

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **January 14, 2025**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Jesse VonSpreckelsen

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14th, 2025, at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman VonSpreckelsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATH OF OFFICE TO NEWLY ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Tyler Goeschel led newly elected and re-elected Board Members in confirming the Oath of Office. Newly elected Board Member Stewart Brinegar, and re-elected Board Members Jessi Hoeft; Mason Hoffman; Kyle Knight; Lyle Schroer; Steven Shaw; and Jesse VonSpreckelsen all filed the Oath of Office.

DECLARATION OF DIRECTOR VACANCIES

VonSpreckelsen declared the vacancies in Sub-District 2 and Sub-District 8 and directed the General Manager to seek interest from Candidates for Board Consideration for the February Board Meeting.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, Stewart Brinegar, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Russ Ochsner, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, and Jesse VonSpreckelsen. No Absences.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Sara Schram; Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel; Jonathan Silva, NRCS; Kent Zimmerman, NDNR; 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 January 14, 2025, meeting as presented, seconded by Kenning. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: There were no absences.

Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2024, Board Meeting: **MOTION # 2 –Knight moved to approve the minutes for the December 10, 2024 meeting as presented, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Approval of Certified Acres: no certified acres currently.

Nominations Report and Election of 2025 Board Officers and Representatives

The Nominations Committee –Aaron Paus and Jessica Hedges created a Google Survey that was emailed to all Directors requesting nominations for all Board Positions.

The Board proposed the names of Jesse VonSpreckelsen and Brent Hoops for the position of Board Chairman. VonSpreckelsen asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased, a ballot vote was taken. VonSpreckelsen – 9 votes, Hoops – 6 votes. VonSpreckelsen was declared Chairman.

The Board proposed the names of Brent Hoops and Kyle Knight for the position of Vice-Chairman. VonSpreckelsen asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased, a ballot vote was taken. Hoops – 14 votes, Knight – 1 vote. Hoops was declared Vice-Chairman.

The Board proposed the names of Jessi Hoeft, Steve Shaw, and Warren Taylor for the position of Secretary. VonSpreckelsen asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased, a ballot vote was taken. Hoeft – 4 votes, Shaw – 4 votes, and Taylor - 7. Hoeft and Shaw withdrew from consideration. Warren was declared Secretary.

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

The Board proposed the name of Mason Hoffman for the position of NARD Representative. VonSpreckelsen asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased. By unanimous consent Hoffman was declared NARD Representative.

The Board proposed the name of Alan Kenning for the position of alternate NARD Representative. VonSpreckelsen asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased. By unanimous consent Kenning was declared alternate NARD Representative.

The Board proposed the names of Lyle Schroer and Steve Shaw for the position of NRC Representative. VonSpreckelsen asked for further nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased, a ballot vote was taken. Schroer – 10 votes, Shaw – 5 votes. Schroer was declared NRC Representative.

Appointment of Voting Delegate for NARD Legislative Conference: VonSpreckelsen nominated Hoffman for the Appointment of Voting Delegate for the NARD Legislative Conference. **MOTION # 3 – Shaw moved to appoint Mason Hoffman the voting delegate for the NARD Legislative Conference, seconded by Schroer.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

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 Shaw. Carried by roll call vote – 12 yes votes, Brinegar, Knight, and Shaw abstained.

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 – 15 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Jonathan Silva: Silva gave a brief report on happenings at the NRCS and answered questions.

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

NRC Report – Lyle Schroer: Schroer had nothing to report

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan and Brian Thomas shared concerns related to the Rural Water Project.

Action to select a new Auditor. Scott Nelson presented the lone proposal to provide Audit Services by AMGL CPAs and Advisors. MOTION #6 -Shaw moved to approve AMGL's proposal for audit services for a 5-year term, seconded by Hoffman. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Action to select a Legal counsel. Scott Nelson proposed retaining current Legal Counsel with Don Blankenau. MOTION #7 -Hoffman moved to retain current Legal Counsel for a 1-year term, seconded by Ochsner. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on request from DNR for assistance involving a buyout of property located in the floodplain downstream of the Bruning Dam: Scott Nelsen presented information regarding the request and a discussion was held. MOTION #8 -Hoffman moved to decline the buyout of property, seconded by Paus. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes, Shaw – No.

NRC CAUCUS TO ELECT COMMISSIONER FOR THE LITTLE BLUE RIVER BASIN

Kent Zimmerman with NDNR conducted a caucus to elect a commissioner to a 4-year term for the Little Blue River Basin. A brief discussion was held, and Lyle Schroer was nominated by Kenning. No additional nominations were received, nominations ceased. By unanimous consent Schroer was declared Commissioner.

TRANSFER WATER REQUEST FROM SE1/4 19-4N-01W TO NW14 20-4N-01W

Kevin Orvis presented a request to transfer water and a discussion was held. MOTION #9 – Hoffman moved to deny the water transfer request, seconded by Schroer. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes, Knight abstained.

TRANSFER IRRIGATED ACRES FROM E1/2 25-7N-11W TO NW1/4 21-7N-10W

Kevin Orvis presented a request to transfer irrigated acres and a discussion was held. MOTION #10 – Ochsner moved to approve the transfer of irrigated acres, seconded by Hoffman. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

VARIANCE REQUEST TO CONVERT GRAVITY TO SDI IN 36-07-12W

Kevin Orvis presented a variance request to convert gravity irrigation to SDI in section 36-07-12W and a discussion was held. MOTION #11 – Hoops moved to approve the variance request on the condition the conversion is completed in the next 2 years, seconded by Hoffman. Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes, Paus – no.

Discussion/Action on Non-Compliance of Annual Pumpage Reports. Kevin presented information on non-compliant people who have not completed their annual Pumpage reports. In the past, Cease and Desist letters have been sent to non-compliant persons, who are then given an opportunity to come into compliance.

MOTION #12 – Hoffman moved to direct staff to send Cease and Desist letters to non-compliant persons.

Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Consider LRE Proposal for Board Groundwater Education Retreat. Scott Nelson presented information and a proposal from LRE to conduct a groundwater education retreat. The date considered is February 6th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm with lunch provided. **MOTION #13 – Hoops moved to approve the LRE Proposal for Education Retreat, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Consider Resolution to Authorize Miller & Associates to File Groundwater Transfer Applications with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. **MOTION #14 – Hoffman moved to adopt the resolution to authorize Miller & Associates to file Groundwater Transfer Applications with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, seconded by Bredthauer.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Consider 6:00 pm start time for Future Board Meetings. **MOTION #15 – Hoeft moved to authorize 6:00 pm start time for meetings from November through March for winter, the rest of the months remain at 7:00 pm start time, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes, Shaw and VonSpreckelsen no.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

VonSpreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 9:53 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 14th, 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.