

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **August 13, 2024**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Jesse VonSpreckelsen

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Vice-Chairman VonSpreckelsen called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

VonSpreckelsen 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 and Jesse VonSpreckelsen.

Director's Absent: Alan Wiedel.

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

VonSpreckelsen noted that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted and available for anyone who may want to review the document.

PUBLICATIONS OF BOARD MEETING NOTICE

VonSpreckelsen 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 Luebben to approve the agenda for the August 13, 2024 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Approval of Minutes of July 9th, 2024 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

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

MOTION # 2 – Ochsner moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the absence of Wiedel and the minutes of the July 9, 2024 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

TREASURERS REPORTS – Bill Glenn

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report was circulated. Glenn reviewed the report.

MOTION # 3 – Glenn moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the director per diem and expense for Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft and Hoffman. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor and VonSpreckelsen. Abstain: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft and Hoffman.

MOTION # 4 – Glenn moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the director per diem and expense for Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer and Ochsner. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor and VonSpreckelsen. Abstain: Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer and Ochsner.

MOTION # 5 – Glenn moved, seconded by Bredthauer to approve the director per diem and expense for Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, VonSpreckelsen and Wiedel. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner. Abstain: Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor and VonSpreckelsen.

MOTION # 6 - Glenn moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the remaining Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Kenning, Knight, Luebben, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor and VonSpreckelsen. Abstain: Meyer.

Glenn reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 7 - Glenn moved, seconded by Paus to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 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 a meeting he attended with the governor, NRD managers and directors. He also gave a brief report on happenings with the NARD.

NRC Report – Lyle Schroer: Schroer gave an update on the NRC.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments made.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

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

Discuss Personnel: Nelson gave an update on some personnel changes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action on Irrigation Runoff Complaint Maschman v. Meyers: An irrigation runoff complaint was received. Staff met with the individuals to gather additional information. The committee did not recommend any action be taken.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS & PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Discussion/Action to Adjust User Rates for Little Blue Public Water Project: Updated water user rates for the Rural Water Project was presented for approval. **MOTION # 8 – Luebben moved, seconded by Hoops to approve the Rural Water Project user rates as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Donate Trees for the Nebraska Memorial Forest: Discussion was held on possibly donating trees to the Nebraska Memorial Forest. The committee recommended staff provide them information on the district tree program cost share and encourage them to apply through it.

Conservation Cost Share Funds Update: An updated Cancellation or 6-month Extension on Cost-Share Application form was presented as a point of information.

Other Business: There was no other business.

FY 24-25 BUDGET REVIEW

Nelson reviewed some major items included in the FY 24-25 budget.

MOTION ON LID EXCEPTION

Nelson reviewed how the lid exceptions and restricted funds are calculated in the budget. **MOTION # 9 – Luebben moved, seconded by Knight to approve the Resolution to allow a one percent addition to the Little Blue NRD FY 2025 Restricted Fund Authority.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

MOTION TO ADVANCE FY 24-25 BUDGET TO HEARING STAGE IN SEPTEMBER

MOTION # 10 – Meyer moved, seconded by Hoffman to advance the draft FY 24-25 budget to public hearing on September 10, 2024. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes

OTHER BUSINESS

Herbek reminded everyone of the NARD Conference on September 22-24. Nelson referenced his Managers Report for additional information on the Rural Water Project.

ADJOURNMENT

VonSpreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 7:56 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 August 13, 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.

DRAFT