

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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel**

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

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

Directors Absent: Courtney Luebben and Jesse VonSpreckelsen.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps; Janet Valasek, NRCS; numerous 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**

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 – Hoops moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the agenda for the March 12, 2024 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

**ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Luebben and VonSpreckelsen notified the office of their intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of February 13th, 2024 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: There were no changes to certified acres to report.

**MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the absence of Luebben and VonSpreckelsen and the minutes of the February 13, 2024 meeting, as circulated.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 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 Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw and Taylor. Abstain: Wiedel.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Knight 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 Ochsner 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 – Janet Valasek: Valasek gave a brief report on happenings at the NRCS.

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman reported on the NARD Board meeting held March 11<sup>th</sup> in Lincoln. The NARD dues for FY 2025 will increase by 2%. The NARD retirement program will increase both employee and NRD mandatory contributions by 1%. Hoffman was elected to be the Secretary/Treasurer for the NARD Board.

Information was provided on the Director's Tour scheduled to be held March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Personnel Update: Nelson reported the hiring of four new employees since January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Discussion/Action on Scholarship Recommendations: Six \$500 scholarships are offered to qualified students that reside or originate from within the district. **MOTION # 6 – Kenning moved, seconded by Knight to approve the following students as the recipients of the Little Blue NRD 2024 Secondary Education Scholarships: Jack Trausch, Adams Central; Thomas Thomas, Saint Cecilia; Connor Janda, Lawrence-Nelson; Ashley Bonifas, Silver Lake; Wyatt Keith Ozenbaugh, Bruning-Davenport; Libby Macklin, Blue Hill.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Update on 32-Mile Creek Watershed WFPO Project: Goeschel and Nelson provided an update on the 32-Mile Creek WFPO Project planned near Juniata and Kenesaw. Discussion was held.

Other Business: There was no other business.

## **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action on a Variance Request to Drill a High Capacity Well in Quantity Sub-Area 8: A Variance Request to drill a well in Quantity Sub-Area 8 was presented for approval. **MOTION # 7 – Hoops moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the Joel Austin Variance Request in Sub-Area 8.** Carried by vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Shaw, Taylor and Wiedel. No: Schroer.

Discussion/Action on a Request to Convert Gravity Irrigation to Pivot Irrigation and Increase Irrigated Acres in Quantity Sub-Area 8: A Variance Request to convert gravity irrigation to pivot irrigation and increase irrigated acres in Quantity Sub-Area 8 was presented for approval. **MOTION # 8 – Hoops moved, seconded by Bonifas to approve the Heitman Farms Variance Request to convert gravity irrigated acres to pivot irrigated acres and increase irrigated acres in Sub-Area 8.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Review a Commercial Well Permit Application within the Village Limits of Shickley and Provide Written Comments to the State: A request from NE Department of Natural Resources to provide comment on HT Chemical’s request to install a less than 50 gpm commercial well was received. Discussion was held. **MOTION # 9 – Hoops moved, seconded by Shaw to authorize staff to provide comment to the NE Department of Natural Resources in favor of HT Chemical’s request to install a less than 50 gpm commercial well closer than 1000 feet from a Village of Shickley municipal well.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Boundary Modifications for Water Quality Sub-Areas: Goeschel presented information on nitrate levels in the groundwater across the district. Discussion was held, additional data will be compiled.

Other Business: Orvis provided comments on how staff monitors the two areas in the district with restrictions on adding additional irrigated acres. Shaw asked questions on the timeline for taking action on the public hearing changes.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments made.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Wiedel reminded all to get their Director’s Tour information to Jessica before leaving.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 7:53 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 March 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.

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