

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **February 14, 2023**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bredthauer, Glen Bonifas, Bill Glenn, 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: Jessi Hoeft.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps; Don Blankenau, legal counsel; Janet Valasek, NRCS; Zach Jones, Twin Valley Weed Management; Troy Gilmore, UNL; members of the public.

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

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 Bredthauer to approve the agenda for the February 14, 2023 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

CONSIDERATION OF SUB-DISTRICT SIX BOARD MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Wiedel noted a vacancy exists in Sub-District 6 due to the no names on the ballot in November, 2022. Two letters of interest to fill the vacancy were received and both candidates were in attendance. Wiedel introduced the candidates to be nominated, Kyle McReynolds and Kyle Knight, and asked them to make a few comments about their interest in becoming a member of the Little Blue NRD Board. The Directors then, by show of hands, voted on the candidate they chose to fill the position. The results were as follows; McReynolds – 7 votes, Knight – 8 votes.

Knight was declared the winner and promptly took the Oath of Office as NRD Director for Sub-District # 6.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Approval of Minutes of January 10th, 2023 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: The certified acres list was presented, Epps answered questions.

MOTION # 2 – Luebben moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the absence of Hoeft, the minutes of the January 10, 2023 meeting, as circulated, and certified acres. 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 Paus to approve director per diem and expense for Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Heinrichs, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Kimle and Luebben.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning and Luebben.

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

MOTION # 5 – Glenn moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the remaining report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water North Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 6 - Glenn moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 7 - Glenn moved, seconded by Paus to approve the 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.

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman reported on the NARD Legislative Conference held in January.

Twin Valley Weed Management Report – Zach Jones: Jones reviewed the Twin Valley Weed Management's happenings over the past year.

UNL Research Presentation – Troy Gilmore: Gilmore, gave a presentation on research conducted with an Environmental Trust funded project across the Tri-Basin and Little Blue NRD boundary.

ACTION TO APPROVE NOMINATIONS FOR STANDING COMMITTEES

The list of proposed standing committee members was presented for approval. Wiedel asked for any requested changes, there were none. **MOTION # 8 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Luebben to approve the proposed standing committees for 2023.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Consider Director & Staff Attendance at NARD Washington D.C. Conference

The annual NARD Washington D.C. conference is scheduled in March. **MOTION # 9 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Bredthauer to approve Scott Nelson and Mason Hoffman to attend the NARD Washington D.C. Conference March 20 – 23, 2023.** Approved by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Glenn, Hoops, Kenning, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. No: Schroer and Shaw. Abstain: Hoffman and Knight.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Elect Committee Chairperson: Courtney Luebben was elected chairperson.

Action to Rescind Offer of Inter-Local Cooperation Agreement with the Village of Alexandria: No agreement has been reached between the Village of Alexandria and the district to agree on a new water source for the rural water projects. **MOTION # 10 – Luebben moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to rescind the offer of an Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the Village of Alexandria.** Carried by roll vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Luebben, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

Action to Pursue a Water Source for Little Blue Public Water Project on Bill & Mary Glenn Property: Orvis reviewed the process of installing two wells on the Glenn property to serve the needs of the rural water projects. **MOTION # 11 – Luebben moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to pursue a water source on the Bill & Mary Glenn property.** Carried by roll call vote. Carried by roll vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Luebben, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

Action to Direct the General Manager to Pursue Funding from USDA Rural Development and Water Sustainability Fund for Little Blue Public Water Project: **MOTION # 12 – Luebben moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to direct the General Manager to pursue funding from the USDA Rural Development and Water Sustainability Fund for a new water source for the Little Blue Public Water Projects.** Carried by roll call vote. Carried by roll vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Luebben, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

Authorize Miller & Associates to Apply for a Water Sustainability Grant for Little Blue Public Water Project: **MOTION # 13 – Luebben moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to authorize Miller & Associates to apply for a Water Sustainability grant for the Little Blue Public Water Projects.** Carried by roll call vote. Carried by roll vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Luebben, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

Action to Consider Reallocation of 4-H Scholarship Funds to General Scholarship Category: The 4-H camp at Halsey will not be held this coming summer due to the fire that destroyed the camp. A request was received to reallocate the 4-H scholarships to the general scholarship category. **MOTION # 14 – Luebben moved, seconded by Bredthauer to reallocate the FY 2023 4-H scholarships to the high school/college scholarship category.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to consider City of Fairfield Urban Park & Recreation Application: An application was received from the City of Fairfield to assist installing new playground equipment. **MOTION # 15 – Luebben moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the application from the City of Fairfield in the amount of \$3,300 to install new playground equipment.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Elect Committee Chairperson: Brent Hoops was elected chairperson.

Report & Possible Action of Non-Compliance of Annual Pumpage Reports: No action was needed on this.

2022 Annual Pumpage Report: Orvis reviewed the irrigation water use summary report for 2022. Average use for all acres in the district was 9.4 inches.

Discuss Date & Time for Holding a Public Hearing Regarding NRD Rule Changes: Discussion was held on a date and time to hold a public hearing on several rule changes for the district. **MOTION # 16 – Hoops moved, seconded by Shaw to hold a public hearing for several various rule changes on April 11, 2023 at 8:30 p.m.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Other Business: Blankenau reported to the board the results of the Flatwater Free Press lawsuit against the NE Department of Environment and Energy.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jeremy VanWesten offered a comment on the Village of Alexandria's decision to not accept the offer from the Little Blue NRD to share a water source.

Brian Thomas made comments against pursuing a water source on the Bill and Mary Glenn property and for working with the Village of Alexandria.

David Endorf made comments against pursuing a water source on the Bill and Mary Glenn property.

OTHER BUSINESS

Hedges reminded everyone of the Director Orientation being held March 23rd at 6:00 p.m.

Wiedel introduced Ethan Schaffer who is working at the NRD through a work study program.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 9:15 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 February 14, 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.
