

**LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
**Minutes** **September 12, 2017**

**OPENING OF MEETING – RANDY UHRMACHER**

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 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, Edward Fleharty, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Mason Hoffman, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Charles Rainforth, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Matt Spencer, Gene Thomas, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Alan Wiedel and Randy Uhrmacher.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION # 1 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the agenda for the September 12, 2017 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Acceptance of Board Member Absences**

No members were absent.

**Minutes of August 8, 2017 Board Meeting**

There were no changes to the minutes.

**MOTION # 2 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the minutes of August 8, 2017 as circulated.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 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 Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project – North Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### **Review of State Auditor Findings**

Onnen reviewed the findings of recent inquiry of the Nebraska State Auditor's office. Discussion was held.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **NRCS Report – Robert Boettcher**

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

#### **NRC Meeting Report**

Schroer reported on the NRC meeting held in Kearney on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **STAFF REPORTS – Marlene Faimon**

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

Due to the published time for the budget hearing, Uhrmacher moved to the Public Hearing.

### **8:15 PM – PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY 2018 BUDGETS**

#### **Open Hearing & Public Notice**

Uhrmacher opened the public hearing for the FY 2018 property tax levy at 8:19 p.m. and presented the publication of notice.

#### **Presentation of Proposed FY 2018 Budgets of LBPWP-N, LBPWP-S, and LBNRD**

Onnen reviewed the FY 2018 budgets for the LBPWP-N, LBPWP-S and the Little Blue NRD along with the tax request and mill levy. Onnen noted that Hebron was requesting \$8,400 in funds for a river access which was not in the budget but was being recommended for approval for inclusion in the budget by the Projects Committee.

## Questions, Comments, Testimony

Several questions and comments were received from Board members.

## Close of Hearing

Uhrmacher closed the public hearing at 8:40 p.m. and moved back to the Projects Committee report.

## PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – Marlin Kimle

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

### Action on Hebron Archery Range/River Access

Hebron made a request for assistance in funding an archery range and river access area. **MOTION # 7 – Kimle moved, seconded by Wiedel to approve the request of the City of Hebron for Urban Parks and Recreation Trails Program funds in the amount of \$ 8,400 to be used for the river access and picnic tables associated with the archery range/river access project.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Meyer, Rainforth, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Hoffman, Kissinger, Schroer, VonSpreckelsen.

### Action on Hebron Municipal Water System Assistance Program

Hebron submitted a request for Municipal Water System Assistance to help locate a new municipal well due to increasing nitrates in their existing wells. **MOTION # 8 – Kimle moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the request of Hebron for \$15,000 from the Municipal Water System Assistance Program for municipal test well services.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes

### Action on Bids for Dams

Bids have been received for three dams which the board had given planning authorization. **MOTION # 9 – Kimle moved, seconded by Rainforth to authorize the construction of the Buschkoetter Dam and provide 80% cost-share based on the low bid of \$22,930.01 offered by Van Kirk Bros. Construction.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

**MOTION # 10 – Kimle moved, seconded by Shaw to authorize the construction of the Schroer Dam and provide 80% cost-share based on the low bid of \$27,655.00 offered by Haba Construction.**

Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. Abstain: Schroer.

**MOTION # 11 – Kimle moved, seconded by Spencer to authorize the construction of the K-7 Dam and provide 80% cost-share based on the low bid of \$37,930.57 offered by Van Kirk Bros. Construction.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### Action on Buffer Strip Applications

Two Buffer Strip applications were presented for approval. **MOTION # 12 – Kimle moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the buffer strip applications of Laura Corman, Nuckolls Co. for 3.7 acres, 10-year contract with annual payment of \$639.14; and Tri C Farms, Nuckolls Co. for 1.0 acre, 10-year contract with annual payment of \$185.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### Action on Prairie Hay Bids

Bids have been received for Bruning Dam prairie hay. **MOTION # 13 – Kimle moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the high bid of Chris Bolte for prairie hay at the Bruning Dam.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

**Action to Authorize Bids for Crystal Lake Project**

Crystal Lake is nearly ready to be advertised for construction bids. **MOTION # 14 – Kimle moved, seconded by Rainforth to authorize staff to advertise for bids for the Crystal Lake Renovation Project.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

**Other Business**

There was no other business.

**ACTION ON DISTRICT BUDGETS**

**FY 2018 Budget Little Blue Public Water Project**  
**FY 2018 Budget Little Blue Public Water Project - South**

Onnen presented the Little Blue Public Water Project – North and Little Blue Public Water Projects – South budget for approval. **MOTION # 6 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the FY 2018 Budget of the Little Blue Public Water Project – North in the amount of \$134,900 and the Little Blue Public Water Project - South in the amount of \$135,800.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Onnen presented the Little Blue NRD budget for approval. With the Projects Committee addition of \$8,400 added to the budget for the Hebron River Access project the total budget would be \$4,026,457. **MOTION # 15 – Thomas moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the FY 2018 General Budget of the Little Blue Natural Resources District, with a total budget requirement of \$4,026,457 and a property tax asking of \$1,723,866.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Hoffman, Kissinger and VonSpreckelsen.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FY 2018 DISTRICT PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

**Presentation of Proposed FY 2018 Levy Information**

Uhrmacher opened the public hearing for the FY 2018 property tax levy at 9:03 p.m. and presented the publication of notice. Onnen reviewed the FY 2018 tax request and mill levy.

**Questions, Comments, Testimony**

No questions, comments or testimony were received.

**Close of Hearing**

Uhrmacher closed the public hearing at 9:09 p.m.

**ACTION TO ESTABLISH FY 2018 LBNRD GENERAL PROPERTY TAX LEVY**

**MOTION # 16 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth that the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors hereby sets the FY 2018 property tax request at \$ 1,723,866, which will require a property tax levy rate of 0.018753 and, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be certified and forwarded to the County Clerks of the District and the State Auditor prior to September 20, 2017.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Hoffman, Kissinger and VonSpreckelsen.

## **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT – Warren Brakhahn**

The Water Resources Committee met August 22 and prior to the regular meeting.

### **Action to Add McCrometer DuraMag Flow Meter to Approved Meter List**

**MOTION # 17 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Kissinger to include the McCrometer DuraMag Flow Meter on the District’s Approved Flow Meter List.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### **Action to Approve John Mumm Transfer Request**

One Transfer Permit was presented for approval. **MOTION # 18 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve the groundwater transfer of John Mumm from the SE ¼ Section 31-4-1, Thayer County to the SW ¼ 31-4-1W, Thayer County.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### **Action Regarding NET Geologic Investigation and Monitoring Grant Application**

The District received a request to consider submitting a NET Grant to look at groundwater movement and re-charge in the western portions of the District. **MOTION # 19 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to participate in the joint Nebraska Environmental Trust application between the Little Blue NRD, Tri-Basin NRD and University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey Division for hydrogeological characterization, groundwater monitoring, and groundwater movement evaluations to support future groundwater management decisions, contingent on grant receipt.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Hergott, Kellogg, Kimle, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Spencer, Thomas, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kissinger, Shaw, VonSpreckelsen.

### **Action Regarding Ed Consbruck Variance Request for Irrigation Well**

One Variance Request was presented for approval. **MOTION # 20 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the variance request of Ed Consbruck for the construction of a new well in the N½ Section 11-7-11, Adams County.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### **Action on Flow Meter Maintenance Bids**

Bids were taken for meter maintenance inspections. **MOTION # 21 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Kissinger that based on past satisfactory performance of the firm and their knowledge in providing the requested contracted work, to approve the bid of Tri-City Meter in the amount of \$ 45/meter for the FY 2018 general meter service maintenance contract.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### **Action on Groundwater Management Plan**

The Groundwater Management Plan was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 22 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Wiedel to approve the Groundwater Management Plan as presented and forward it to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for review and approval.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Fleharty, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel and Uhrmacher. No: Kissinger.

### **Update on Groundwater Rules Progress**

Onnen gave an update on the process of revising the Groundwater Rules.

### **Other Business**

There was no other business.

