

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Minutes

October 8, 2024

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bredthauer, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Russ Ochsner, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw and Alan Wiedel.

Director's Absent: Glen Bonifas, Brent Hoops, Aaron Paus, Warren Taylor and Jesse VonSpreckelsen.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps, Kathy Boysen; Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel; Janet Valasek, NRCS; members of the public.

Wiedel noted that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and available for anyone who may want to review the document.

PUBLICATIONS OF BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Wiedel announced the 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 sent 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 – Ochsner moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the agenda for the October 8, 2024 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Bonifas, Hoops, Paus, Taylor and VonSpreckelsen notified the office of their intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of September 10th, 2024 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: A list of certified acres changes was presented, discussion was held.

MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Luebben to approve the absence of Bonifas, Hoops, Paus, Taylor and VonSpreckelsen, the minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting as presented and the certified acre changes. Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

TREASURERS REPORTS – Bill Glenn

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report was circulated. Glenn reviewed the report.

MOTION # 3 - Glenn moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Janet Valasek: Valasek gave a brief report on happenings at the NRCS and answered questions.

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman reported on the NARD Conference held September 23 – 24.

NRC Report – Lyle Schroer: Schroer gave a brief report on the NRC.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments were made.

Tyler Goeschel was presented a certificate and gift in recognition of five years as an employee of the Little Blue NRD.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Motion to Approve Contract with HBE Accounting: The onboarding fee with HBE Accounting has been issued. They will visit the office on October 10 and at that time they will bring the contract which will be approved at the November meeting.

Discussion/Action on Changes to District Operating Policies: No action was taken on this.

Discussion/Action on Changes to Personnel Policies Handbook: Two changes to the Personnel Policy were presented for approval. **MOTION # 5 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoeft to approve changes to Personnel Policy # 17 (V) as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

MOTION # 6 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve changes to Personnel Policy # 18 (I) as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Truck Bids: Bids were let for the purchase of a new truck; three bids were received. **MOTION # 7 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Ochsner to accept the bid from Kenesaw Motors to purchase a Ford F-150 pickup in the amount of \$44,693.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

Review/Approve Long Range Implementation Plan: The updated Long Range Implementation Plan was presented. Action to approve the Plan will be taken at the November meeting.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action on Barry Renz Transfer Request: Renz requested a transfer in March, 2024, action on the variance was delayed until this fall. Additional information will be presented at the November meeting.

Discussion/Action on Michael Walters Approved Well Permit and Legal Validity of the Well Permit if the Property is Sold Prior to Drilling a Well: Discussion was held with legal counsel on the validity of a well permit transferring to a new owner. No action was taken.

Discussion/Action on the Creation/Expansion of a New Water Quality Sub-Area: Goeschel presented data on a proposed Bruning Sub-Area expansion. **MOTION # 8 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the creation of a new sub-Area east of Bruning and schedule a public hearing to be held November 12.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on a Contract with DNR for Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act Funding: The district is eligible to receive funding to work with producers to reduce nitrogen. **MOTION # 9 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the contract Between the State of Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Little Blue NRD for Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act Funding and authorize its signature.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

Update on Joint IMP Meeting: No update was provided.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Update on Legal Complaint Filed Against the Little Blue Public Water Project: **MOTION # 10 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Ochsner to go into Executive Session at 8:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing active litigation.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes.

MOTION # 11 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Schroer to come out of Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. Wiedel noted no legal action was taken during the closed session.

Other Business: There was no other business.

OTHER BUSINESS

Wiedel requested the District's Rules and Regulations be reviewed. After discussion it was decided the Water Resources Committee will discuss this at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:18 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 October 8, 2024, 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.
