

**LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
**Minutes** **August 8, 2023**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Jesse VonSpreckelsen**

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Vice-Chairman VonSpreckelsen called the meeting to order at 7:05 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, Alan Kenning, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Russ Ochsner, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Warren Taylor and Jesse VonSpreckelsen.

Director's Absent: Brent Hoops, Kyle Knight, Steve Shaw and Alan Wiedel.

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

VonSpreckelsen 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 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Kenning to approve the agenda for the August 8, 2023 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

**ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Approval of Minutes of July 11th, 2023 Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

Approval of Certified Acres: No certified acres were presented.

**MOTION # 2 – Luebben moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve the absences of Hoops, Knight and Wiedel and approve the minutes of the July 11, 2023 meeting, as circulated.** 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 Kenning to approve the director per diem and expense for Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Hoffman and Hoops.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Kenning, Luebben, Meyer, Ochsner, Paus, Schroer, Taylor and VonSpreckelsen. Abstain: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft and Hoffman.

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

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

**MOTION # 6 – Glenn moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the remaining Little Blue NRD treasurer’s report as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

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

**MOTION # 7 - Glenn moved, seconded by Taylor 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 # 8 - Glenn moved, seconded by Schroer 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 – Jean Itzen:** Itzen introduced herself as the new RC in the Hebron NRCS office, she then gave a brief report on happenings at the NRCS.

**NARD Report – Mason Hoffman:** Hoffman reminded everyone of the NARD annual conference coming up in September.

**NRC Report – Lyle Schroer:** Schroer reported at the NRC meeting held July 19<sup>th</sup> in Kearney at which the Little Blue Rural Water Projects received a WSF grant in the amount of \$3,919,500 with a score of 51.

## **WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

**Discussion on Groundwater Management Plan Rule Revisions:** Discussion on updating the Groundwater Rules and Regulations finished up and was referred to the full board for approval.

**Discussion on District Meter Maintenance Program:** Orvis discussed possible options to improve the meter maintenance program.

**Other Business:** There was no other business.

## **PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

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

Review & Approve Pheasants and Quail Forever Cost Share Program: Epps reviewed the proposed Pheasant and Quail Forever Habitat Program guidelines and cost share application. **MOTION # 9 – Luebben moved, seconded by Glenn to approve the Pheasants and Quail Forever Habitat Program policy.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bonifas, Bredthauer, Glenn, Hoeft, Kenning, Luebben, Meyer, Paus, Schroer, Taylor and VonSpreckelsen. No: Hoffman and Ochsner.

Conservation Cost Share Funds Update: Epps gave an update on the Land Treatment and Water Quality cost share programs. There were several applications carried over from FY 2023 to FY 2024 due to the projects not being completed causing the possibility of the funds running short.

Other Business: Luebben noted there were two changes made to the Projects Committee budget.

**FY 23-24 BUDGET REVIEW**

Nelson gave a review of the proposed FY 2024 budget.

**MOTION ON LID EXCEPTION – 1% Increase to Restricted Fund Allowance**

Herbek reviewed how the lid exceptions and restricted funds are calculated in the budget. **MOTION # 10 – Glenn moved, seconded by Ochsner to approve the Resolution to allow a one percent addition to the Little Blue NRD FY 2023 Restricted Fund Authority.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

**MOTION TO ADVANCE FY 23-24 BUDGET TO HEARING STAGE IN SEPTEMBER**

**MOTION # 11 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Meyer to advance the draft FY 23-24 budget to public hearing on September 12, 2023.** Carried by roll call vote – 13 yes votes.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Hoffman requested Goeschel to report on the Water Leaders Conference he attended in Scottsbluff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

VonSpreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 8:14 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 8, 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.