

LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
Minutes **September 14, 2021**

6:30 PM – Public Hearing on Proposed FY 2022 Budgets

Open Hearing & Public Notice

Kimle opened the public hearing for the FY 22 budget review at 6:34 p.m. and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune on September 7, 2021 and the Fairbury Journal-News on September 8, 2021.

Presentation of proposed FY 2022 Budget of LBPWP-N, LBPWP-S, LBNRD

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

Questions, Comments, Testimony

No questions or comments were received.

Close of Hearing

Kimle closed the hearing at 6:38 p.m.

6:45 PM – Public Hearing to Set the FY 2022 Budget Final Tax Request

Open Hearing & Public Notice

Kimle opened the public hearing to set the FY 22 budget final tax request at 6:45 p.m. and presented the publication of notice placed in the Hastings Tribune on September 7, 2021 and the Fairbury Journal-News on September 8, 2021. Nelson reviewed the FY 2021 tax request and mill levy.

Questions, Comments, Testimony

No questions or comments were received.

Close of Hearing

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

OPENING OF MEETING – Marlin Kimle

The Directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Kimle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Kimle led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Roll call was held.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Board members present:

Bill Glenn, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Jessi Hoefl, Mason Hoffman, Brent Hoops, Courtney Luebben, Jay Meyer, Lyle Schroer, Steve Shaw, Warren Taylor, Robert Trausch, Jesse VonSpreckelsen, Alan Wiedel, Jay Wilder and Marlin Kimle.

Directors absent:

Kevin Kissinger.

OTHERS PRESENT

Scott Nelson, Tyler Goeschel, Marie Herbek, Kevin Orvis, Erika Brinegar; Don Blankenau, Legal Counsel; Janet Valasek representing NRCS; members of the public.

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, newspapers in the district and posted at the NRCS offices in the district and the Little Blue NRD office.

ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA

MOTION # 1 – Hoops moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the agenda for the September 14, 2021 meeting as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

ACTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

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

Approval of Minutes of August 10, 2021, Board Meeting: There were no changes to the minutes.

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

MOTION # 2 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Luebben to approve the absence of Kissinger and the minutes of August 10, 2021, as circulated. Carried by roll call vote – 16 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 – 16 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 4 - Meyer moved, seconded by Wilder to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - North Treasurer’s Report as presented. Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

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

MOTION # 5 - Meyer moved, seconded by Hergott to approve the Little Blue Public Water Project - South 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 the happenings at the NRCS.

NARD Report – Mason Hoffman: Hoffman mentioned the upcoming NARD Fall Conference at Kearney on September 27 -28. Hoffman and Blankenau talked about the NARD Resolution related to Executive Order 14008. Hoffman also spoke briefly on redistricting after the census.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Office Remodel Bids: Bids were solicited for transforming one office space into three individual offices, one bid was received. Discussion was held. **MOTION # 6 – Hoops moved, seconded by Wiedel to accept the bid from CAVAPA Construction LLC in the amount of \$57,292.00 for the office remodel project.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoops, Luebben, Meyer, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. No: Hoffman, Schroer and Shaw.

Prairie Lake Campground Electrical Bids: Bids were solicited for bids for the installation of electricity to 20 camping sites at Prairie Lake, one bid was received. **MOTION # 7 - Taylor moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to accept the bid from Ideal Electric Inc. in the amount of \$59,483.00 for installation of 20 RV pedestals at Prairie Lake.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

2010 F-150 Bid Criteria: Nelson reported the District has a 2010 F-150 that is no longer needed and can be sold. **MOTION # 8 – Hoffman moved, seconded by Wilder to solicit sealed bids for the sale of the 2010 Ford F-150 with a statement attached the district can accept or reject any or all bids.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes

Action to Approve the Purchase of Trees for Prairie Lake RV Area Development: Two quotes were solicited for the purchase of trees to be planted at Prairie Lake. **MOTION # 9 -Kimle moved, Shaw seconded to approve the purchase of trees to be planted at Prairie Lake from Landmark Nursery and Landscaping in the amount of \$3,264.00.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Appoint Tyler Goeschel to Serve on SCAL Advisory Board: The University of Nebraska Extension approached Tyler Goeschel to serve as a Representative of the LBNRD on the South Central Agricultural Laboratory (SCAL) Advisory Board. **MOTION # Schroer moved, seconded by Hoffman to appoint Tyler Goeschel to serve on the SCAL Advisory Board.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to Approve FY 2022 Property & Liability Insurance Renewal Quote: The quote for renewal of property insurance was presented for approval. **MOTION # 10 – Schroer moved, seconded by Hoffman to approve FY 2022 property & insurance liability renewal quote from FNIC.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Little Blue Valley Water System Project – Property Acquisition Update:

MOTION # 11 – VonSpreckelsen moved, seconded by Wiedel to go into Executive Session at 8:10 for the purpose of discussing property acquisition for the Little Blue Valley Water System and that a representative of the City of Fairbury and Kevin Orvis also sit in on the Executive Session.

Carried by roll call. Yes: _Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Luebben, Meyer, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. Abstain: Glenn.

Executive Session convened at 8:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing property acquisition for the Little Blue Valley Water System Project.

MOTION # 12 – Kimle moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to come out of Executive Session at 8:10 p.m. and declare that no actions of the Board, official or unofficial, were taken during the closed session. Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Luebben, Meyer, Schroer, Shaw, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. Abstain: Glenn.

Action to Approve FY 2022 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 2022 budgets were presented for approval. **MOTION # 13 – Hoffman moved, seconded by VonSpreckelsen to approve the Little Blue NRD budget in the amount of \$4,168,252 with a tax asking of 1,832,075.31, the Little Blue Public Water Project North budget in the amount of \$286,004 and Little Blue Public Water Project South FY 2022 budget in the amount of \$263,106.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Action to Establish FY 2022 LBNRD General Property Tax Levy: **MOTION # 14 – Hoffman moved seconded by Meyer that the Little Blue NRD Board of Directors accept the Resolution on the final adoption of FY 2022 budget and property tax request of \$1,832,075.36 which will require a property tax levy rate of 0.020879.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Discussion/Action to Involving NARD Resolution Related to Executive Order 14008 “Tracking the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”. Discussion was held. **MOTION # 15 – Glenn moved, seconded by Wiedel to direct our NARD Representative to vote in support of the NARD Resolution related to Executive Order 14008 “Tracking the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”.** Carried by roll call vote: Yes: Glenn, Heinrichs, Hergott, Hoeft, Hoffman, Hoops, Meyer, Schroer, Taylor, Trausch, VonSpreckelsen, Wiedel, Wilder and Kimle. No: Luebben and Shaw.

Other Business: There was no other business.

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Water Resources Committee met prior to the regular meeting.

Darrel Brandt Groundwater Transfer Request: A groundwater transfer permit was presented for approval. **MOTION # 16 – Shaw moved, seconded by Heinrichs to approve the Darrel Brandt transfer request from the S1/2NW1/4 26-3N-5W to the SE1/4NE1/4 27-3N-5W in Thayer County.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

Meter Maintenance Program: Discussion was held regarding the meter maintenance program and if it should be handled in-house with district staff doing the work rather than using an independent contractor. **MOTION # 12 – Shaw moved, seconded by Wiedel to approve that the LBNRD staff complete meter maintenance with the goal of an eight-year rotation.** Carried by roll call vote – 16 yes votes.

2021 Nitrate Report: Goeschel reviewed the 2021 nitrate report. The overall nitrate levels across the district have decreased.

