

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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel**

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, 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.

Director's Absent: None.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Alicia Epps, Kathy Boysen; Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel; Janet Valasek, NRCS; Jacob Fritton, The Nature Conservancy; Charlie Herrick, Pheasants Forever; 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 Taylor to approve the agenda for the July 11, 2023 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Absent: Knight.

**ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: There were no absences.

Approval of Minutes of June 13th, 2023 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: A list of certified acres was presented, questions were addressed.

**MOTION # 2 – Taylor moved, seconded by Shaw to approve minutes of the June 13, 2023 meeting, as circulated and the certified acre changes.** 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 Ochsner to approve the Little Blue NRD treasurer’s report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Paus.

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 – 17 yes votes.

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

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman had nothing to report.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action on Adams County FY 2024 Mill Levy Request: **MOTION # 6 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoeft to adopt the following resolution: BE IT RESOLVED that, in accordance with State Statute 77-3443, the Little Blue Natural Resources District Board of Directors hereby requests a fiscal year 2024 levy allocation of \$1,893,439.93 and authorize the Chairman to sign.** Carried by roll call vote - 17 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Withhold Future Payments on the Blue River Basin Model Project Until a Demonstration of the Model is Presented to the Board: A request to see a demonstration of how the Blue River Basin Model will work when completed was requested. A video of how the model may be used was presented by Kurt Zeiler of GSI Environmental. Discussion was held.

Discussion/Review Draft FY 2024 Budget: An update on the FY 2024 budget was presented.

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 Partner with the Nature Conservancy Involving the “Farming for the Blue River” Project: Jacob Fritton, Director of Agriculture for The Nature Conservancy, reviewed a proposal for a Cost Reimbursement Subaward from The Nature Conservancy at the June Meeting. **MOTION # 7 – Luebben moved, seconded by Hoffman to partner with the Nature Conservancy in the Farming for the Blue River Project and add to the FY 2024 budget.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Consider Budgeting \$5,000 Towards a Pheasant & Quail Forever Habitat Program: Charlie Herrick of Pheasants and Quail Forever was present to request the district partner in the Pheasant & Quail Forever Habitat Program. **MOTION # 8 – Luebben moved, seconded by Glenn to partner with the Pheasants and Quail Forever in the Pheasant & Quail Forever Habitat Program and add \$5,000 to the FY 2024 budget for the program.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Ochsner, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel: No: Bonifas, Hoffman, Meyer and Paus.

Action on Hay Bids: Bids were solicited for the haying at several NRD properties. **MOTION # 9 – Luebben moved, seconded by to accept the high bids for the hay removal at Liberty Cove, Bruning Dam, Roseland Lake, Prairie Lake and Lone Star with the understanding Scott Most gets first option on the east side of Lone Star.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Discussion/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.

Action to Formally Lift Cease & Desist Orders for Operators in Compliance: Nine Cease & Desist letters were issued for non-compliance with the district's Groundwater Rule and Regulations soil sampling rules. Eight operators submitted the required reports. **MOTION # 10 – Hoops moved, seconded by Bredthauer to lift the Cease and Desists Orders for the eight operators who submitted the required soil sampling reports.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Abstain: Shaw.

Discussion on Groundwater Management Plan Rule Revisions: Discussion on updating the Groundwater Rules and Regulations was held. The discussion will be continued at the August meeting.

Review FY 2024 Budget: The FY 2024 Groundwater Committee budget was reviewed. Hoops noted some changes to the Groundwater Budget be made.

Other Business: There was no other business.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:30 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 July 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.

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