

**LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**December 12, 2023**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Jesse VonSpreckelsen**

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Vice-Chairman VonSpreckelsen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

VonSpreckelsen led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

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

Directors Absent: Warren Taylor and Alan Wiedel.

Others Present: Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps, Tim Hecke; Dave Bedlan, NRCS; Don Blankenau, legal counsel; Jon Mohr, LRE; members of the public.

VonSpreckelsen 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**

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 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the agenda for the December 12, 2023 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

**ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Taylor and Weidel notified the office of their intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2023, Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: Certified acres were presented for approval.

**MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Luebben to approve the absences of Taylor and Wiedel, the minutes of November 14, 2023, as circulated, and the certified acres.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw and VonSpreckelsen. Abstain: Knight.

**ACTION ON TREASURER’S REPORT – Bill Glenn**

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

**MOTION # 3 - Glenn moved, seconded by Paus to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water - North Project Treasurer's Report.

**MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report.

**MOTION # 5 - Glenn moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

NRCS Report – Dave Bedlan: Bedlan gave a brief report on the happenings at the NRCS.

NARD Report: Hoffman had nothing to report.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Motion to Approve FY 2023 Audit Report as Presented: The FY 2023 Audit Report was presented at the November 14th meeting. **MOTION # 6 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the FY 2023 Audit as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discuss Potential Change to 414(h) Retirement Plan: The NARD Board of Directors requested each district to discuss with board members the possibility of raising the contribution levels for the NARD 414(h) Retirement Plan. After discussion it was requested that staff gather additional information and bring it to the January, 2024 meeting.

Discuss Forming a Nominating Committee for 2024 Board Officers: The nominating committee for the election of board positions at the January meeting are Courney Luebben, Alan Kenning and Aaron Paus.

Discuss 2024 Committee Member Assignments: The process of committee member assignments was reviewed.

Other Business: There was no other business.

## **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

DNR Request for District Review of Appropriation Permit A-15240R, Nuckolls County: The Department of Natural Resources solicited comment from the board regarding diversion point request for surface water being pumped through a pipeline with groundwater. After committee evaluation there were no comments.

Hydro-Geologic Report Update – Jon Mohr, LRE: Jon Mohr of LRE presented the completed Hydro-Geologic Report update.

Nitrogen Management Tools Discussion: Discussion was held on nitrogen management tools, specifically nitrogen inhibitors. Hoops shared an article from UNL CropWatch with additional information on inhibitors.

Other Business: There was no other business.

### **PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Approve JEO as Consultant for Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: Information on the Hazard Mitigation Plan update which is a project being completed with the Lower Big Blue NRD was presented. One proposal was received to complete the project. **MOTION # 7 – Luebben moved, seconded by Bredthauer to accept the proposal from JEO Engineering to complete the update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Land Rights for the Little Blue Public Water Project: **MOTION # 8 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Luebben to go into Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land rights for the Little Blue Public Water Project and that Tyler Goeschel, Kevin Orvis and Don Blankenau remain in the closed session.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Executive Session called for the purpose of discussing land rights for the Little Blue Public Water Project. Members of the public left the session.

**MOTION # 9 - Hoops moved, seconded by Hoffman to come out of Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.**  
Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

VonSpreckelsen stated no legal action was taken during the closed session.

Other Business: There was no other business.

### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Herbek reminded everyone of the NARD Legislative Conference being held January 22 – 24 in Lincoln. Herbek also mentioned 2024 is an election year and the deadline for incumbents to file for re-election is February 15, 2024.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

VonSpreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 8:16 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 December 12, 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.

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