

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Minutes

November 14, 2017

OPENING OF MEETING – RANDY UHRMACHER

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Uhrmacher called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 anyone who may want to review the document.

Roll call was held.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board members present:

Warren Brakhahn, Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Mason Hoffman, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Charles Rainforth, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Gene Thomas, Alan Wiedel and Randy Uhrmacher.

Members Absent:

Matt Spencer and Jesse VonSpreckelsen.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Donnie Engelhardt, Kevin Orvis, Marie Herbek, Marlene Faimon; 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.

ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION # 1 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the agenda for the November 14, 2017 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Onnen noted Spencer and VonSpreckelsen had notified the office of their intended absence.

Minutes of October 10, 2017 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the minutes of October 10, 2017 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 15 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 financial report and payment of bills as presented except for check #47112. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

MOTION # 4 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Fleharty to approve check # 47112. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. Abstain: Thomas.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project – North Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 6 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Janet Valasek

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

NARD Meeting Report – Lyle Heinrichs

Heinrichs reported on the NARD Meeting held in Beatrice on November 6.

NRC Meeting Report – Lyle Schroer

Schroer did not have a report but noted he would at the December meeting.

STAFF REPORTS – Donnie Engelhardt

The staff report was provided to the Director's earlier. Engelhardt reviewed the report and answered questions. Kevin Orvis then reviewed the results of the fall groundwater levels that were recently checked.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT – Warren Brakhahn

A public hearing was held prior to the regular meeting to hear testimony on proposed changes to the District's Groundwater Rules and Regulations.

Review Testimony of New Well Development Groundwater Rule

Discussion was held on testimony received at the public hearing held prior to the meeting.

Action on New Well Development Groundwater Rule

MOTION # 7 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Kissinger approve the Order adopting the proposed revisions to the rule for well development in the Little Blue NRD effective December 13, 2017.

Discussion was held. **MOTION # 8 – Hergott moved, seconded by Wiedel to amend the previous motion to eliminate the requirement that new wells under the new rule would have to be test pumped between August 1st and September 30th.** Failed by roll call vote. Yes: Hergott, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw and Thomas.

Roll call vote on Motion # 7 as originally introduced. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw and Thomas. No: Hergott, Wiedel and Uhrmacher.:

Discussion and Possible Action on Platte River Recovery Program Stay Area

Jesse Bradley of the Department of Natural Resources described the Platte River Recovery Program and the Department of Natural Resources request for a stay on well drilling in the Platte River area of our District. **MOTION # 9 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Hoffman to conduct a public hearing on December 12, 2017 at 4:00 PM to receive testimony regarding a temporary stay on well drilling and expansion of irrigated acres in the area designated by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources as lands subject to the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business

There was no other business.

EDUCATION & RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT – Ed Fleharty

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

Action on Proposals for New Web Site Development

Three proposals were received to develop a new website for the District. **MOTION # 10 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the proposal of Red Thread of Lincoln for the development of a new informative and interactive web site (no social media or logo development) for the District at a price not to exceed \$7,680.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Kellogg, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Kimle. Absent: Hoffman.

Action on Demonstration Project Regarding Soil Health

Engelhardt is developing a plan to conduct several demonstration project sites to build soil and plant health. **MOTION # 11 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the development of several demonstration sites to feature soil health principals as presented, with a cash contribution of up to \$2,000.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business

There was no other business

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kerwin Elting commented on the Aquifer Risk Levels Map on display. Rex Biegert commented on this map as it is displayed on the District’s website. Shaw noted that the possibility of an allocation is still being discussed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Fleharty asked if there were communities within the District that do not have water meters to measure consumption and if the District could encourage those that do not to install meters. Hoffman asked if organic farmers were required to abide by conservation practices due to them being a minority. Onnen reminded everyone of the IMP meeting scheduled for November 16th and requested a Water Resources Committee meeting be held on December 5th.

ADJOURNMENT

Uhrmacher adjourned the meeting at 9:12 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 November 14, 2017, 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.
