

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **July 14, 2015**

OPENING OF MEETING – CHARLES RAINFORTH

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, July 14, 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, Neal Hoff, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Kevin Kissinger, Lyle Schroer, Matt Spencer, Gene Thomas, Randy Uhrmacher, Alan Wiedel and Charles Rainforth.

Directors Absent:

Ross Fisher

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Daryl Andersen, Kevin Orvis, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon; Janet Valasek

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 July 14, 2015 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

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

Minutes of June 9, 2015 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the absence of Fisher and the minutes of June 9, 2015. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT – Neal Hoff

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Hoff reviewed the report. **MOTION # 3 – Hoff moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

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

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

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

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Janet Valasek

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

NARD Meeting and Tour Report – Lyle Heinrichs

Heinrichs reported on the NARD Directors meeting held on June 15 in Gothenburg. Discussion was held on the Nebraska Educational TV NRD Video Project. **MOTION # 6 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hergott to table the decision on participation in the Nebraska Educational TV NRD video project until the August meeting.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Else, Heinrichs, Hergott, Schroer, Thomas, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Fleharty, Hoff, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger and Spencer.

NRC Report – Joe Hergott

Hergott gave a brief report on the meeting on June 16 in Kearney.

STAFF REPORTS – Daryl Andersen

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

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – Marlin Kimle

A Projects and Planning Committee meeting was held June 29.

Action on Cost-Share for Pamplin Dam.

An application to construct a dam was received from Tom Pamplin. **MOTION # 7 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the cost-share of the Pamplin Dam in NW ¼ Section 27, T4N-R7W, Nuckolls County at a rate of 80% as specified in the District's policy for Cost-Share for Dams.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Cunningham, Else, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoff, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Schroer, Spencer, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Brakhahn, Heinrichs and Thomas.

Action on Prairie Lake Recreation Developments

The Hastings Skylarks Flying Club requested to use an area at Prairie Lake as their new site for the small airplane fliers group and improvements are necessary to make it user-friendly. **MOTION # 8 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the plan for Phase 1 recreation development at Prairie Lake to enhance the area for the aerial model airplane flyers and other public uses and include \$70,200 in funds in the FY 2016 NRD budget.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action on Prairie Hay Bids at Liberty Cove

Bids were received for the harvest of hay at Liberty Cove and Lone Star. **MOTION # 9 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to accept the following hay bids for 2015: Liberty Cove (129.8 acres) – Pat Faimon \$6,160, Lone Star (13 acres) – Galen Niederklein - \$30/acre, Lone Star (6.5 acres) – Scott Most - \$30/ac.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to Release Conservation Cost-Share Funds for Immediate Obligations

It was requested a portion of the budgeted cost-share money be released for summer work. **MOTION # 10 - Kimle moved, seconded by Brakhahn to authorize the release of \$100,000 of cost-share funds for immediate obligation of monies for waiting summer land treatment projects.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to Approve Ogallala Aquifer Cost-Share Program Practices

NRCS will work with agriculture producers within the Little Blue NRD to address resource concerns in seven water quality sub-areas and requested the District cooperate on this. **MOTION # 11 – Kimle moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the practice docket for irrigation water savings and management practices associated with the Ogallala Aquifer Initiative and include appropriate funds in the FY 2016 budget.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Else, Fleharty, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Spencer, Thomas, and Rainforth. No: Cunningham, Heinrichs, Hoff, Schroer, Uhrmacher and Wiedel.

Action to Authorize ET Grant Application for Blue River Restoration Pilot Project

A grant to assist in the restoration of the Blue River was presented for approval. **MOTION # 12 – Kimle moved, seconded by Thomas to apply to Nebraska Environmental Trust for funds to assist in the development of two or three pilot Little Blue River environmental restoration projects.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT – Randy Uhrmacher

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

Discussion of Voluntary Integrated Management Plan Matters

Discussion was held on the Integrated Management Plan. **MOTION # 13 – Uhrmacher moved, seconded by Hoff to meet with the Tri-Basin NRD to discuss goals of mutual interest in the development of our Voluntary Integrated Management Plans.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion and Possible Action on XRI Mapping Effort

Discussion was held on the XRI mapping. The Committee did not advance a recommendation and no action was taken.

Action to Change Approved Meter Policy

A change to the Flow Meter Policy language was presented for approval. **MOTION # 14 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Wiedel to amend our Approved Flow Meter list and specifications to add the following language: Electronic meters which utilize an external power source will only be approved if they have a full-time live and sealable battery backup system.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Livingston Variance for Additional Livestock Well in Stay Area

The variance request was withdrawn and no action was necessary.

Action on Violations of Groundwater Management Rules

All violation were corrected prior to the meeting and no action was necessary.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Rainforth

An Executive Committee meeting was held prior to the regular board meeting.

Action to Request Mill Levy for FY 2016

State statutes require that the Board request a preliminary tax levy by August 1st of each year for the following years' budget preparation. **MOTION # 15 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hoff to adopt the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with State Statute 77-3443, the Little Blue Natural Resources District Board of Directors hereby requests a fiscal year 2016 levy allocation of \$ 1,796,747.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to Approve Resolution of NARD 414(h) Retirement Plan Restatement

Changes to the agreement for the 404(h) retirement program were made. **MOTION # 16 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the resolution amending and restating the NARD 414 (h) Retirement Plan as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to Approve Contract for DigiFarm Antenna Host Site

TransitWorks has requested to install an antenna on District property. **MOTION # 17 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the base host agreement between the Little Blue NRD and DigiFarm to install a GPS/Survey antenna on the NRD's property according to the terms and conditions as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON FY 2016 LITTLE BLUE PUBLIC WATER PROJECT BUDGET

Onnen presented the Little Blue Public Water Project proposed budget for FY 2016.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON FY 2016 LITTLE BLUE PUBLIC WATER PROJECT – SOUTH BUDGET

Onnen presented the Little Blue Public Water Project – South proposed budget for FY 2016.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON FY 2016 DISTRICT GENERAL BUDGET

Onnen presented the proposed budget for FY 2016. Discussion was held. **MOTION # 18 – Kissinger moved, seconded by Uhrmacher to approve the budget as recommended from the Budget Workshop with the following additions and deletions: Remove XRI mapping from both the income and expense side, add \$10,000 in income for professional services for IMP facilitator and \$20,000 in professional expenses for the same, add \$10,000 in municipal water system assistance program.**

A motion was offered by Fleharty and seconded by Brakhahn to add \$1,000 to the NARD statewide project. The motion was accepted as a friendly amendment to above motion by the mover and second.

MOTION # 20 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Thomas to amend the motion to add \$25,000 to the Projects Sinking Fund. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Cunningham, Else, Fleharty, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Spencer, Thomas and Rainforth. No: Brakhahn, Heinrichs, Hoff, Kissinger, Schroer, Uhrmacher and Wiedel.

Vote on motion to approve the FY 2016 General Budget of the Little Blue Natural Resources District, with amendments, with a total budgeted expenditures requirement of \$3,160,172 and a tax asking of \$1,74,007 for public hearing. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION # 21 – Hoff moved, seconded by Kissinger 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 for public hearing. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION ON RESOLUTION REGARDING LIMIT OF ALLOWABLE BUDGET GROWTH

MOTION # 22 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Uhrmacher to allow the additional 1% increase in restricted fund authority for the FY 2016 budget. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Else, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoff, Kellogg, Kimle, Schroer, Spencer, Thomas, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Heinrichs and Kissinger.

ADJOURNMENT

Rainforth adjourned the meeting at 10:05 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 July 14, 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.
