

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

Minutes

September 8th, 2026

8:03 PM – Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2027 Budgets

Open Hearing & Public Notice

VonSpreckelsen opened the public hearing for the FY 27 Budget review at 8:03 PM and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune and the Fairbury Journal-News.

Presentation of proposed FY 2027 Budget of Little Blue Public Water Project and LBNRD

Nelson reviewed the FY 2027 budgets of the Little Blue NRD.

Questions, Comments, Testimony

There were no questions, comments or testimony.

Close of Hearing

VonSpreckelsen closed the hearing at 8:10 PM.

8:10 PM – Public Hearing to Set the FY 2027 Budget Final Tax Request

Open Hearing & Public Notice

VonSpreckelsen opened the public hearing to set the FY 27 budget final tax request at 8:10 PM and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune and the Fairbury Journal-News. Nelson reviewed the FY 2027 tax request and mill levy.

Questions, Comments, Testimony

There were no questions, comments, or testimony.

Close of Hearing

VonSpreckelsen closed the hearing at 8:13 PM.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Jesse VonSpreckelsen

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, September 8th, 2026, at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Board President VonSpreckelsen called the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bonifas, Glen Bredthauer, Dietrich Brinegar, Bill Glenn, Jessi Hoeft, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Kyle Knight, Russ Ochsner, Neal Onnen, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Jesse VonSpreckelsen.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Kevin Orvis, Sara Schram, Alicia Epps, Jessica Hedges, Ryan Hellbusch, Tim Hecke, Janet Valasek.

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 –Ochsner moved to approve the agenda for the September 8th, 2026, meeting as presented, seconded by Schroer. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

MOTION #2 –Knight moved to approve consent agenda items, seconded by Taylor. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes.

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Lawrence Walker

Approval of Minutes of August 11th, 2026, Board Meeting

Approval of Certified Acres: There were no certified acres.

TREASURERS REPORTS – Alan Kenning

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Kenning reviewed the report. **MOTION # 3 - Kenning moved to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Paus.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Kenning reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 4 - Kenning moved to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report as presented, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS Report – Janet Valasek gave a brief report on NRCS activities.

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman gave an update on NARD upcoming events.

NRC Report – Lyle Schroer gave a brief report on NRC.

STAFF REPORTS – Scott Nelson gave a brief Managers Report on NRD and Water Project happenings.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT – There was no public comment.

Action to Approve FY 2027 Property & Liability Insurance Renewal Quote. Nelson presented information on the renewal for the District's Property & Liability Insurance Renewal Quote. - **MOTION #5 – Hoffman moved to Approve the renewal quote for the District's Property & Liability Insurance, seconded by Bonifas.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to Approve FY 2027 Little Blue NRD Water Project and District General Budgets– **MOTION #6 – Hoffman moved to approve the FY 2027 Little Blue NRD Water Project and District General Budgets, seconded by Ochsner.** Carried by roll call vote, 16 yes votes.

Action to Approve FY 2027 Little Blue NRD General Tax Levy – **MOTION #7 – Schroer moved to Approve the FY 2027 Little Blue NRD General Tax Levy, seconded by Paus.** Carried by roll call vote, 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action – Buckley Creek Reservoir 3-C Irrigation Agreement-Nelson presented information on a request to irrigate from Buckley Creek reservoir. **MOTION #8 – Hoffman moved to deny the agreement application, seconded by Ochsner.** The motion to deny the agreement application failed by roll call vote: Bredthauer, Hoeft, Hoffman, Ochsner, Onnen, Schroer, Shaw - yes votes, Bonifas, Brinegar, Glenn, Hoops, Knight, Paus, Taylor - no votes, Kenning abstained.

Discussion/Action on NDWEE One Red Ag Data Bank & Grants Program Agreement - **MOTION #9 – Shaw moved to pursue an agreement with One Red Ag Data Bank & Grants Program, seconded by Hoffman.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Consider Increasing LBPWP Reconnection Fee. – Orvis presented a case for increasing the LBPWP Reconnection Fee from \$500 to \$1000. **MOTION #10 – Hoffman moved to increase the LBPWP Reconnection Fee to \$1000, seconded by Ochsner.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Issue an 18-Month Water Purchase Termination Notice to City of Fairbury. – Nelson requested approval to inform the City of Fairbury that we will no longer purchase water from them in 18 months. **MOTION #11 – Paus moved to Issue an 18-Month Water Purchase Termination Notice to City of Fairbury, seconded by Bonifas.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion – Evaluate Options for Operations and Improvements at Roseland Lake. – Nelson requested feedback from the Board for the direction of Operations and Improvements at Roseland Lake. The Board requested Nelson reach out to NRCS to develop a plan.

Discussion/Action to Define Maintenance Parameters for Trails at Prairie Lake. – Tim Hecke discussed the history of trails at Prairie Lake and asked the Board for Guidance on what trails to maintain as a District. After discussion, an Ad Hoc Committee for Prairie Lake Improvements was created by Tim Hecke, Tyler Goeschel, Jessi Hoeft, and Mason Hoffman. No action was taken.

Discussion/Update – Agriculture Pesticide Container Recycling Program. Jessica Hedges presented findings on current Agriculture Pesticide Container Recycling Program. The current programs do not take liquid chemicals, which is what the board is interested in. The Board directed Jessica to continue to search for available grants or programs.

OTHER BUSINESS

Hoeft requested clarification on the rules for taking soil samples.

ADJOURNMENT

VonSpreckelsen adjourned the meeting at 9:16 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 September 8th, 2026, 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.
