

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **February 9, 2021**

OPENING OF MEETING – Marlin Kimle

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Kimle called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Kimle led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kimle noted that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was posted and available for anyone who may want to review the document.

Roll call was held.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board members present:

Bill Glenn, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Jay Meyer, Courtney Peeler, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, and Marlin Kimle. Kevin Kissinger and Robert Trausch participated virtually per Executive Order 20-36. Jay Wilder joined the meeting after taking the Oath of Office.

OTHERS PRESENT

Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Heidi McClintock, Erika Brinegar, Lucas Slieter; Don Blankenau, legal counsel; members of the public

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.

ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION # 1 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the agenda for the February 9, 2021 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Alan Wiedel had notified the office of his intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2021 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: 261.5-acre changes were reported.

MOTION # 2 – Kissinger moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the absence of Wiedel, the minutes of the January 12, 2021 as circulated and the certified acre changes. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE SCOTT NELSON AS GENERAL MANAGER

Kimle introduced Scott Nelson who is the proposed new General Manager of the District. Nelson made a few comments about himself and answered questions. **MOTION # 3 - Hoffman moved, seconded by Schroer to approve Scott Nelson as new General Manager of the Little Blue NRD.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Kevin Orvis then introduced Lucas Slieter as the new Conservation Technician.

ACTION ON TREASURERS REPORTS – Jay Meyer

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

MOTION # 4 – Meyer moved, seconded by Shaw to approve Director per diem and expense for Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman and Hoops. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen and Kimle. Abstain: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman and Hoops.

MOTION # 5 – Meyer moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve the Director per diem and expense for Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer and Shaw. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen and Kimle. Abstain: Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer and Shaw.

MOTION # 6 – Meyer moved, seconded by Peeler to approve the Director per diem and expense for Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel and Kimle. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer and Shaw. Abstain: Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen and Kimle.

MOTION # 7 - Meyer moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 8 - Meyer moved, seconded by Glenn to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project North Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 9 - Meyer moved, seconded by Glenn 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: Goeschel reviewed the report.

NARD Report: Hoffman reported on the Legislative Conference he attended virtually.

CONSIDERATION OF SUB-DISTRICT THREE BOARD MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Kimle noted that a Board Member vacancy existed in Sub-District 3 due to the resignation of Warren Brakhahn. Four letters of interest were received. Three candidates that were in attendance were asked to make a few comments about their interest in becoming a member of the Little Blue NRD Board. Kimle then explained the procedure used to appoint the new Director. Hoffman nominated Craig Dewalt and Jay Wilder to move into nomination to fill the vacancy position in Sub-District # 3.

The Directors then, by show of hands, voted on the candidate they chose to fill the position. The results were as follows; Dewalt – 2 votes, Wilder - 13votes.

Wilder was declared the winner and promptly took the Oath of Office as NRD Director for Sub-District # 3.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Review Policy # 15, paragraph 6 and make recommendation to full board: Clarification to Operating Policy #15, paragraph IV was discussed. MOTION # 10 – Kimle moved, seconded by Hoffman to rescind Operating Policy # 15, paragraph 6. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION # 11 – Hoffman moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to rescind the Policy change adopted at the December 8, 2020 meeting. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION # 12 – Kimle moved, seconded by Shaw to adopt Operating Policy # 15, paragraph IV as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Consider Changes to NRD Contribution for Employee’s Family Health Coverage: Consideration on changes to dependent health insurance contribution from the NRD was discussed. MOTION # 13 – Kimle moved, seconded by Glenn to approve the NRD contribution for Employee’s Family Health Coverage be set at 60%. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Hergott, Hoefl, Hoops, Meyer, Peeler, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen, Wilder and Kimle. No: Heinrichs, Hoffman, Kissinger, Schroer and Trausch.

Possible Action on Pumpage Report Violations

Discussion on the process of addressing Pumpage Report violation was discussed. Legal counsel will develop a template letter to send to violators and policy will also be updated.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Projects and Planning Committee met January 27, 2020.

Motion to Approve Striking Sentence # 4 as Provided (Solar Project Review): The Clay County Board of Supervisors presented guidelines to the Natural Resources District’s for the APEX Solar Project. After reviewing them, the Board approved, assuming APEX will plan and implement conservation as they said they would according to permits required. MOTION # 14 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Hoffman to strike sentence # 4 in the guidelines.

Discussion was held. MOTION # 14 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Hoffman to amend the previous motion to read “Approve sending Apex an email that we held a review meeting and approve the project. Also, asking Clay county to strike sentence #4”. Carried by roll call vote. Yes:

Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wilder and Kimle. Abstain: Shaw.

PRESENTATION OF IRRIGATION WELL SURVEY AND WATER QUALITY REPORT (Professor Wortmann, UNL)

Professor Wortmann of UNL gave a presentation on Micro-Nutrients in Water.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were made.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Kimle adjourned the meeting at 8:53 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 February 9, 2021, 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.
