

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **April 11, 2023**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 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.

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, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen and Alan Wiedel.

Directors Absent: None.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps, Kathy Boysen; Don Blankenau, legal counsel; Janet Valasek, NRCS; 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 – Ochsner moved, seconded by Bredthauer to approve the agenda for the April 11, 2023 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: There were no absences.

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

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

MOTION # 2 – Kenning moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting, as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 17 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 Shaw to approve the report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water North Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Glenn moved, seconded by Paus to approve the report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman reported on the Washington DC meeting he attended March 20 – 22.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Each year the district awards six scholarships to students attending a two or four-year college majoring in a conservation, agriculture or environmental field. Jessica Hedges presented the scholarships to five of those students who were in attendance, Lauren Luehring, Zach Hoins, Samantha Bonifas, Jessa Lynn Hudson and Easton Weber.

STAFF SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION

Alicia Epps was recognized for her five years of employment at the Little Blue NRD.

NRD PROJECTS UPDATE

Nelson provided an update on the Juniata Kenesaw WFPO project which NRCS determined is eligible for funding. There is a two-year planning stage, two-year engineering and design stage and two-years of construction. The other project the district is working on is improving the water quality in Prairie Lake which is a year away before work will begin on this.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Consider Agreement to Support Two Integrated Water Program Coordinator Positions Funded by NRCS to Promote Cost-Share Programs in the Little Blue, Tri-Basin, Central Platte and Upper Big Blue NRDs: The district was asked to consider sharing expenses of two positions funded by the NRCS to promote cost-share programs. The committee recommendation was to not support the agreement.

Motion to Approve Heartland Bank Investment: The district opened a certificate of deposit at Heartland Bank in March. **MOTION # 6 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the purchase of the certificate of deposit from Heartland Bank in the amount of \$250,000 on March 17, 2023 and the signers on the account of Scott Nelson, Marie Herbek, William Glenn and Jay Meyer.** Carried by roll call vote - 17 yes votes.

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 repair of a dam was presented for approval. **MOTION # 7 – Luebben moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the Edward Schoof cost-share application for dams and to pay 75% of eligible costs not to exceed \$50,000.** Carried by roll vote – 17 yes votes.

Other Business: Ducks Unlimited was present at the committee meeting to request possible approval to hold a title for a non-development easement. More information will be provided at the May meeting.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discuss Rule Enforcement Involving Water Quality Sub-Areas and Soil Sample Reporting: The district's Groundwater Rules and Regulations require soil samples be submitted on land which is in a Water Quality sub-area. **MOTION # 8 – Hoops moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve staff to send reminders to producers who are out of compliance with the district's Groundwater Rules and Regulations Water Quality Sub-Area soil sampling rules.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Other Business: Discussion was held on possible rule changes to sub-area boundaries and well testing procedures for nitrates.

It was reported that after staff did additional research on the Longitude 103 database software which was discussed at the March meeting it is recommended to wait a few months before considering its use.

Discussion was held on the recent reports of uranium issues in the groundwater.

OTHER BUSINESS

Nelson reminded everyone about the upcoming NRD basin tour and requested anyone interested in attending contact the office. He reviewed the Managers Report and the Washington DC meeting.

Wiedel acknowledged David Endorf's attendance and informed him if he would like to speak at a meeting he should contact staff and request to be put on the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:20 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 April 11, 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.
