

# **LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**

## **Minutes**

## **September 9, 2025**

### **6:30 PM – Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2026 Budgets**

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

Glenn opened the public hearing for the FY 26 Budget review at 6:33 PM and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune and the Fairbury Journal-News on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Presentation of proposed FY 2026 Budget of Little Blue Public Water Project and LBNRD**

Nelson reviewed the FY 2026 budgets of the Little Blue NRD.

#### **Questions, Comments, Testimony**

There were no questions, comments or testimony.

#### **Close of Hearing**

VonSpreckelsen closed the hearing at 6:38 PM.

### **6:45 PM – Public Hearing to Set the FY 2026 Budget Final Tax Request**

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

VonSpreckelsen opened the public hearing to set the FY 26 budget final tax request at 6:45 PM and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune and the Fairbury Journal-News on September 5<sup>th</sup>.

Nelson reviewed the FY 2026 tax request and mill levy.

#### **Questions, Comments, Testimony**

There were no questions, comments, or testimony.

#### **Close of Hearing**

VonSpreckelsen closed the hearing at 6:47 PM.

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Jesse VonSpreckelsen**

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 Bonifas, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Russ Ochsner, Neal Onnen, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse Vonspreckelsen.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Kevin Orvis, Sara Schram, Alicia Epps, Jessica Hedges, 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 September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting as presented, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes.

#### **ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**MOTION #2 –Ochsner moved to approve consent agenda items, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes, Schroer-Abstain.

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Lawrence Walker, Glen Bredthauer, Brent Hoops, Stewart Brinegar.

Approval of Minutes of August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Board Meeting

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 Kenning.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 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 Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 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 from the July NRC meeting.

STAFF REPORTS – Nelson gave a brief Managers Report on NRD happenings. Orvis asked some clarifying questions regarding GWMP Rules.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

Action to Approve FY 2026 Property & Liability Insurance Renewal Quote -Nelson gave a brief overview of the quote for policy renewal and it was presented for approval. **MOTION #5 –Knight moved to approve FY 2026 Property & Liability Insurance Renewal Quote, seconded by Hoeft.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on a Contract with Red Thread, Inc. for Annual Website Maintenance- Hedges presented information on a contract for website maintenance. **MOTION #6 – Hoffman moved to approve the contract**

with Red Thread, Inc. for Annual Website Maintenance, seconded by Paus. Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on a Contract with Union Pacific Railroad Company-Nelson presented information on a contract with Union Pacific Railroad Company. **MOTION #7 – Hoffman moved to approve the contract with Union Pacific Railroad Company, seconded by Ochsner.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Pursue a Grain & Silage Bag Recycling Program-Goeschel presented information regarding pursuing a Grain & Silage Bag Recycling Program and the board held a discussion. The board directed Goeschel to gauge interest from producers. No action was taken.

Action to Approve FY 2026 Little Blue NRD Water Projects and District General Budgets- The Little Blue NRD and Little Blue Public Water Project FY 2026 budgets were presented for approval. **MOTION #8 – Paus moved to approve the FY 2026 Little Blue NRD budget in the amount of \$15,285,312 with a tax asking of \$2,072,933.23 and the Little Blue Public Water Project budget in the amount of \$10,479,670 seconded by Schroer.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Approve FY 2026 Little Blue NRD General Tax Levy-**MOTION #9 – Hoffman moved that the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors accept the Resolution on the final adoption of FY 2026 budget and property tax request of \$2,072,933.23 which will require a property tax levy rate of 0.017112, seconded by Bonifas.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Variance Request Located in the SW1/4 14-05N-02W- Orvis presented a variance request and a discussion was held. **MOTION #10 – Hoeft moved to deny the Variance Request Located in the SW1/4 14-05N-02W, seconded by Schroer.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Variance Request Located in the SE1/4 14-05N-02W-Orvis presented a variance request and a discussion was held. Hoffman moved to table this discussion until next month. No Action was taken.

Discussion/Action on a Variance Request Located in the NW1/4 21-03N-05 & NE1/4 20-03N-05W-Orvis presented a variance request and a discussion was held. **MOTION #11 – Hoffman moved to deny the Variance Request Located in the NW1/4 21-03N-05 & NE1/4 20-03N-05W, seconded by Ochsner.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes, Knight abstained.

#### Discussion/Action on GWMP Rule Violations

Legal council advised that rule violators be notified of intent to file a cease-and-desist order and can request a hearing before any case or evidence be brought to the Board of Directors.

Discussion/Action on Potential GWMP Rule Changes- Nelson suggested an ad hoc committee be formed to consider any future changes to GWMP Rules. The discussion was tabled.

**MOTION #12 – Hoffman moved to go into Executive Session at 8:36 pm to give a Legal Update on the Little Blue Public Water Project and the Potential Purchase of Land, seconded by Ochsner.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

**MOTION #13 – Hoffman moved to end Executive Session at 9:02 pm, seconded by Hoeft.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Vonspreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 9:03 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 August 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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