

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **November 12, 2024**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

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

Director’s Absent: Jessi Hoeft.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Sara Schram, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps, Kathy Boysen; Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel; Janet Valasek, NRCS; Christy Haddan, Schulz & Associates; members of the public.

Wiedel 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

Wiedel 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 – Kenning moved, seconded by Paus to approve the agenda for the November 12th, 2024 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Hoeft notified the office of their intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of October 8th, 2024 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: no certified acres currently.

MOTION # 2 – Ochsner moved, seconded by Glenn to approve the absence of Hoeft, and the minutes of the October 8, 2024 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

TREASURERS REPORTS – Bill Glenn

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

MOTION # 3 – Glenn moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the director per diem and expense for Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, and Hoops. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen, and Wiedel. Abstain: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoffman, and Hoops.

MOTION # 4 – Glenn moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the director per diem and expense for Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoffman, Hoops, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Vonspreckelsen, and Wiedel. Abstain: Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus.

MOTION # 5 – Glenn moved, seconded by Luebben to approve the director per diem and expense for Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Vonspreckelsen, Wiedel. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus. Abstain: Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Vonspreckelsen, Wiedel.

MOTION # 6 - Glenn moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 7 - Glenn moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman reported on the NARD meetings held in Valentine and Grand Island.

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

David Endorf shared concerns related to the Rural Water Project.

FY2024 AUDIT REPORT

Christy Haddan with Schulz & Associates gave a brief report on FY2024 audit findings and announced that this will be her last year auditing for the Little Blue NRD. Scott Nelson presented Christy with a small gift as a Thank You for her 11 years of service.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Glenn reviewed the Long Range Implementation Plan. **MOTION #8 - Wiedel moved to review, seconded by Shaw.** After some discussion about possible changes to the Long Range Implementation Plan, it was decided to rescind the motion to Review/Approve Long Range Implementation Plan.

MOTION #9 – Hoops moved to rescind motion #8, seconded by Kenning. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

The contract with HBE for Financial Accounting Services was discussed. **MOTION #10 – Wiedel moved to approve the HBE Contract, seconded by Luebben.** Carried by roll call vote – Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Blenn, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Taylor, Vonspreckelsen, Wiedel. No: Shaw.

MOTION # 11 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoops to approve the soliciting of a new Auditor. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION # 12 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Bredthauer to update Bank Signatures for Heartland Bank and Cornerstone Bank removing Marie Herbek as a signor and adding Sara Schram. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussed plans for Hiring a Rural Water Manager. Discussion took place involving the future need of hiring a Rural Water Manager. Nelson was directed to formulate a plan for board consideration.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action on the Creation/Expansion of a New Water Quality Sub-Area: **MOTION # 13 – Hoops moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the creation of a new level 2 sub-Area east of Bruning.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Fall 2024 Water Levels Update: Orvis provided results of the Fall water level measurements. The overall water level measurements in Geologic Area 1 and 2 show an average decline of -0.86 feet (a little over 10 inches). 2025 spring levels will begin in April with a determination of allocations to follow.

Discussion on Water Quantity GWMP Rules and Regulations. The committee had no changes to make to the rules and regulations at this time. A discussion was held regarding the possibility of adjusting allocations for the 2025 crop year. The committee voted to table this discussion indefinitely. Schroer requested the item be brought to the full board at the next Board Meeting.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

MOTION #14 – Luebben moved, seconded by Bredthauer to Approve the Tree Program Agreement with NARD & USDA Forest Service. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION #15 – Luebben moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the Contract with JEO Consulting for preparing a Project Implementation Plan for Prairie Lake Watershed Project. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Update on Legal Complaint Filed Against the Little Blue Public Water Project: **MOTION # 16 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Taylor to go into Executive Session at 8:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing active litigation.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION # 11 – Luebben moved, seconded by Taylor to come out of Executive Session at 8:53 p.m. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes. Wiedel noted no legal action was taken during the closed session.

Other Business: There was no other business.

OTHER BUSINESS

A request was made to discuss at the next board meeting the possibility of dissolving the committees.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 9:00 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 12, 2024, 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.
