

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **January 9, 2019**

The oath of office was administered to all newly elected Board members.

OPENING OF MEETING – MARLIN KIMLE

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Vice-Chairman Kimle called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Kimle led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kimle 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, William Glenn, Lyle Heinrichs, Mason Hoffman, Zachary Hollister, Everett Kellogg, Marlin Kimle, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Charles Rainforth, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Robert Trausch, Jesse VonSpreckelsen and Alan Wiedel.

Board members absent:

Joe Hergott.

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Onnen, Donnie Engelhardt, Kevin Orvis, Marie Herbek, Kent Thompson, Amy Zoller; Janet Valasek and Dave Bedlan representing NRCS and numerous members of the public.

BOARD INTRODUCTIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

Each Director introduced themselves to the board and 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 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the agenda for the January 8, 2019 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Minutes of December 11, 2018 Board Meeting

There were no changes to the minutes.

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the minutes of December 11, 2018 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Dicke, Assistant Manager at the Lower Republican NRD introduced himself to wish Mike well in retirement.

Jane Campbell spoke to request to reconnect to the Rural Water Project. The request will be directed to the Rural Water Project Advisory Board.

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 Schroer to approve director per diem and expenses reimbursement checks for Directors Brakhahn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle and Kissinger. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Hollister, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Brakhahn, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kellogg, Kimle and Kissinger.

MOTION # 4 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve director per diem and expenses reimbursement checks for Directors Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Glenn, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Hollister, Kellogg, Kimle, Kissinger, Taylor and Trausch. Abstain: Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel.

MOTION # 5 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the remaining Little Blue NRD treasurer’s report and payment of bills as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water North Project 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 – 16 yes votes.

Brakhahn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 7 - Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Report of Treasurer Bonding Requirements

District policies require the District Treasurer be bonded for no less than \$50,000. The District currently retains a \$150,000 Public Official Bond for the Treasurer. The District also carries a Government Crime Policy in aggregate of \$200,000 which covers others authorized to handle district funds including the Assistant Treasurer, General Manager, Administrative Secretary, District Secretary, all NRCS Secretaries and our Water Project Clerk. These bonds provide some protection to the district from fraudulent actions relating to the District finances by those covered.

Report on District Investment Procedures

Onnen explained the general procedures followed for making investments for the Little Blue NRD as well as for the North and South Water Projects.

NOMINATIONS REPORT AND ELECTION OF NRD OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

The Nominations Committee – Marlin Kimle, Jay Meyer and Steve Shaw met to select candidates for Board positions for the year 2019.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND NARD REPRESENTATIVES

The Committee proposed the names of Marlin Kimle and Alan Wiedel for the position of Board Chairman. Kimle asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Kimle – 13 votes, Wiedel – 3 votes. Kimle was declared Chairman.

The Committee proposed the name of Alan Wiedel and Mason Hoffman for the position of Board Vice-Chairman. Kimle asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Wiedel – 9 votes, Hoffman – 7 votes. Wiedel was declared Vice-Chairman.

The Committee proposed the names of Mason Hoffman and Jay Meyer for the position of Secretary. Kimle asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none, the nominations were closed and a ballot vote taken. Hoffman – 9 votes, Meyer – 7 votes. Hoffman was declared Secretary.

The Committee proposed the name of Kevin Kissinger for the position of Treasurer. Kimle asked for further nominations from the floor. There being none the nominations were closed. Kissinger was declared Treasurer.

The Committee proposed the names of Lyle Heinrichs for NARD Representative and Charles Rainforth for NARD alternate representative. There were no other nominations. Heinrichs and Rainforth were declared NARD Representative and Alternate Representative respectively.

ACTION TO APPOINT VOTING DELEGATE FOR NARD LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

MOTION # 8 - Hoffman moved, seconded by Taylor to appoint Lyle Heinrichs as the NARD Voting Delegate with Charles Rainforth as the alternate for the upcoming NARD Legislative Conference.

Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Glenn, Hoffman, Hollister, Kellogg, Kissinger, Meyer, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel and Kimle. Abstain: Heinrichs and Rainforth.

ACTION TO AUTHORIZE SIGNATURES FOR BANKING ACTIVITIES

MOTION # 9 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the Resolution authorizing Kevin Kissinger and Donnie Engelhardt to sign checks and associated banking documents.

Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Brakhahn, Glenn, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Hollister, Kellogg, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel and Kimle. Abstain: Kissinger.

REVIEW VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN – Amy Zoller (NDNR)

Amy Zoller presented the draft Integrated Management Plan and answered questions.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Dave Bedlan, Jefferson County Resources Conservationist

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

NRC Report – Lyle Schroer

Schroer gave a report on the NRC meeting held in Kearney.

STAFF REPORTS – Mike Onnen

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

REPORT ON CERTIFICATION OF ACRES

Alicia Epps reported on the status of the certification of acres process.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

Action to Select Auditor

Letters were sent to request proposals for audit firms and one bid was received. **MOTION # 10 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the five-year contract proposal of Schulz & Associates P.C. for conducting audits of the Little Blue NRD and rural water projects beginning with the FY 2019 audit for an annual price of \$7,275.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action Regarding District's Legal Counsel

MOTION # 11 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve legal services of Blankenau Wilmoth Jarecke LLP the FY 2019 according to rates specified in the proposal. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT – Marlin Kimle

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

Action on Bids for Oxbow Reconnection Recharge Project Construction

Bids were let for the Groundwater Recharge and Reconnection projects and three were received. **MOTION # 12 – Shaw moved, seconded by Schroer to accept the bid of Leising Inc. of Arapahoe, Nebraska for the Oxbow Reconnection Recharge Projects for Sites 1B, 1C and 8 according to the quotes provided for each project site for a total price of \$351,199.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes

Action on Easements for Oxbow Reconnection Recharge Projects

An easement was presented for approval. **MOTION # 13 – Meyer moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve the 25-year easement on the Carol Sorge tract in the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section Twenty-Two (22), Township Four (4) North, Range Four (4) West of the 6th P.M., in Thayer County, Nebraska for construction, monitoring and maintenance of Site 8 of the Oxbow Reconnection Recharge Project.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Other Business

There was no other business.

ACTION ON PHASE II BLUE BASIN MODEL CONTRACT

Phase II of the Blue Basin model project is ready to begin and was submitted for approval. **MOTION # 14 – Rainforth moved, seconded by Heinrichs to authorize the manager to sign the Memorandum of Agreement between the Ne DNR, LBNRD, LBBNRD, UBBNRD and TBNRD regarding Phase II of the Groundwater Model for the Blue River Basin.** Carried by roll call. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Hollister, Kellogg, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel and Kimle. No: Brakhahn.

ACTION ON BIDS FOR NEW PICKUP

The purchase of a new pickup was included in the budget and bids were solicited. **MOTION # 15 – Hoffman moved to accept the bid of Alexander Motors for a Chevrolet in the amount of \$27,907.00.** No second was made, the motion did not go forward.

MOTION # 16 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Schroer to accept the bid of Kenesaw Motors for a Ford in the amount of \$27,636.12. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hollister, Kellogg, Kissinger, Meyer, Rainforth, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel and Kimle. No: Brakhahn and Hoffman.

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW FOR 2019

Onnen gave a brief report on the upcoming Legislative session.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT – BOARD/COMMITTEE FUNCTION AND PROCEDURES

Onnen reviewed the functions of the Board and Committee's as well as the procedures of each.

BOARD MEMBER STANDING COMMITTEE SELECTIONS

The board members were asked to turn their committee preference in to Uhrmacher. The assignments will be made by the Chairman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were received.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – HIRING PROCESS FOR MANAGER

MOTION # 16 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hoffman to go into Executive Session at 10:17 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the hiring process of a Manager. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Executive Session called for the purpose of discussing the hiring process of a General Manager.

MOTION # 17 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to come out of Executive Session at 11:09 p.m. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Uhrmacher adjourned the meeting at 11:10 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 January 8, 2019, 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.
