project 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 – 17 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.

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 others authorized to handle district funds including the Assistant Treasurer, General Manager, Administrative Secretary, District Secretary, all NRCS Secretaries and our Water Project Clerk. These bonds provide some protection to the district 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.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Robert Boettcher, Clay County

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

STAFF REPORTS – Mike Onnen

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

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

Discussion of 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. Discussion was held on taking proposals for legal representatives for the District. **MOTION # 6 – Kissinger moved, seconded by Heinrichs to solicit proposals from attorneys throughout the District to provide general counsel for District matters.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes

MOTION # 7 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Hoffman to retain Don Blankenau as legal representative for the District on water matters. Carried by roll call vote, 17 yes votes.

Action Regarding Counsel's Review of Personnel Policies

It was requested to have legal counsel review the District's personnel policies to assure they are current according to laws, legal court decisions and policies. **MOTION # 8 – Kissinger moved, seconded by Rainforth to retain the firm of Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, L.L.P. for the purpose of reviewing the District's Personnel Policies for compliance, according to the terms of their proposal.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Report of Contract with Auditors

The District signed 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.

LEAD PARTICIPANT REQUEST FOR PROGRAM ASSISTANCE

Thomas Kluver requested the District consider financially supporting a LEAD Leadership Development Program seminar. **MOTION # 9 – Thomas moved, seconded by Brakhahn to contribute \$200 to the 2017 LEAD program for workshop expenses and take the funds from the Education's Scholarship line item.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes

ACTION ON VIMP FACILITATION CONTRACT

Additional meetings to finish the IMP process are necessary and discussion was held on acquiring an outside facilitator. DNR is able to provide funds and it was recommended JEO be maintained as the facilitator. **MOTION # 10 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the contract amendment between the LBNRD, TBNRD and NDNR for facilitation of the three additional stakeholder meetings with the LBNRD's cost not to exceed \$4,595.25.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Von Spreckelsen, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Hoffman and Kissinger.

ACTION ON WATER SUSTAINABILITY FUND PROJECT CONTRACTS

No action was taken on this

ACTION ON ENGINEERING CONTRACT WITH E & A SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR WSF PROJECTS

Contracts for the two groundwater recharge pilot projects approved by the Water Sustainability Fund were presented for approval. **MOTION # 11 – Rainforth moved, seconded by Schroer to accept the proposal of EA Science, Technology and Engineering for the final design, bidding services and construction oversight of the two WSF projects of the District, not to exceed \$69,500.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

ACTION ON REPLACEMENT PHONES FOR DISTRICT OFFICE

Bids were taken for a new phone system for the office. **Fleharty moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the proposal of Avaya for the telephone system upgrade according to the bid price.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Spencer, Thomas, Von Spreckelsen, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Hergott and Shaw.

ACTION ON BIDS FOR 1/2 TON PICKUP

The FY 2017 budget included the purchase of a new pickup and bids were accepted. **MOTION # 13 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Heinrichs to accept the bid of Kenesaw Motors in the amount of \$27,631.28 for a 2017 Ford F 150 XL Pickup.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Von Spreckelsen, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Hergott.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT – Mike Onnen

Onnen gave a brief report on the upcoming Legislative session.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Nominations Committee –Lyle Heinrichs, Lyle Schroer and Everett Kellogg met to select candidates for Board positions for the year 2017.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND NARD REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee proposed the names of Randy Uhrmacher for the position of Board Chairman. Kevin Kissinger nominated Marlin Kimle. Uhrmacher asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Kimle – 7 votes, Uhrmacher – 9 votes. Uhrmacher was declared Chairman.

The Committee proposed the name of Marlin Kimle and Matt Spencer for the position of Board Vice-Chairman. Uhrmacher asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Kimle – 12 votes, Spencer – 5 votes. Kimle was declared Vice-Chairman.

The Committee proposed the names of Ed Fleharty and Mason Hoffman for the position of Secretary. Uhrmacher asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Fleharty – 10 votes, Hoffman – 7 votes. Fleharty was declared Secretary.

The Committee proposed the names of Warren Brakhahn and Kevin Kissinger for the position of Treasurer. Uhrmacher asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Brakhahn – 9 votes, Wiedel – 8 votes. Brakhahn was declared Treasurer.

APPOINTMENT OF VOTING DELEGATE FOR NARD LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Brakhahn nominated Lyle Heinrichs as the representative to the NARD with Charles Rainforth as the alternate. Uhrmacher asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed. A show of hands declared Heinrichs as NARD Representative with Charles Rainforth as Alternate.

STANDING COMMITTEE SELECTIONS

The board members were asked to turn their committee preference in to Uhrmacher. The assignments will be made by the Chairman.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT – BOARD/COMMITTEE FUNCTION AND PROCEDURES

Onnen reviewed the District’s committee structure and purpose.

ADJOURNMENT

Uhrmacher adjourned the meeting at 9:35 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 January 10, 2017, 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.
