

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Minutes

March 14, 2023

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

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

Directors Absent: Steve Shaw.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps, Kathy Boysen, Rita Peshek; Don Blankenau, legal counsel; Janet Valasek, NRCS; Thad Kuntz, Longitude 103; 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 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the agenda for the March 14, 2023 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Shaw notified the office of his intended absence.

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

Approval of Certified Acres: There were no certified acre changes presented.

MOTION # 2 – Taylor moved, seconded by Luebben to approve the absence of Shaw and the minutes of the February 14, 2023 meeting, as circulated. 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 Meyer to approve the report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water North Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Schroer 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 # 5 - Glenn moved, seconded by Bonifas 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 gave a brief report on the NARD board meeting held March 5 – 6 in Lincoln.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Other Business: There was no report.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Consider Small Dam Cost-Share Request Application: An application for the construction of a dam was presented for approval. **MOTION # 6 – Luebben moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve the Heitmann Farms, Inc. cost-share application for dams and to pay 75% of eligible costs not to exceed \$50,000.** Carried by roll vote – 16 yes votes.

Consider NSWCP Cost-Share Request Application: This item was tabled pending additional information to be provided at the April meeting.

Consider Urban Conservation Assistance Program Request from Deshler Public Schools: An Urban Conservation application was presented for approval. **MOTION # 7 – Hoeft moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the Urban Conservation Program cost-share request from Deshler Public Schools for construction of a greenhouse in an amount not to exceed \$14,460.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Paus, Schroer, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. No: Meyer and Ochsner.

Consider Scholarship Recommendations: Six \$650 scholarships are offered to qualified students that reside or originate from within the district. **MOTION # 8 – Luebben moved, seconded by Knight to approve the following students as the recipients of the Little Blue NRD 2023 Secondary Education Scholarships: Lauren Luehring, Thayer Central; Zach Hoins, Bruning-Davenport; Samantha Bonifas, Sliver Lake; Jessa Lynn Hudson, Bruning-Davenport; Keaton Mazour, Lawrence-Nelson; Easton Weber, Bruning-Davenport.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Bonifas.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Consider Barry Renz Irrigation Transfer Request: One transfer request located in the Very High-Risk Area of the district was presented for approval. **MOTION # 9 – Hoops moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the irrigation transfer request of Barry Renz to transfer water from the S½SE¼ 17-2N-03W to the N½NE¼ 20-2N-03W with the conditions well G-159520 passes the water pumping requirement outlined for a new well in a Very High Risk Area in the Groundwater Rules and Regulations and that a test hole is dug in the receiving tract at least 1250’ from the existing well and be assessed by a certified well driller to determine if there is potential of 400 gpm.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Ochsner, Paus, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. No: Luebben, Meyer and Schroer.

Consider Database Service Proposal from Longitude 103: Thad Kuntz of Longitude 103 gave a presentation on software being developed that allows producers to access their crop reporting data and includes the ability to track water use data and other data district’s would like to collect. **MOTION # 10 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Ochsner to allow the NRD to submit a letter of support for the WSF grant application that is going to be submitted from Longitude 103 for a statewide nitrogen dashboard project.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Consider Rule Change Involving Irrigation Runoff Controls: A request to consider changing the rules involving irrigation runoff controls was presented. The committee recommended tabling the topic indefinitely.

Other Business: There was no other business.

OTHER BUSINESS

Hedges informed the board of the NRD Recreation Exploration Program.

Wiedel mentioned a letter addressing the rural water projects plans to drill new wells was received just prior to the meeting and noted there was no public comment on the agenda but urged each director to read the letter. Wiedel stated the project was approved at the February meeting and the decision has been made.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:55 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 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.

DRAFT