

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Minutes

January 10, 2023

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bredthauer, Glen Bonifas, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Russ Ochsner, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen and Alan Wiedel.

Directors Absent: None.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges; Don Blankenau, legal counsel; members of the public.

Board & Staff Introductions for New Members: All those present introduced themselves.

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

Nelson 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 – Schroer moved, seconded by Luebben to approve the agenda for the January 10, 2023 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: No members were absent.

Approval of Minutes of December 15th, 2022 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: There were no changes to certified acres to report.

MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2022 meeting, as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

TREASURERS REPORTS – Jay Meyer

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Meyer reviewed the report. **MOTION # 3 - Meyer moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

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

Meyer reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Meyer moved, seconded by Hoops to approve the report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Report of Treasurer Bonding Requirements: Nelson reviewed the bonding policies. 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, Office Administrator, Administrative Assistant, all NRCS Secretaries and the 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: Nelson then explained the general procedures followed for making investments for the Little Blue NRD as well as for the North and South Water Projects.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman reported the Legislative Conference will be held January 24 – 25 in Lincoln. Hoffman discussed an article on fall fertilizing published by Flatwater Free Press and bills possibly being presented during this legislative session. Blankenau added a few comments.

DISTRICT APPOINTMENTS

Action to Select Auditor: The District has a five-year contract with Schulz & Associates P.C. to conduct the annual audit of the District and Rural Water Projects. The contract runs through 2023 at an annual cost of \$7,275.

Action to Select District's Legal Counsel: Nelson reported the district currently uses Don Blankenau as legal counsel. **MOTION # 6 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Meyer to approve Blankenau as legal counsel for the district and if necessary, Cline Williams may be used for personnel issues.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Nominations Report and Election of 2023 Board Officers and Representatives

The Nominations Committee – Brent Hoops, Courtney Luebben and Bill Glenn met to select candidates for Board positions for the year 2023.

The Committee proposed the name of Alan Wiedel for the position of Board Chairman. Wiedel asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased. By unanimous consent, Wiedel was declared Chairman.

The Committee proposed the name of Jay Meyer and Jesse VonSpreckelsen for the position of Vice-Chairman. Wiedel asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased, a ballot vote was taken. Meyer – 7 votes, VonSpreckelsen – 9 votes. VonSpreckelsen was declared Vice-Chairman.

The Committee proposed the name of Warren Taylor, Jay Meyer and Steve Shaw for the position of Secretary. Wiedel asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased, a ballot vote was taken. Taylor – 5 votes, Meyer – 9 votes, Shaw – 2 votes. Meyer was declared Secretary.

The Committee proposed the name of Bill Glenn for the position of Treasurer. Wiedel asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased. By unanimous consent Glenn was declared Treasurer.

The Committee proposed the name of Mason Hoffman for the position of NARD Representative. Hoops requested nominations from the floor or a volunteer for the alternate NARD Representative. Alan Kenning volunteered to be the alternate NARD Representative. Wiedel asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased. Hoffman was declared NARD Representative and Alan Kenning alternate NARD Representative.

Action to Authorize Signatures for Banking Activities: Due to the election of new members for the Executive Committee changes to authorized signers for banking activities for the district are required. **MOTION # 7 – Shaw moved, seconded by Hoffman to remove Steve Shaw as an authorized signer and add William Glenn as an authorized signer at Cornerstone Bank and Heartland Bank.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Luebben, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn and Meyer.

Appointment of Voting Delegate for NARD Legislative Conference: Hoffman will be the voting delegate for the NARD conference as the district's NARD representative.

Discussion/Action to Declare a Board Member Vacancy in Sub-District 6: A vacancy exists in sub-district 6 as there were no candidates on the election ballot. **MOTION # 8 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Hoffman to declare a vacancy in sub-district 6 and authorize staff to advertise to fill the position.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Board Member Standing Committee Selections: Wiedel requested all members to submit a preference of what standing committee they would like to serve on to him. The proposed committee list will be presented at the February meeting.

Discuss Plans for a Director Orientation Workshop: Nelson requested input for a director orientation workshop. Discussion was held.

Discuss Plans for General Manager Performance Evaluation: Wiedel explained the process to complete the general manager's performance evaluation.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Review/Approve Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with Village of Alexandria: Nelson reviewed progress being made in working with the Village of Alexandria to form an Interlocal Agreement with the Rural Water Projects.

Review Request for Installation of a Dry Hydrant at Lone Star: The Village of Ohioa has requested to install a dry hydrant at Lone Star to be used if a fire requires more available water. **MOTION # 9 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Shaw to grant the Village of Ohioa permission to install a dry hydrant at Lone Star.** Carried by roll vote – 16 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion and Possible Action for Non-Compliance of Annual Pumpage Reports: A list was created of producers who are in non-compliance in submitting their pumpage reports to the district. **MOTION # 10 – Hoops moved, seconded by Taylor to authorize legal counsel to send a Notice of Intent of a Cease-and-Desist Order for non-compliance of annual pumpage reports.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Review Groundwater Irrigation Transfer Permits for Galen Kirchoff & Dan Ferrel: Two transfer permits were presented for approval.

MOTION # 11 – Hoops moved, seconded by Paus to approve the transfer permit for Galen Kirchoff from the NW1/4 01-2N-04W to the S1/2SW1/4 36-3N-04W. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION # 12 – Hoops moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the transfer permit for Dan Ferrell from the SE1/4 25-5N-04W to the W1/2NE1/4 33-5N-04W. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Consider Working with UNL to Create a District Nitrogen Dashboard: UNL requested the district consider working with them to create a district nitrogen dashboard. No action was taken.

Other Business: There was no other business.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion was held on the manager review process and the rural water projects progress towards a new water source.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:25 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 10, 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.
