

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Minutes

May 13, 2025

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Jesse VonSpreckelsen

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, May 13th, 2025, at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman VonSpreckelsen called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bredthauer, Stewart Brinegar, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Russ Ochsner, Neal Onnen, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse Vonspreckelsen, Lawrence Walker.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Sara Schram, Alicia Epps, Katie Lepant, Janet Valasek; NRCS, members of the public.

VonSpreckelsen 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

VonSpreckelsen 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 to approve the agenda for the May 13, 2025, meeting as presented, seconded by Schroer. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes, Onnen not present.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Glen Bonifas-Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes, Onnen not present.

Approval of Minutes of April 8, 2025, Board Meeting: **MOTION #2 –Hoffman moved to approve the minutes for the April 8th, 2025, meeting as presented, seconded by Walker.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes, Onnen not present.

Approval of Certified Acres: There were no certified acres.

TREASURERS REPORTS – Bill Glenn

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

MOTION # 3 - Glenn moved to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Ochsner. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Kenning.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman gave a brief report on the NARD.

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – Jim Riese asked a question regarding certification of acres. Andrew Stade expressed concerns regarding upcoming allocations conflicting with state-imposed restrictions already in place in his area. Alan Weidel shared some suggestions for general handling of allocations on wells.

Discussion/Action on Youth Camp Scholarships - Jessica Hedges presented information on an application for scholarship to attend the Adventure Camp about the Environment (ACE Camp). **MOTION #5 – Walker moved to award the scholarship request, seconded by Knight.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on a Contract with Miller Engineering for GIS Mapping Services for Little Blue Public Water Project Scott Nelson presented information on a proposed contract for GIS Mapping Services to include a base map as well as a Water Composite Map. **MOTION #6 – Knight moved to approve the contract, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

2025 Spring Water Levels Report – Kevin Orvis presented the 2025 Spring Water Levels Report and shared with the board his methodology for gathering information to produce the report.

Review LRE Information Regarding Weighted Average Method Involving Stays & Allocations Kevin Orvis presented LRE information and explained the methodology for computing the weighted average water loss across the district.

Discussion/Action to Consider Imposing Allocations in Hydrogeologic Unit 1 At 8:10 pm, after water levels were presented, the district-imposed allocations in Hydrogeologic Unit 1. Scott Nelson advised the board that postcards would be sent in the mail to all tenants and landowners to inform them of the allocations. In addition to the postcards, 3 informational meetings will be held across the district, notices will be sent to the newspapers and posted on our website and social media.

Discussion/Action to Consider Issuing an Immediate Stay on the Drilling of New High-Capacity Irrigation Wells and the Expansion of Irrigated Acres in Hydrogeologic Unit 2. **MOTION #7 -Hoops moved to issue an Immediate Stay on the Drilling of New High-Capacity Irrigation Wells and the Expansion of Irrigated Acres in Hydrogeologic Unit 2, seconded by Paus.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on a Variance Request to Add Acres in NE1/4-28-18-05W – Kevin Orvis presented a variance request to add acres in NE1/4-28-18-05W so that a corner system may be constructed to eliminate a gravity irrigation system. **MOTION #8 – Hoops moved to approve the variance request, seconded by Shaw.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION #9 – Hoffman moved to go into executive session at 8:50 pm to discuss potential revisions to the District's Operating Policies and Legal update on Little Blue Public Water Project, seconded by Ochsner. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION #10 – Hoffman moved to end executive session at 9:25 pm, seconded by Ochsner. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on potential purchase of Land Directly Adjacent to Prairie Lake Recreation Area – MOTION #11 – Hoops moved to authorize Scott Nelson to pursue a purchase agreement on the Board’s behalf for the land directly adjacent to Prarie Lake Recreation Area, seconded by Hoffman. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

OTHER BUSINESS

VonSpreckelsen would like to add two items to next month's agenda. #1, If pumpage reports are not turned in, the operator will be required to install telemetry-based flow meters at their own cost. #2, If an operator is found with an unreported broken meter, the operator loses their allocation for that year.

ADJOURNMENT

Vonspreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 9:41 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 May 13th, 2025, 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.
