

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **March 8, 2022**

OPENING OF MEETING – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wiedel 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:

Glen Bredthauer, Bill Glenn, Lyle Heinrichs, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Marlin Kimle, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Robert Trausch, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, and Alan Wiedel.

Board members absent:

Joe Hergott and Kevin Kissinger.

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Erika Brinegar, Jessica Hedges; Janet Valasek representing the NRCS; Don Blankenau, legal counsel; numerous 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.

ACTION TO ADOPT BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION # 1 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Kimle to approve the agenda for the March 8, 2022, meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Hergott and Kissinger had notified the office of their intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of February 8th, 2022, Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: No changes to certified acres were presented.

MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the absence of Hergott and Kissinger and the minutes of the February 8, 2022, meeting, as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

TREASURERS REPORTS – Jay Meyer

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

MOTION # 3 - 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 # 4 - Meyer moved, seconded by Luebben 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 # 5 - Meyer moved, seconded by Luebben 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 Directors meeting held March 7 in Lincoln.

ACTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION – LEGAL COUNSEL DISCUSSION

MOTION # 6 - Wiedel moved, seconded by Shaw to go into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. for the purpose of discussing legal issues and that Mary Renn, Scott Nelson, Kevin Orvis, and Don Blankenau remain in the closed session. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Heinrichs, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kimle, Luebben, Meyer, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

Executive Session called for the purpose of discussing legal issues. Members of the public and Bill Glenn left the session.

MOTION # 7 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoffman to come out of Executive Session at 7:45 p.m. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Heinrichs, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kimle, Luebben, Meyer, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

Wiedel stated no action was taken during the closed session.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Review Bids/Trade for New ATV: Bids were let for the purchase of a new ATV with a trade of a 2011 Arctic Cat; three bids were received. **MOTION # 8 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoffman to purchase a 2022 Honda Rancher from Garber Honda, Fairbury, in the amount of \$7,595.00 with the trade of the 2011 Arctic Cat.** Motion carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Review Bids/Trade for New Commercial Grade Riding Lawnmower: Bids were let for the purchase of a new commercial grade lawnmower with a trade of a 2014 Grasshopper 725DT6; three bids were received. **MOTION # 9 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Luebben to purchase a 2022 Grasshopper 725DT6 from Hi-Line Motors, Kenesaw, in the amount of \$7,899.00 with the trade of the 2014 Grasshopper 725DT6.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Review bids for New Utility Trailer: Bids were let for the purchase of a new utility trailer; three bids were received. **MOTION # 10 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Shaw to purchase a 2022 Big Tex Utility Trailer from Hi-Line Motors, Kenesaw, in the amount of \$5,050.00.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discuss Potential Purchase of Property Located Adjacent to NRD Office: The property located just to the north of the NRD building is for sale. The Executive Committee toured the building and inspected the property. Recommendation from the Committee was to not purchase the property.

Staff & Director NRD 50th Anniversary Buck Knives: In observance of the 50th anniversary of Nebraska Natural Resource Districts, commemorative buck knives were offered to each District for purchase to distribute as they wish. LBNRD purchased 20 knives. **MOTION # 11 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoffman to present a commemorative buck knife to the outgoing directors and offer the remaining knives to directors and staff who wish to purchase them in the amount of \$37.50.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Select Committee Chairman: Jesse VonSpreckelsen was elected Chairman.

Review Bids for Concrete Vault Restrooms: Bids were accepted for the purchase of vault restrooms to be installed at Liberty Cove and Lone Star. Two bids were received. **MOTION # 12 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Kimle to purchase two double vault restrooms for Liberty Cove and Lone Star and a single vault restroom for Lone Star from Boom Concrete, Newell, SD in the total amount of \$75,164.94.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Review Scholarship Recommendations: Six \$500 scholarships are offered to qualified students that reside or originate from within the district each year. The student must be attending a two or four year-college majoring in a conservation, agriculture or environmental field and academically be in good standing. **MOTION # 13 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Glenn to approve the following students as the recipients of the Little Blue NRD 2022 Secondary Education Scholarships: Josh Swartzendruber, UNL; Katelyn Karr, Silver Lake; Jayden Isernhagen, Deshler; Claire Kiolbasa, Adams Central; Joshua Shaw, Sandy Creek; Theodore Kathman, Lawrence-Nelson.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Glenn, Heinrichs, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kimle, Luebben, Meyer, Schroer, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Shaw.

Other Business: Clarification to the recently modified Urban Conservation Program was presented.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Select Committee Chairman: Brent Hoops was elected Chairman, Warren Taylor Vice-Chairman.

Action to Adopt Rule Changes from February 17th Public Hearing & Issue Order: A public hearing was held February 17th for proposed changes to the District’s Groundwater Rules and Regulations, the Order was presented for approval. **MOTION # 14 – Hoops moved, seconded by Shaw to adopt the changes to the Groundwater Rules and Regulations as presented and approve the Order for said rules.**

Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business: Public comment from David Endorf was received.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tobin Hoffman, Donna Milius, Dan Schwan, David Endorf, Marcia Schwan, Mary Mau, Don Fox, Jacob Garberson of Mattson Ricketts Law Firm, Bob Endorf, Elsie Houser and Bob Barton each made statements in opposition to Little Blue Valley Water System project.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:45 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 8, 2022, 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.
