

**LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
**Minutes** **April 13, 2021**

**OPENING OF MEETING – Marlin Kimle**

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Kimle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Kimle led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kimle 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:**

Bill Glenn, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Alan Wiedel, Jay Wilder and Marlin Kimle. Jessi Hoeft, Courtney Peeler and participated virtually per Executive Order 21-02. Robert Trausch was not able to connect virtual due to technical issues and was excused.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

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

**ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**MOTION # 1 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the agenda for the April 13, 2021 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

**ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Trausch notified the office he was unable to join the meeting virtually.

Approval of Minutes of March 9, 2021 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

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

**MOTION # 2 – Taylor moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the minutes of March 13, 2021 as circulated.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

### **ACTION ON TREASURER’S REPORT – Jay Meyer**

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

**MOTION # 3 - Meyer moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer’s Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. Absent: VonSpreckelsen.

Meyer reviewed the Little Blue Public Water - North Project Treasurer's Report.

**MOTION # 4 - Meyer moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer’s Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. Absent: VonSpreckelsen.

Meyer reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report.

**MOTION # 5 - Meyer moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer’s Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

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

NARD Report: Hoffman gave a brief report of NARD news.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action to Delegate Scott Nelson as District Representative for the Nebraska Water Resources Association: **MOTION # 6 – Kimle moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve Scott Nelson as the Little Blue NRD Representative for the Nebraska Water Resources Association.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Review Bids for a New 2020 or 2021 4x4 Crew Cab Pickup: Bids were let for the purchase of a new pickup; two bids were received. **MOTION # 7 - Kimle moved, seconded by Kissinger to accept the Kenesaw Motors bid for a new 2021 4x4 crew cab F-150 pickup in the amount of \$37,341.00.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Advertise Sale of the District’s 2010 Regular Cab 4x4 Pickup: Due to a delay in the delivery of the new pickup the sale of this pickup will be put off until the new pickup arrives.

Discussion/Action to Authorize Bids for Front Door Replacement: Bids were taken for the replacement of the office’s front door. **MOTION # 8 - Kimle moved, seconded by Shaw to accept the bid from Fairbury Glass to replace the office front door in the amount of \$5,692.01.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Authorize Purchase of Hot-Water Pressure Washer and Solicit Bids and Construction of 20' x 30' Concrete Vehicle Wash Pad: No action was taken. Staff has been instructed to contact the City of Davenport to discuss if there would be drainage issues.

Discussion/Action to Create a Resolution Related to Executive Order 14008 “Tracking the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”: No action was taken. Legal Counsel will provide information and facts at the May meeting on the Executive Order before possible action is taken. Blankenau spoke briefly on the Order. Schroer mentioned the Willa Cather Foundation.

Consider Changes to “Chapter 12 – Violations, Enforcement & Penalties” Section of LBNRD’s Groundwater Management Area Rules as Recommended by Legal Counsel: This was referred to the May Water Resources Committee meeting.

Possible Action on Soil Reporting/Operator Training Violations: This was referred to the May Water Resources Committee meeting.

Discussion on Possible Redistricting Upon Receipt of 2020 Census Date: Due to a delay in the census completion this will be tabled until information is available.

## **PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Projects and Planning Committee met April 8.

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve LBVWS Interlocal Cooperative Agreement with the City of Fairbury: Discussion was held on the creation of the Little Blue Valley Water System. Blankenau gave a presentation explaining the Interlocal Agreement. **MOTION # 9 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Glenn to approve the LBVWS Interlocal Agreement with the City of Fairbury.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. No: Hergott.

Discussion and Possible Action to Approve “Letter of Conditions” for USDA Loan/Grant LBVWS Project: The Letter of Conditions from Rural Development was presented for approval. **MOTION # 10 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve “Letter of conditions” for USDA Loan/Grant LBVWS Project.** Carried by roll call vote. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. No: Hergott.

Update on Kenesaw K-Dike WFPO Project: JEO met with staff to discuss the project. A feasibility study will be completed before moving forward.

Discussion on Prairie Lake Development Plan: Staff has been instructed to gather information on improving camping facilities at Prairie Lake, the possibility of dredging the lake will be considered later.

Discussion on Concrete Restroom Plans for Liberty Cove & Lone Star: The restrooms at Liberty Cove and Lone Star are in need of repair. Staff is being instructed to gather information on constructing a large concrete restroom at Liberty Cove and Lone Star and the possibility of acquiring grant funding.

Motion to Approve Five Dollar Increase to Recreation Area Fees: After looking at the cost of operating the District’s recreation areas a proposal to increase the daily camping fee was presented for approval. **MOTION # 11 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve a five dollar increase to recreation area fees for daily camping.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action to Amend Rule 6.1.1.2.1 to read “Training and Certification must be renewed every four (4) years, completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.”: Staff requested April 1<sup>st</sup> be added as the deadline to complete Operator Training. **MOTION # 12 – Shaw moved, seconded by Kissinger to amend rule 6.1.1.2.1 to read “training and certification must be renewed every four (4) years, completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>.”**

Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

The Committee discussed the training and certification every four years and soil test requirements in sub-districts. It will be discussed at the May Water Resources Committee meeting. Violations, enforcement & penalties will also be discussed at that meeting.

Discussion/Action on Steiner Variance Request: A variance request was presented for approval.

**MOTION # 13 – Shaw moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the Steiner well variance request.**

Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments received.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Herbek noted April is the last month virtual meetings can be held for Directors to participate.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Kimle adjourned the meeting at 8:00 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 13, 2021, 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.