

**LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
**Minutes** **July 9, 2024**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel**

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Wiedel called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Wiedel led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS**

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Jay Meyer, Russ Ochsner, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, and Alan Wiedel.

Directors Absent: Glen Bredthauer and Courtney Luebben.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Jessica Hedges, Alicia Epps, Kathy Boysen; Janet Valasek, NRCS; Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel.

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 – Hoops moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the agenda for the July 9, 2024 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

**ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Bredthauer and Luebben notified the office of their intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of June 11th, 2024 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: A list of certified acre changes was presented, Epps reviewed them.

**MOTION # 2 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the absence of Bredthauer and Luebben, the minutes of the June 11, 2024 meeting as presented and the list of certified acres.**

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 Ochsner to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, and Wiedel. Absent: VonSpreckelsen.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Glenn moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project North Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, and Wiedel. Absent: VonSpreckelsen.

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

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman gave a brief report on news in the NARD.

NRC Report – Lyle Schroer: Schroer reviewed the applications received for WSF funding.

### **OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no public comments made.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Legal Update on Complaint Filed Against Little Blue Public Water Project: Blankenau gave a report on complaint filed against the Little Blue Public Water Project.

Discuss Personnel Matters: The committee discussed personnel matters; no report was provided.

Discussion/Action to Approve Resolutions for NARD 414 (h) Retirement Plan: The NARD proposed an increase of employee and employer contributions to the 414 (h) retirement plan by one percent.

**MOTION # 6 - Wiedel moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the NARD 414 (h) Contribution Resolution as presented and authorize the chairman's signature of the Resolution.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Adams County FY 2025 Mill Levy Request: **MOTION # 7 – 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 2025 levy allocation of \$1,746,756.62 and authorize the Chairman to sign.** Carried by roll call vote - 15 yes votes.

Motion to Close All Little Blue Public Water Project – South Bank Accounts at Cornerstone Bank and Heartland Bank: The Little Blue Public Water Project South bank accounts will be closed, and the funds transferred to the new Rural Water Project. **MOTION # 8 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Glenn to close the Little Blue Public Water Project – South bank accounts at Cornerstone Bank and Heartland Bank.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discussion/Action on Roofing Quotes for NRD Office Building: The NRD Office Building needs roof repair, two companies submitted quotes to complete the repair. **MOTION # 9 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Hoffman to accept the bid from Recap Roofing in the amount of \$17,800 to repair the NRD office building roof.** Failed by roll call vote. Yes: Hoops. No: Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Kenning, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel.

**MOTION # 10 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Schroer to accept the bid from Tillotson Enterprises in the amount of \$ 26,489 to repair the NRD office building roof.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

FY 2025 Budget Review: Nelson reviewed the budget and highlighted some of the major projects.

Other Business: There was no other business.

### **PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Discussion/Action on Hay Bids: Bids were solicited for the haying at several NRD properties. **MOTION # 11 – Kenning moved, seconded by Hoffman to accept the high bids for hay removal at Liberty Cove, Bruning Dam, Roseland Lake, Prairie Lake and Lone Star.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Adjust User Rates for Little Blue Public Water Project: Staff worked with the Nebraska Rural Water Association to adjust the water rates for the Little Blue Public Water Project. The proposed rates will be discussed with the Rural Water Board and brought back for approval at the August meeting.

FY 2025 Budget Review: The committee reviewed the budget.

Other Business: There was no other business.

### **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action to Establish Cost Share Amount for WaterSmart Grant Flow Meter Project: The district received a WaterSmart grant to assist in providing cost share for replacement of flow meters. **MOTION # 12 – Hoops moved, seconded by Ochsner to offer 75% cost share for upgrading the oldest broken flow meters across the district, for flow meters not being upgraded a 50% cost share and no cost share on the telemetry option.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor and Wiedel. No: VonSpreckelsen.

Discussion/Action to Pursue NETF Grant for WaterSmart Grant Flow Meter Project: A grant to assist with the WaterSmart grant for flow meters may be available. **MOTION # 13 – Hoops moved, seconded by Kenning to pursue an NETF grant for the WaterSmart Project.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 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 8:20 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 9, 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.

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