

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **June 13, 2023**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, June 13 2023 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoefl, Mason Hoffman, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Russ Ochsner, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, and Alan Wiedel.

Director's Absent: Brent Hoops and Aaron Paus.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Alicia Epps, Kathy Boysen, Jessica Hedges; Dave Bedlan, NRCS; Jacob Fritton, The Nature Conservancy; 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 – Schroer moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the agenda for the June 13, 2023 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Hoops had notified the office of his intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of May 9th, 2023 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

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

MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Luebben to approve minutes of the May 9, 2023 meeting, as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 15 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 Schroer to approve the Little Blue NRD treasurer's report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project North treasurer's report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 - Glenn moved, seconded by Taylor 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 – Dave Bedlan: Bedlan gave a brief report on happenings at the NRCS.

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman reported on the NARD Board of Director's meeting held June 12 in Kearney. Some of the highlights from the meeting are: the NARD budgeted a 4% increase for NRD dues and conference fees, Hall of Fame nominations are being taken now, reverse osmosis grants are still available, a Nebraska Envirothon club will attend the Nationals in Mount Allison University in New Brunswick, Canada, 590,000 trees were sold this past year and an I & E meeting is scheduled for July 11 and 12 at Lower Loup NRD. The NARD Risk Pool had a good year, no health insurance premium increase will be necessary this year. There is some controversy on the use of the Risk Pool money for the cost of the NARD office.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action FY 2024 Budget & Salaries: **MOTION # 6 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve a 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 - 15 yes votes.

Nelson reviewed how the preliminary FY 2024 budget looks, he anticipates a decrease in tax request and levy.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Review “Farming for the Blue River Project” Proposal from The Nature Conservancy: Jacob Fritton, Director of Agriculture for The Nature Conservancy, reviewed a proposal for a Cost Reimbursement Subaward from The Nature Conservancy. Further discussion on the topic will be held at the July meeting.

Review FY 2024 Budget: The FY 2024 Projects Committee budget was reviewed.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Motion to Issue Cease & Desist Orders to Operators in Violation of District Groundwater Rules: There continues to be producers who are out of compliance with the district Groundwater Rules and Regulations Water Quality Sub-Area soil sampling rules. **MOTION # 7 – Taylor moved, seconded by Hoffman to issue cease and desist orders to operators in violation of the District Groundwater Rules and Regulations water quality sub-area soil sampling rules.** Discussion was held.

MOTION # 8 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Ochsner to amend motion # 7 to include that the cease and desist order will be lifted immediately when the soil sample is provided. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Motion # 7, as amended, carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Schroer, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Shaw.

EAS 1982 Transfer Request near Deweese: A transfer request was presented for approval. **MOTION # 9 – Taylor moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the EAS 1982 transfer request for a pipeline from the SE ¼ 35-5-7 to the NW ¼ 2-4-7 tying two pivots and three wells; check valves will be placed at the wells or center points to prevent water from any more than two wells be transferred between quarters or pivots.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Kenning, Meyer, Ochsner, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. No: Luebben and Schroer. Abstain: Knight.

Review FY 2024 Budget: The FY 2024 Groundwater Committee budget was reviewed.

Other Business: There was no other business.

OTHER BUSINESS

Shaw noted the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture and wanted to thank the LBNRD for hosting their meeting on May 23rd. Hoffman requested an item be added to the July meeting agenda to hold future funding to the Blue River Basin Modeling Project until a progress report is received.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:38 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 13, 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.
