

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **May 11, 2021**

OPENING OF MEETING – Marlin Kimle

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Kimle called the meeting to order at 7:10 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, Jessi Hoefft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Kevin Kissinger, Jay Meyer, Courtney Peeler, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Robert Trausch, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Alan Wiedel, Jay Wilder and Marlin Kimle.

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis; 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 Shaw to approve the agenda for the May 11, 2021 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 April 13, 2021 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

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

MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the minutes of April 13, 2021 as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 17 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 Hergott to approve Director expense and per diem for Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoelt, Hoffman and Hoops. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. Abstain: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoelt, Hoffman and Hoops.

MOTION # 4 – Meyer moved, seconded by Hoops to approve Director expense and per diem for Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw and Taylor. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoelt, Hoffman, Hoops, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. Abstain: Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw and Taylor.

MOTION # 5 – Meyer moved, seconded by Peeler to approve Director expense and per diem for Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoelt, Hoffman, Hoops, Kissinger, Meyer, Peeler, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor. Abstain: Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle.

MOTION # 6 - Meyer moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the remaining Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 7 - Meyer moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 8 - Meyer moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 17 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 Authorize Purchase of a Hot-Water Power Pressure Washer: Bids were taken to purchase a hot-water pressure washer. **MOTION # 9 – Kimle moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the purchase of a Hotsy hot water pressure washer not to exceed \$5,000.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Approve Plans for Office Building Drainage Project: Estimates were gathered to improve the drainage on the north side of the office building. **MOTION # 10 – Kimle moved, seconded by Shaw to approve plans for office building drainage.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Fill Media and Communications Specialist Vacancy:

Discussion/Action to Fill Resources Technician Vacancy: Due to resignations a vacancy exists for the Media and Communication Specialist and Resources Technician. **MOTION # 11 – Kimle moved, seconded by Hoffman to hire a Media and Communications Specialist and Resources Technician.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Create a Resolution Related to Executive Order 14008 “Tracking the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”. No action was taken.

Discussion/Review Draft FY 2022 Budget and Salaries: The Committee began discussions on the FY 2022 salary and budget. No action was taken at this time.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Projects and Planning Committee met May 5.

Staff Update on LBVWS Project: Nelson gave an update on the progress of the LBVWS project.

Motion to Approve Phase III of Reynolds Drainage Project for \$14,655.10: No action was taken and is being referred back to Committee for further review.

Motion to Approve Phase III of Belvidere Drainage Project for \$7,072.06: No action was taken and is being referred back to Committee for further review.

Motion to Approve Phase IV of Shickley Drainage Project for \$8,750. No action was taken and is being referred back to Committee for further review.

Discussion/Action to Review Application from Village of Byron Requesting Financial Assistance to Help Fund Drainage Improvements: The Village of Byron made application to the Urban Conservation Assistance Program to improve drainage. **MOTION # 12 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve the Village of Byron application for drainage project in the amount for \$3,900.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Review Application from Village of Ruskin Requesting Financial Assistance to Help Fund Village Park Improvements: An Urban Park and Recreational Trails Assistance Program application was received from the Village of Ruskin. **MOTION # 13 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the Village of Ruskin application for Park Improvement Project in the amount of \$7,560.** Failed by roll call vote. Yes: Hergott, Meyer, Schroer, Wiedel and Kimle: No: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hoefl, Hoffman, Hoops, Kissinger, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen and Wilder. Abstain: Peeler.

Motion to Approve Bowman Springs 3-D Dam Repair Quotes: Repairs to repair dam 3-D was presented for approval. **MOTION # 14 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve Bowman Springs 3-D Dam Repair not to exceed \$35,000.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Motion to Approve Southern Power Quote for Upgrading Power at Prairie Lake. The transformer at Prairie Lake requires an upgrade from 25kVa to 75kVa in order to support the addition of camping pads. **MOTION # 15 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the cost of upgrading power at Prairie Lake in the amount of \$1,310.27.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Motion to Approve the Development of Electrical RV Pads at Prairie Lake: The addition of 20 electrical camper pads and an access road to Prairie Lake Recreation Area was presented for approval. **MOTION # 16 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Hoelt to approve the development of 20 electrical pads at Prairie Lake Recreation Area.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Staff Update on 32-Mile Creek Watershed Projects:

Staff gave an update on potential projects and funding for the 32-mile Watershed. A site visit was made with JEO Consulting.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met May 6.

Consider changes to “Chapter 12 – Violations, Enforcement & Penalties” Section of LBNRD’s Groundwater Management Area Rules as Recommended by Legal Counsel: Legal counsel

recommendations for changes to Chapter 12 of the District’s Rules and Regulations was presented.

MOTION # 17 – Shaw moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve amending Chapter 12 of the Groundwater Management Rules & Regulation and present to public hearing. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Possible Action on Soil Reporting/Operator Training Requirements: Changes to Section 6.6.1 of the Groundwater Management Rules & Regulations were presented regarding changes in soil reporting and Operator Training.

MOTION # 18 – Shaw moved, seconded by Kissinger to approve amending definition of “Demonstration Field” and changing operator training requirements and present to public hearing. Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Spring Groundwater Levels Update: Orvis gave a presentation on the spring static water levels. Geologic Area 1 showed a +0.49 increase and Geologic Area 2 showed a +0.28 increase.

Vadose Zone Results Update. Goeschel gave an update on the Vadose Zone project and answered questions.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Russ Ochsner commented on concern of urban nutrient runoff from lawn fertilizer within the City of Hastings.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Kimle adjourned the meeting at 9:10 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 May 11, 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.
