

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **June 11, 2024**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, Bill Glenn, Mason Hoffman, Alan Kenning, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Russ Ochsner, Aaron Paus, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, and Alan Wiedel.

Directors Absent: Jessi Hoeft, Brent Hoops, Kyle Knight and Lyle Schroer.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps, Kathy Boysen; Janet Valasek, NRCS; Mike Placke, JEO; 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

Wiedel announced the official district publications for notices. 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 Ochsner to approve the agenda for the June 11, 2024 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Hoeft, Hoops, Knight and Schroer notified the office of their intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of May 14th, 2024 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: A list of certified acre changes was presented, discussion was held.

MOTION # 2 – Kenning moved, seconded by Bonifas to approve the absence of Hoeft, Hoops, Knight and Schorer, the minutes of the May 14, 2024 meeting as presented and the list of certified acres. Carried by roll call vote – 13 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 Ochsner to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoffman, Kenning, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Paus.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project North Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Glenn moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project South Treasurer's report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

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

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman reviewed the NARD director's meeting held in McCook. Contributions from both employer and employee to the 414(h) retirement program will increase by 1%. Claims administration for the NARD Risk Pool insurance program will change from Mid-American Benefits to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska beginning January 1, 2025 and the NARD dues will increase by 2%.

NRC Report – Lyle Schroer: Schroer was not present.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made.

32-MILE CREEK WATERSHED WFPO UPDATE – Mike Placke, JEO Consulting Group

Mike Placke presented an update on the progress of the 32-Mile Watershed WFPO project.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Legal Update on Complaint Filed Against Little Blue Public Water Project: There was no update provided.

Discussion/Action on FY 2025 Benefits & Salaries: FY 2025 benefits and salaries were discussed.

MOTION # 6 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Luebben to approve a 3.4% cost of living increase for employees and manager as well a \$10,000 discretionary amount for the manager to distribute to employees for merit as he sees fit. Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Secure Interim Loan Financing for Little Blue Public Water Project: One proposal for interim financing for the Little Blue Public Water Project was submitted. **MOTION # 7 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Shaw to approve an interim financing loan for the Little Blue Public Water Project from Northland Securities Inc. in the amount of \$4,000,000 and authorize signature of the Resolution authorizing the loan.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Combine North & South Water Projects to One Project Only: Combining the two rural water projects into one project was presented for approval. **MOTION # 8 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoffman to combine the Little Blue Public Water Project North (Project 1) and the Little Blue Public Water South into the Little Blue Public Water Project.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Establish New Bank Account for Little Blue Public Water Project: Re-naming the Little Blue Public Water Project North bank accounts to the Little Blue Public Water Project was presented for approval. **MOTION # 9 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoffman to re-name the Little Blue Public Water Project – North (Project 1) bank account to the Little Blue Public Water Project at Heartland Bank and Cornerstone Bank and authorize signers on the account of Scott Nelson, Marie Herbek, William Glenn and Jay Meyer.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Hoffman, Kenning, Luebben, Ochsner, Paus, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Glenn and Meyer.

FY 2025 Budget Review: Nelson gave a brief update on some of the larger items that may be included in the FY 2025 budget.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Discussion/Action to Donate Trees for the Nebraska Memorial Forest – Aaron Hyde: Aaron Hyde was present to discuss the possibility of the district donating to a Nebraska Memorial Forest in Hastings. Discussion was held, further information will be provided at a later date.

FY 2025 Budget Review: A brief review of the upcoming budget was presented.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action on Bohling Variance Request to Add Certified Acres: A variance request as presented to add certified acres. **MOTION # 10 – Luebben moved, seconded by Bredthauer to deny the Bohling request to add certified acres.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoffman, Kenning, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. No: Bonifas.

Action to Issue Board Order to Formally Adopt Groundwater Rules & Regulations: A public hearing was held on June 11th to consider changes to the Groundwater Rules and Regulations. **MOTION # 11 – Shaw moved, seconded by Ochsner to issue an Order to formally adopt the Groundwater Rules and Regulations and changes effective July 15, 2024.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

Action to Formally Lift Cease & Desist Orders for Operators in Compliance: Several Cease & Desist letters were issued for non-compliance with the district's Groundwater Rules and Regulations. Those that submitted the required reports were lifted from the Order. **MOTION # 12 – Taylor moved, seconded by Bredthauer to lift the Cease and Desists Orders for the operators who submitted the required reports.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

FY 2025 Budget Review: A brief review of the upcoming budget was done.

Other Business: There was no other business.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:48 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 June 11, 2024, 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.
