

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **March 8, 2016**

OPENING OF MEETING – RANDY UHRMACHER

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 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:

James Cunningham, Tim Else, Ross Fisher, Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Mason Hoffman, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Charles Rainforth, Lyle Schroer, Matt Spencer, Alan Wiedel and Randy Uhrmacher.

Directors Absent:

Warren Brakhahn, Kevin Kissinger and Gene Thomas.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Kevin Orvis, Daryl Andersen, Dylan Long, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon; Dave Bedlan and Janet Valasek representing NRCS; numerous members of the Public.

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 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the agenda for the March 8, 2016 Board of Director’s Meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

Onnen noted Brakhahn, Kissinger and Thomas had notified the office of their intended absence.

Minutes of February 9, 2019 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the absences of Brakhahn, Kissinger and Thomas and the minutes of February 9, 2016 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several comments were taken from the public regarding water needs Pawnee Ridge Livestock and the installation of a high capacity well in the high risk area north of Hebron.

ACTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORT – Ed Fleharty

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Fleharty reviewed the report.

MOTION # 3 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 4 - Fleharty moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Fleharty reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Fleharty moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Dave Bedlan

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

NARD Board Meeting Report

Heinrichs reported on the NARD Board meeting he attended on March 7 in Lincoln.

STAFF REPORTS – Kevin Orvis

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

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT

A Water Resources Committee meeting was held March 3.

Discussion and Possible Action on Meter Maintenance Program

A draft Meter Maintenance Program was distributed and discussed. **MOTION # 6 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Rainforth to have staff contact business/ individuals to determine their interested in assisting the LBNRD in providing meter maintenance on a contract basis.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Meter Reading Program

A discussion on the importance of accurate meter readings turned in by producers was discussed. No action was required.

Discussion and Possible Action on Rule Violations Policies

Options for penalties for violation of District rules were discussed. Legal opinion sought to follow our present rules.

2015 Chemigation Report

The 2015 Chemigation Report was presented. 1,230 applications were approved with 265 of them being new permits.

2015 Nitrate Report

The 2015 Nitrate Report was presented. The average nitrates across the District were 9.877 ppm.

Water Quality Rules Discussions

Discussion of Standardized soil sample rules was held. **MOTION # 7 – Schroer moved, seconded by Heinrichs to eliminate the annual water sampling requirement but encourage producers to collect water samples voluntarily to calculate available nitrates in water. Producers that have not yet sampled wells in 2015 in the Carleton/Davenport/ Shickley or Kenesaw areas must still meet the water sampling requirement.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Information on the current groundwater conditions and trends was presented and discussion was held. No Action was taken.

Groundwater Rules and Regulations Discussions

Staff explained their concern for enforcing some of the water quality rules as they have become complex. Work will begin on a simplified writing of the Rules to present to the Board for approval.

Other Business

There are concerns from producers in the Tri-Basin NRD about differences in rules. The IMP is being kicked-off this month and some of those issues will be discussed during the process. The status of the IMP and stakeholders who have responded were discussed.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

An Education and Research Committee meeting was held prior to the regular meeting.

Action on College/High School Scholarships

The LBNRD offers six \$500 scholarships to qualified students that reside or originate from within the District. The student must be attending a two or four year-college majoring in a conservation, agriculture or environmental field and academically be in good standing. **MOTION # 8 – Spencer moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the following students as the recipients of the Little Blue NRD 2016 Secondary Education Scholarships: Bryce Buescher, Lawrence/Nelson; Colton Fangmeier, Thayer Central; Cody Garland, Bruning Davenport; Carli Shuck, Sandy Creek; Benjamin Hoops, Deshler; Jacob VanBoening, Blue Hill.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Action on Tree Planter Award

No submission for this award was received.

Action on Urban Conservation Award

No submission for this award was received.

Action on Farm Photo Award

Awards are granted to communities, business or civic groups who have displayed an active interest in the conservation of our natural resources. **MOTION # 9 – Spencer moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the Stone Farms of Endicott, Nebraska as the recipient of the Little Blue Conservation Farm Photo Award for 2016.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

ACTION ON FAIRBURY MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM ASSISTANCE PROGRAM APPLICATION

Fairbury intends to apply for a grant from the State Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and is requesting the District assist with the local share of the project cost. **MOTION # 10 – Rainforth moved, seconded by Cunningham to approve the request of the City of Fairbury for a letter of support for the State Revolving Fund Grant Application and contribute \$750 through the Municipal Water System Assistance Program to help meet the local match requirement.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

ACTION ON CONTRACT WITH JEO FOR FACILITATION SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH IMP

The contract with JEO for consulting services for the Voluntary Integrated Management Plan was presented. **MOTION # 11 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the contract with JEO Consulting Group Inc. for facilitation of the IMP stakeholders group as proposed.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular Board meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action on Cyber Insurance Coverage

A quote was taken for cyber insurance. **MOTION # 12 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Cunningham to purchase cyber insurance from Victor O. Schinnerer & Company, Inc. with the premium price of \$1,219.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

REPORT ON RESOURCES SURVEY RESULTS

A summary of the Board’s assessment of natural resources concerns was distributed.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT – Mike Onnen

Onnen reviewed some of the Legislative bills that could impact NRD’s.

ADJOURNMENT

Uhrmacher adjourned the meeting at 9:20 P.M.

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
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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 March 8, 2016, 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.
