

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **July 11, 2017**

OPENING OF MEETING – RANDY UHRMACHER

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 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, Joe Hergott, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Charles Rainforth, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Gene Thomas, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Alan Wiedel and Randy Uhrmacher.

Board members absent:

Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Mason Hoffman and Matt Spencer

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Donnie Engelhardt, Dylan Long, Kevin Orvis, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon, Kerwin Elting; Aaron Hird, Peggy Shaw-McBee and Janet Valasek 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.

ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION # 1 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the agenda for the July 11, 2017 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

Onnen noted Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hoffman and Spencer had notified the office of their intended absence.

Minutes of June 15, 2017 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the absence of Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hoffman and Spencer and the minutes of June 15, 2017 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 13 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 Hergott to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project – North Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

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

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Soil Health Presentation by Peggy Shaw-McBee & Aaron Hird

Shaw-McBee gave a brief report on the happenings in the NRCS. Hird and Shaw-McBee then provided a presentation on soil health.

NRC Meeting Report – Lyle Schroer

Schroer reported on NRC meeting June 20th in Kearney.

STAFF REPORTS – Kevin Orvis

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

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – Marlin Kimle

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

Action to Serve as Administrator for Crystal Lake Grant

The Village of Ayr is receiving a grant to make improvements to Crystal Lake and have requested the Little Blue NRD administer this grant. **MOTION # 6 – Kimle moved, seconded by Brakhahn to accept the role as the administrator of the Crystal Lake Improvement Project and grants.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Spencer, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Kissinger and Shaw.

Action on Bill for Liberty Cove Water Investigations

FYRA Engineering attempted to conduct a bathymetric survey at Liberty Cove but could not compete it due to curly leaf pondweed infestation and requested the District reimburse them for the expense of the attempt. **MOTION # - Kimle moved, seconded by Wiedel to pay ½ of the expenses of the attempted bathymetric survey of Liberty Cove.** Failed by roll call vote: Yes: Hergott, Kellogg, Shaw, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Brakhahn, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Thomas and VonSpreckelsen.

Action Prairie Hay Bids

Bids were accepted for the mowing and bailing of prairie hay at Liberty Cove and Lone Star. **MOTION # 8 – Kimle moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve the high bids for prairie hay at the Liberty Cove and Lone Star Recreation Areas.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Action to Release Conservation Cost-Share Funds for Immediate Obligations

With 2018 cost-share requests already being received and the budget not being approved until September, a request was made to authorize obligation of cost-share funds for summer work. **MOTION # 9 – Kimle moved, seconded by Hergott to release \$60,000 in cost-share funds for immediate obligation for summer construction work.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Other Business

There was no other business.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT – Kevin Kissinger

The Education and Research Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

FY 2018 Budget Items

The FY 2018 proposed budget was reviewed and recommended for full board approval.

Focus for Operator Training Events for 2017-2018

Topics for future operator trainings to be held in the winter of 2017-2018 were discussed.

Use of Social Media for Educational Efforts

The use of social media was discussed.

Other Business

There was no other business.

ACTION TO REQUEST MILL LEVY FOR FY 2018

State statutes require that the Board request a preliminary tax levy by August 1st of each year for the following years' budget preparation. **MOTION # 10 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth 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 2018 levy allocation of \$1,652,803.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

One comment was received from Kerwin Elting regarding possible irrigation allocations in the future.

