

# LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

## Minutes

## January 13, 2026

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

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Board Chairman VonSpreckelsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL DIRECTORS**

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, Bill Glenn, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Russ Ochsner, Neal Onnen, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse Vonspreckelsen.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Kevin Orvis, Sara Schram, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps, Don Blankenau-BWJ Law, Adam Rupe-JEO Consulting Group, 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 –Knight moved to approve the agenda for the January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026, meeting as presented, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

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

**MOTION #2 –Kenning moved to approve consent agenda items, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes.

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Stewart Brinegar, Jessi Hoeft, Aaron Paus, Lawrence Walker.

Approval of Minutes of December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Board Meeting

Approval of Certified Acres: There were no certified acres.

### **NOMINATIONS REPORT AND ELECTION OF 2026 BOARD OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES**

Jessica Hedges presented nominations for the 2026 Board Officers and Representatives. **MOTION #3 – Hoops moved to appoint Jesse VonSpreckelsen as the Chairman, Brent Hoops as Vice Chairman, Alan Kenning as Treasurer, Warren Taylor as Secretary, Mason Hoffman as NARD Representative, Alan Kenning as Alternate NARD Representative, Lyle Schroer as NRC Representative, seconded by Shaw.** By unanimous consent, the 2026 Board Officers and Representatives were approved by the Board.

## **TREASURERS REPORTS – Bill Glenn**

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Glenn reviewed the report. **MOTION # 4 – Glenn moved to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Ochsner.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Glenn moved to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Kenning.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

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

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

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

STAFF REPORTS – Scott Nelson gave a brief Managers Report on NRD happenings.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

Discussion/Action on District Appointments- Action to Select Auditor and Legal Counsel. **MOTION # 6 – Ochsner moved to retain AMGL as the District Auditor, seconded by Mason Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

**MOTION # 7 – Hoffman moved to retain Don Blankenau with Woods Aitken LLP as the District Legal Counsel, seconded by Knight.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Vehicle Bids – Nelson presented vehicle bids for a new Administration Vehicle.

**MOTION # 8 – Hoffman moved to approve the purchase of a 2026 Chevy Traverse, seconded by Knight.** Carried by roll call vote – 9 yes votes; Hoops, Ochsner, Schroer, and Shaw – no.

Discussion/Action to Approve Payment for the Purchase of Land in Adams County- **MOTION #9 – Hoffman moved to approve the Payment for the Purchase of Land in Adams County.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Schedule a Date for a Board Retreat. Nelson presented ideas for an upcoming Board Retreat. The Board decided to Retreat for 1 day with an evening meal on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

GWMP Rule Discussion Involving Adding Irrigated Acres – Steve Heinrichs made a request to the Board to reconsider rules regarding adding irrigated acres.

Discussion/Action to Transfer 56 Certified Irrigated Acres to S1/2 of NE1/4 04-08-11W – Orvis presented a transfer request to Transfer 56 Certified Irrigated Acres to S1/2 of NE1/4 04-08-11W. **MOTION #10 – Hoffman moved to approve the Transfer of 56 Certified Acres, seconded by Ochsner.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Add 11.82 Irrigated Acres in 06-03-02W- Orvis presented a request to add 11.82 Irrigated Acres in 06-03-02W and the Board held a discussion. After some discussion, the Board opted to Table this

request. **MOTION #11 – Hoffman moved to table this discussion until after the rules have been review, seconded by Shaw.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Non-Compliance of Annual Pumpage Reports-Orvis updated the board on the status of Non-Compliance of Annual Pumpage Reports. No action was taken.

Discussion/Action to Create a Temporary Groundwater Ad Hoc Committee to Review Potential Groundwater Management Plan Rule Changes. The Executive Committee met prior to tonight's meeting to appoint Knight, Brinegar, Ochsner, Paus, and Onnen to the ad hoc committee.

Discussion/Action to Create a Temporary Recreation Ad Hoc Committee to Review Potential Recreation Area Rule Changes. The Executive Committee met prior to tonight's meeting to appoint Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Taylor, and Walker to the ad hoc committee. **MOTION #12- Hoffman moved to approve the nominations for each ad hoc committee, seconded by Kenning.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Prairie Lake Watershed Update – Adam Rupe with JEO Consulting Group gave a brief update on the Prairie Late Watershed project.

Discussion/Action on Potential Changes to the District's Operating Policies- Nelson went over the potential changes to the District's Operating Policies. **MOTION #14- Ochsner moved to approve the District's Operating Policy Changes, seconded by Taylor.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Potential Changes to the District's Personnel Policies Handbook- Nelson went over the potential changes to the District's Personnel Policies Handbook. **MOTION #15- Hoffman moved to approve the District's Personnel Policies Handbook changes, seconded by Bredthauer.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

**MOTION #16 – Hoffman moved to enter Executive Session at 7:54 PM to discuss Legal Matters, seconded by Shaw.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

**MOTION #17 – Hoffman moved to end Executive Session at 8:28 PM, seconded by Ochsner.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Negotiate on behalf of the Board and landowners to Settle the legal dispute. **MOTION #18 – Hoops moved to direct the Board President to seek a settlement option with landowners, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes, VonSpreckelsen abstained.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vonspreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 8:35 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 13<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.

**DRAFT**

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