

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Board Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2022

6:30 PM – Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2023 Budgets

Open Hearing & Public Notice

Wiedel opened the public hearing for the FY 23 budget review at 6:30 p.m. and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune on September 2, 2022, and the Fairbury Journal-News on September 7, 2022.

Presentation of proposed FY 2023 Budget of LBPWP-N, LBPWP-S, LBNRD

Nelson reviewed the FY 2022 budgets of the Little Blue NRD.

Questions, Comments, Testimony

David Endorf asked the question if the NRD is making money or losing money on the Rural Water Projects. It was explained to Endorf the Water Projects are self-sustaining and generate income from the sale of water to pay their own expenses, no tax money is used.

Close of Hearing

Wiedel closed the hearing at 6:44 p.m.

6:45 PM – Public Hearing to Set the FY 2023 Budget Final Tax Request

Open Hearing & Public Notice

Wiedel opened the public hearing to set the FY 23 budget final tax request at 6:45 p.m. and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune on September 2, 2022, and the Fairbury Journal-News on September 7, 2022. Nelson reviewed the FY 2022 tax request and mill levy.

Questions, Comments, Testimony

No questions or comments were received.

Close of Hearing

Wiedel closed the hearing at 6:48 p.m.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER – Alan Wiedel

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 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.

CONSIDERATION OF BOARD MEMBER NOMINEES FOR SUB-DISTRICT 5 VACANCY

A vacancy in sub-district 5 was advertised to be filled due to the resignation of Kevin Kissinger. One letter of interest to fill the vacancy was received from Aaron Paus. Wiedel asked Paus to introduce himself to the board. Taylor nominated Aaron Paus to fill the sub-district # 5 vacancy, Shaw seconded the nomination. By a show of hands 14 voted for Paus to fill the vacant position with 0 voting no.

Paus took the Oath of Office.

ROLL CALL OF DIRECTORS

Directors Present: Glen Bredthauer, Bill Glenn, Lyle Heinrichs, Jessi Hoeft, Brent Hoops, Alan Kenning, Marlin Kimle, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Aaron Paus, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Robert Trausch and Alan Wiedel.

Directors Absent: Mason Hoffman and Jesse VonSpreckelsen.

Others Present: Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Kathy Boysen; Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel; Janet Valasek, NRCS; 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 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Schroer to approve the agenda for the September 13, 2022 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

PRESENTATION OF DIRECTOR SERVICE AWARD

Marlin Kimle, an outgoing director, was presented a service award in appreciation for his service.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Acceptance of Board Member Absences: Hoffman and VonSpreckelsen notified the office of their intended absence.

Approval of Minutes of August 9, 2022, Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

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

MOTION # 2 – Kimle moved, seconded by Taylor to approve the absence of Hoffman and VonSpreckelsen and the minutes of August 9, 2022, as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

ACTION ON TREASURER'S REPORT – Jay Meyer

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Meyer reviewed the report.

MOTION # 3 - Meyer moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Bredthauer, Glenn, Heinrichs, Hoeft, Hoops, Kenning, Kimle, Luebben, Meyer, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch and Wiedel. Abstain: Paus.

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

MOTION # 4 - Meyer moved, seconded by Bredthauer to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer's Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Meyer reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report.

MOTION # 5 - Meyer moved, seconded by Kenning 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 the happenings at the NRCS.

NARD Report: Hoffman was not present to give a report.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Action to Approve FY 2023 Property & Liability Insurance Renewal Quote: The quote for renewal of property insurance was presented for approval. **MOTION # 6 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Shaw to approve FY 2023 property & insurance liability renewal quote from FNIC.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Action to Approve FY 2023 Little Blue NRD Water Projects and District General Budgets: The Little Blue NRD, Little Blue Public Water Project North and Little Blue Public Water Project South's FY 2023 budgets were presented for approval. **MOTION # 7 – Wiedel moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the FY 2023 Little Blue NRD budget in the amount of \$4,330,782 with a tax asking of 1,893,440.06, the Little Blue Public Water Project North budget in the amount of \$364,332 and Little Blue Public Water Project South budget in the amount of \$343,980.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Action to Establish FY 2023 LBNRD General Property Tax Levy: **MOTION # 8 – Wiedel moved seconded by Bredthauer that the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors accept the Resolution on the final adoption of FY 2023 budget and property tax request of \$1,893,440.06 which will require a property tax levy rate of 0.020621.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

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

Little Blue Valley Water System Project Update: Nelson provided a brief update on the Little Blue Valley Water System project. A public meeting will be held September 27 in Fairbury to review the written report from LRE on the groundwater model.

Discussion/Action to Establish a Bank Account for the Little Blue Valley Water System: The Little Blue Water System proposed their bank account be set up at Heartland Bank in Fairbury for their potential future use. **MOTION # 9 – Glenn moved, seconded by Kenning to authorize the Little Blue Valley**

Water System establish a bank account at Heartland Bank in Fairbury. Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Action to Approve Interlocal Cooperative Agreement for Lake Hastings WQMP Project: An Interlocal Agreement for the Lake Hastings WQMP Project was presented for approval. **MOTION # 10 – Glenn moved, seconded by Meyer to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Upper Big Blue NRD for the Lake Hastings WQMP Project and authorize its signature.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business: Hoefst suggested a public participation event be held at Prairie Lake to promote the use of the recreation area.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Discussion/Action on ARK Transfer Permit: One Transfer Permit was presented for approval for ARK Land. A test pump was conducted on the parcel of the intended transfer, the test pump failed. The District Rules state you cannot transfer water to a parcel that cannot afford irrigation on its own. **MOTION # 11 – Hoops moved, seconded by Shaw to deny the transfer permit for ARK Land.** Carried by roll call vote – 15 yes votes.

Other Business: There was no other business.

REVIEW 2022 NITRATE REPORT

Goeschel gave a presentation on the results of water sampling from the summer. Discussion was held.

REVIEW 2022 VOLUNTARY INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT PLAN (VIMP) Report

The annual VIMP meeting with Tri-Basin NRD and the Department of Natural Resources will be held September 15th in Minden. Orvis reported on the presentation he plans to provide at the meeting.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Susan Thomas provided a handout showing nitrate history near the Little Blue Valley Water System proposed well field and made comments.

Ron Yantz requested he be allowed to view the LRE report prior to the public meeting scheduled for September 27, his request was denied due to no one will see the report prior to the meeting outside of the Little Blue Valley Water System board members. Ron also inquired if there has been consideration to install a Ranney Collector well system for the Little Blue Valley Water System.

David Endorf commented on well nitrate levels near the proposed Little Blue Valley Water System well field.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

ADJOURNMENT

Wiedel adjourned the meeting at 8:55 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 13, 2022, 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