

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 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 Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoefl, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Russ Ochsner, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warrant Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen and Alan Wiedel.

Directors Absent: None.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps; Janet Valasek, NRCS; Don Blaneknau, legal counsel; Christy Haddan, Schulz & Associates; Jon Stofer, Corteva; Rodney Verhoeff, EA Engineering; members of the public.

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

PUBLICATIONS OF BOARD MEETING NOTICE

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 – Hoffman moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve the agenda for the November 14, 2023 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: There were no absences.

Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2023, Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: No changes to certified acres were reported.

MOTION # 2 – Schroer moved, seconded by Bonifas to approve the minutes of October 10, 2023, as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

ACTION ON TREASURER’S REPORT – Bill Glenn

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

MOTION # 3 – Glenn moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the director per diem and expense for Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman and Hoops. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman and Hoops.

MOTION # 4 – Glenn moved, seconded by Hoops to approve the director per diem and expense for Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner and Paus. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner and Paus.

MOTION # 5 – Glenn moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the director per diem and expense for Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner and Paus. Abstain: Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel.

MOTION # 6 - Glenn moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the remaining Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water - North Project Treasurer's Report.

MOTION # 7 - Glenn moved, seconded by Knight to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Absent: Hoffman.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report.

MOTION # 8 - Glenn moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Hoffman.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

NARD Report: Hoffman reported on the NARD Conference held in September. He reported the tree book was revised, the insurance Risk Pool reported a gain of 2.3 million dollars for FY 2023, on Kennon Meyer's presentation on the Sackett case and that David Hume provided the district with the first map of hydrogeologic update. He noted they met again in November at the Central Platte NRD office. He reported the insurance Risk Pool is already showing a gain of 1.2 million dollars for FY 2024, changes to a few of the retirement investment accounts, the NARD is considering to up the amount of employee and employer contributions to the retirement accounts, discussion was held on EpicOption, and a New York Times reporter was at the meeting.

FY 2023 AUDIT REPORT – Christy Haddan, Schulz & Associates

Christy Haddan of Schulz & Associates reviewed the FY 2023 audits for the Little Blue NRD, Water Project North and Water Project South.

NITROGEN INHIBITOR PRESENTATION – Jon Stofer, Corteva

Jon Stofer of Corteva provided information on the various types and use of nitrogen inhibitors.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee did not meet.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action on WaterSmart Grant Application: EA Engineering submitted a proposal to apply for a WaterSmart grant for the purpose of purchasing water flow meters. **MOTION # 9 – Hoops moved, seconded by Shaw to approve \$8,900 for EA Engineering to apply for a grant in the amount of \$100,000 on behalf the district to purchase flow meters.**

After discussion Hoops provided a friendly amendment to the previous motion, Shaw agreed. **MOTION # 9, as amended: Approve an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to hire EA Engineering to apply for a grant on behalf of the district to purchase flow meters.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Fall 2023 Water Levels Report: Orvis reports a drop of -3.56 feet in Geologic Area 1 and -1.97 feet in Geologic Area 2. Discussion was held on the possibility of reducing the number of wells checked in the fall.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Discussion/Action on Land Rights for Little Blue Public Water Project: Discussion on this will be held at a future meeting.

Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District Recharge Project Proposal: The Central Nebraska Public Power District contacted the LBNRD regarding the possibility of getting water from the Platte River to the Adams County canal if it would be of beneficial use. Additional information will be forthcoming on this.

Buckley 3-D Landowner Request: A request to construct a structure over the emergency spillway of Buckley 3-D for the purpose of allowing their pivot to make a complete circle. Federal and state dam safety regulations do not allow this. **MOTION # 10 – Luebben moved, seconded by Taylor to deny a request from Drew Onnen to construct a structure over the emergency spillway of Buckley 3-D for the purpose of allowing his pivot to make a complete circle.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, and Wiedel. No: VonSpreckelsen.

Review District Cost Share Information: Staff requested consideration of the district's cost share policy on WQ-23 Low Angle Sprinklers or Drop Nozzles. Valasek provided additional information about the regulations and cost of the package. No action was taken, further information will be provided.

Other Business: There was no other business.

OTHER BUSINESS

Shaw inquired if the requested additions to the Long-Range Plan on grazing lands made at the October meeting were added, staff reported it was. Hoffman noted there may be a grant available to fly over the district to obtain the depth of the aquifer.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 9:05 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, 2023, 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.
