

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **March 11, 2025**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Jesse VonSpreckelsen

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman VonSpreckelsen called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, Stewart Brinegar, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Russ Ochsner, Neal Onnen, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, and Jesse VonSpreckelsen.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Sara Schram, Alicia Epp, Janet Valasek; NRCS, Brian Labenz; Sandy Creek Ag, 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.

DIRECTOR VACANCY APPOINTMENT

The Board reviewed 1 application for Director vacancy in Sub-District 2. **MOTION #1 -Hoffman moved to appoint Lawrence Walker as the Sub-District 2 Director, seconded by Knight.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes, Onnen abstained. Lawrence took the oath of office immediately following his appointment and became a voting member of the Board of Directors.

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 #2 –Paus moved to approve the agenda for the March 11, 2025, meeting as presented, seconded by Schroer. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes, Onnen Abstained.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: There were no absences.

Approval of Minutes of February 11th, 2025, Board Meeting: **MOTION # 3 –Hoeft moved to approve the minutes for the February 11th, 2025, meeting as presented, seconded by Schroer.** Carried by roll call vote – 14 yes votes, Knight, Walker and Onnen abstained.

Approval of Certified Acres: A list of certified acres changes was presented, discussion was held.

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 Kenning. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes, Onnen 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 Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes, Onnen abstained.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Janet Valasek gave a brief report on NRCS happenings.

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

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

SOIL MOISTURE MONITORING PRESENTATION

Brian Labenz with Sandy Creek Ag gave a presentation on Soil Moisture Monitoring and its benefits that help produce more crops with less irrigation.

TRANSFER WATER REQUEST FROM E1/2 21-1-4W to NW 27-1-4W

Kevin Orvis again made a request to transfer water and further discussion was held. **MOTION #5 – Hoops moved to approve the water transfer request with the stipulation that the certified irrigated acres located at the future feedlot site be surrendered permanently, seconded by Bonifas.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes, Schroer -No vote.

ADD ACRES IN NE1/4 5-5-4W

Kevin Orvis presented a request to add irrigated acres and a discussion was held. **MOTION #6 – Ochsner moved to approve the addition of irrigated acres, seconded by Kenning.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Director Per Diem Rates. Scott Nelson provided the board with the State allowed maximum per diem rate information. **MOTION #7 –Ochsner moved to increase the Director's per diem from \$60 per meeting to \$70 per meeting.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes, Schroer – No, Vonspreckelsen – Abstained.

Discussion/Action on Recreation Area Maintenance Bids. Scott Nelson presented bids to maintain the NRD's Recreation Area's for the board's consideration. **MOTION #8 – Shaw moved to approve the Recreation Area Maintenance Bids as presented, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Scholarship Applications. Jessica Hedges presented applications and recommendations for 2025 Scholarship applicants. A discussion was held. **MOTION #9 – Hoefl moved to award \$500 Scholarships to 6 applicants, seconded by Kenning.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes, Bonifas and Shaw – Abstained.

Discussion/Action to consider releasing District Filed Encumbrances. Information was presented regarding encumbrances that were filed in the past that are no longer relevant to the new rules for metering wells. **MOTION #10 – Hoffman moved to direct staff to begin the process of releasing filed encumbrances on behalf of the District, seconded by Ocshner.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on GWMP Rule 2.2. Kevin Orvis presented feedlot reporting requirements currently stated in the rules and suggested using the data available with the DEQ. **MOTION #11 – Hoops moved to strike the**

requirement in the rules that feedlot head counts be reported by farmers in favor of estimates based on DEQ data available, seconded by Hoffman. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes, Shaw-Abstained.

Discussion/Action on GWMP Rule 3.1. Kevin Orvis sought clarification to enforcement practices regarding rule 3.1. After discussion, the board directed staff to notify landowners and tenants if they are nearing 3 years without using their well water.

Discussion/Action on Potential GWMP Work as discussed with LRE at Board Retreat. Scott Nelson followed up with the Board regarding recommendations made by LRE at the Board Retreat. The board opted to direct LRE to provide the promised weighted averages with no additional work to be completed at this time.

32-Mile Creek Watershed WFPO Project Update

Planning phase is 90% complete. The planning identified 4 major projects to mitigate flooding in the Kenesaw area. Scott Nelson presented background information for each project.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

VonSpreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 8:52 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 March 11th, 2025, that all 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.
