

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **May 12, 2015**

OPENING OF MEETING – CHARLES RAINFORTH

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Rainforth called the meeting to order at 7:40 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, Ross Fisher, Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Neal Hoff, Everett Kellogg, Kevin Kissinger, Lyle Schroer, Matt Spencer, Randy Uhrmacher, Alan Wiedel and Charles Rainforth.

Directors Absent:

Marlin Kimle, Sacha Lemke and Gene Thomas.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Daryl Andersen, Kevin Orvis, Kent Thompson, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon, Amy Zoller, Mason Hoffman, Stu Luttich, Terry Madson, Rex Biegert; Janet Valasek and Dave Bedlan 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

Onnen noted the following change had had properly been added to the posted board meeting Agenda at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting: Add item 17, Selection of RC & D Representative. **MOTION # 1 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hoff to approve the agenda for the May 12, 2015 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences

Onnen noted Kimle and Thomas had notified the office of their intended absence.

Minutes of April 14, 2015 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the absence of Kimle and Thomas and the minutes of April 14, 2015. Carried by roll call vote – 14 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 – 14 yes votes.

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

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

Hoff reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Hoff moved, seconded by Brakhahn 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.

STAFF REPORTS – Daryl Andersen

The staff report was mailed to the Director's earlier. Andersen reviewed the report and answered questions. Onnen reported on the recent flood in the District and shared pictures of the damage.

PRESENTATION ON VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLANS BY DNR

Amy Zoller, Integrated Water Management Coordinator with DNR, gave a presentation on voluntary Integrated Management Plans and answered questions.

PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPROT – Ed Fleharty

A Projects and Planning Committee meeting was held May 5.

Action on Use of Prairie Lake by Hastings Skylarks Radio-Controlled Airplane Club

The Hastings Skylarks Radio-Controlled Airplane Club is interested in moving their flying site to Prairie Lake due to possible land sale. **MOTION # 6 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to recommend that the Little Blue NRD Board approve the use of the Prairie Lake Public Area for Radio-Controlled Model Airplane Use and conduct a public hearing on revisions to the Park Rules and Regulations pertaining to the use and operation of the same.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Discussion on Prairie Lake Developments

Discussion was held on possible improvements to Prairie Lake. Further discussion will be held during budget planning.

Action on Hebron Road Dam Emergency Spillway Repairs

The Hebron Road Dam requires some repairs. **MOTION # 7 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hergott to recommend cooperation with Thayer County and the City of Hebron in the modification of the Hebron Road Dam outlet drainage to reduce potential hazards associated with the emergency spillway’s operation, and enter into a cooperative agreement to pay 25% of the costs associated with those modifications.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Action on Hazard Mitigation Plan – Resolution to Participate

The Resolution for participation in All-Hazards Mitigation Planning Update process was presented for approval. **MOTION # 8 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to recommend that the Little Blue NRD Board approve the resolution of participation in the 2015 Update of the All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Action on Cost-Share for Dams

A dam application received from Eugene Werner of Nuckolls County was presented. **MOTION # 9 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hergott to recommend that the Little Blue NRD Board approve cost-share for the Eugene Warner Dam in Section 6-T3N-R5W, Nuckolls County at a rate of 80% cost-share according to the current policy.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Cunningham, Fisher, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoff, Kellogg, Kissinger, Schroer, Spencer, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Brakhahn and Heinrichs.

Action on Recreation Fees at Buckley Creek RA

Several inquiries have been received concerning the increase in fees at Buckley Creek Rec Area due to the lack of improvements made at the site. **MOTION # 10 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to recommend that the Little Blue NRD Board set the daily camping rate at \$10 per night for Buckley Creek Recreation Area effective immediately.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

Overview of Basin Water Planning

Onnen gave a brief overview of the planning efforts on the Little Blue Basin Watershed planning activities.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT – Randy Uhrmacher

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

Report on Spring Groundwater Levels

Orvis gave a presentation on the 2015 water levels across the District. The average water level across the District basically had no change from 2014.

Discussion and Possible Action on Voluntary Integrated Water Management Plan

No discussion was held on this. The matter was deferred to the Water Resources Committee.

Report on USFWS Well Status

No discussion at this time. The matter was deferred to the Water Resources Committee.

ACTION ON NARD MATTERS – Lyle Heinrichs & Mike Onnen

Action on Request for NET Video Production Featuring NRDs and Their Work

The NARD and NET have been in discussions about a program which would showcase the NRD system in Nebraska. **MOTION # 11 – Hergott moved, seconded by Fleharty to pledge support for the NET TV production featuring NRDs activities and projects, and contribute up to \$3,000 toward the effort contingent on majority support by the other NRDs.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

FY 2015-16 NARD Budget Proposal

The 2016 NARD budget was presented for discussion. **MOTION # 12 – Hoff moved, seconded by Fleharty that the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors support the FY 2016 NARD budget as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT – Chuck Rainforth & Mike Onnen

An Executive Committee meeting was held May 5.

Board Member Resignation and Authorization to Seek Replacement

Sacha Lemke submitted a letter of resignation from the Board effective April 15, 2015. **MOTION # 13 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hoff that the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors accept the resignation of Sasha Lemke with regrets, and announce the board vacancy in Sub-District # 6.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Cunningham, Fisher, Fleharty, Hergott, Hoff, Kellogg, Kissinger, Schroer, Spencer, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Heinrichs.

Authorization for Participation in CNPPID/Nebraska Water Center Tour

Neal Hoff requested permission to attend the CNPPID/NWC Water & Natural Resources Tour on June 23-25. **MOTION # 14 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hergott to approve Neal Hoff’s request to participate in the CNPP&ID/Water Center tour of the Republican River which includes tour stops in Colorado and cover expenses according to Board Operating Policy # 21.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Cunningham, Fisher, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoff, Kellogg, Schroer, Spencer, Uhrmacher, Wiedel and Rainforth. No: Brakhahn and Kissinger.

Action on NRD Technology Policy and Purchase of Hardware

A proposed policy for technology use for the Board was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 15 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the policy for electronic devices for the Board as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

MOTION # 16 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the purchase of Microsoft Surface 3 for board member use associated with NRD information retrieval and meetings. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY REPORT

Onnen reported on legislative bills pertinent to NRD’s.

SELECTION OF RC&D REPRESENTATIVE

MOTION # 17 – Hoff moved, seconded by Brakhahn to appoint Marlene Faimon as the Little Blue NRD’s representative to the Trailblazer RC & D. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

A sample of the form to be used for the Certification of Irrigated Acres was shared.

OTHER BUSINESS

