

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **March 10, 2015**

OPENING OF MEETING – CHARLES RAINFORTH

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 10, 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 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, Ross Fisher, 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:

Sacha Lemke.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Daryl Andersen, Kevin Orvis, Kent Thompson, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon, Stu Luttich, Andy Raun, Nathan Mueller, Joe Luck; 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 Hoff to approve the agenda for the March 10, 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 Lemke had notified the office of his intended absence.

Minutes of January 13, 2015 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Hoff moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the absence of Lemke and the minutes of February 10, 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 Heinrichs 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 Hergott to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Aaron Hird

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

NARD Report – Lyle Heinrichs

Heinrichs reported on the NARD Directors meeting he attended on March 9 in Lincoln.

NRC Report – Joe Hergott

Hergott reported on the NRC meetings he has attended.

STAFF REPORTS – Marlene Faimon

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

PRESENTATION BY UNL EXTENSION SERVICE – PROJECT SENSE (SENSORS FOR EFFICIENT NITROGEN USE AND STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT) – Joe Luck & Nathan Mueller

Joe Luck and Nathan Mueller of UNL Extension gave a presentation on a project that is promoting adoption of in-season canopy sensor-based nitrogen fertilization of corn through the Nebraska on-farm research network. Discussion was held. **MOTION # 6 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hoff to contribute \$22,500 per year for the next three years to Project SENSE.** Carried by roll call vote.

Yes: Fisher, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoff, Kellogg, Kimle, Spencer, Uhrmacher and Rainforth. No: Brakhahn, Heinrichs, Kissinger, Schroer, Thomas, Wiedel. Abstain: Cunningham.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT – Marlin Kimle

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

Action on Engineering Services for Modification of Hebron Road Dam

No action was taken on this.

Action on Buffer Strip Application for DeBoer Family Trust

One Buffer Strip application was presented for approval. **MOTION # 7 – Kimle moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the buffer strip application for DeBoer Family Trust on 12.1 acres located in Sections 11, 12, 13, 14 & 23-T1N-2E, Jefferson County for a 10 year contract with an annual payment of \$2,133.08 and strongly encourage the landowner to incorporate a diverse wildlife seeding mixture.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action on Cost-Share for Dam Application

No applications were presented for approval.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - Chuck Rainforth & Mike Onnen

An Executive Committee meeting was held March 9th.

Action on Policy for Competitive Bidding

A change to the District’s Operating Policies handbook, Policy # 35, Competitive Bidding, was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 8 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the revised Policy # 35 on procedures for Competitive Bidding as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action on Personnel Policy # 17 IV – Workers Compensation and Injury Leave

Updates to Policy # 17 IV of the Personnel Policy handbook was presented for approval. **MOTION # 9 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hoff to approve the amended Policy # 17 IV – Workers Compensation and Injury Leave as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action on Personnel Policy # 17 X – Family Medical Leave Act

Updates to Policy # 17 X of the Personnel Policy handbook was presented for approval. **MOTION # 10 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve the amended Policy # 17 X –Family Medical Leave Act as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Adopt Resolution of Groundwater Account & Transfer of Funds

The Adams County Treasurer requested to close a groundwater account and transfer the funds from this account into the District’s property tax reimbursement account. **MOTION # 11 – Hoff moved, seconded by Brakhahn to adopt the resolution for authorization of the closure of NRD 2 - Account # 7452 and the transfer of any remaining funds, or those that would be otherwise credited to this account, to the NRD General Account.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Further Discussion on NETS Meeting Process and Technology Policy

Onnen noted further information will be gathered before discussion is held.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT

Onnen reported on legislative bills pertinent to NRD’s.

PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING WATER CONCERNS IN AREAS OF CONFINED AQUIFERS

A letter was received from Dave Bridges regarding a water resource problem in southwest Jefferson County. Discussion was held.

