

LOWER BIG BLUE NRD 2024-2025 BUDGET HEARING

Chairperson Barta opened the Public Hearing at 8:30 A.M. and stated that the purpose of the hearing was to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the Lower Big Blue NRD's budget for FY 2024-2025. Chairperson Barta appointed Scott Sobotka, Manager of the District, to be the District Hearing Officer to explain the proposed budget. Scott entered into the record of the hearing that public notices appeared once in the Beatrice Daily Sun on September 12th, Wilber Republican on September 11th, Fairbury Journal News on September 11th and the Pawnee Republican on September 12th, 2024. In accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the Open Meetings Act is posted on the north wall of the meeting room for public viewing.

Directors Present: Larry Barta, Ryan Birkett, Brent Katz, Steve Kelley, Bob Lorenz, Duane Parde, Jason Pohlmann, Dean Roehr, Jason Sand, Rodney Skleba, Doug Stokebrand, Chad Weichel.

Staff Present: Scott Sobotka, Manager; Tyler Weishahn, Assistant Manager; Adam Kimmerling, Office Administrator; Nick Schroeder, GIS/IT/Data Specialist; Ryan Thomas, Resources Specialist; Brandy Scholl, NRD Clerk.

The FY 2025 budget calls for expenditures of \$3,985,286 as compared to FY 2024 of \$3,845,976. The FY 2025 expenditures include \$275,000 for the Little Indian Watershed Flood Prevention Project, \$148,000 for the buffer strip program, \$130,000 for NRD land treatment and flowmeter cost-share, \$30,000 for Water Quality Programs, \$50,000 for NRD Small Dams Program, \$100,000 for flood control maintenance work, \$25,000 for P.L. 566 emergency watershed maintenance work, \$85,000 for recreation and Wildlife management area Operation and Maintenance, \$421,166 for Water Sustainability Airborne Electromagnetic Surveys, \$50,000 for Clatonia Creek 3A renovations, \$65,000 for the Nine County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and \$10,795 for the Blue Basin Groundwater Model – Interactive Producer Portal and Turkey Creek Stream Gauge. The district has \$900,000 budgeted for office design and construction and \$98,440 for the Urban Conservation Assistance Program. Separate expenditures include \$89,124 for the Beatrice West Public Water Project and \$355,591 for the Wymore Rural Water Project.

Chairperson Barta asked for comments from the public. No members of the public wished to speak.

Following no public comments, the hearing was closed at 8:45 a.m.

This record shall be attached as part of the September 19, 2024, regular meeting minutes of the Lower Big Blue NRD.

LOWER BIG BLUE NRD 2024-2025 PROPERTY TAX REQUEST HEARING

Chairperson Barta opened the Public Hearing at 8:46 A.M. and stated that the purpose of the hearing was to hear support, opposition, criticism, suggestions, or observations of taxpayers relating to the Lower Big Blue NRD's Levy and Tax request for FY 2024-2025. Chairperson Barta appointed Scott Sobotka, Manager of the District to be the District Hearing Officer to explain the proposed tax request and levy. . Scott entered into the record of the hearing that public notices appeared once in the Beatrice Daily Sun on September 12th, Wilber Republican on September 11th, Fairbury Journal News on September 11th and the Pawnee Republican on September 12th, 2024. In accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the Open Meetings Act is posted on the north wall of the meeting room for public viewing.

Directors Present: Larry Barta, Ryan Birkett, Brent Katz, Steve Kelley, Bob Lorenz, Duane Parde, Jason Pohlmann, Dean Roehr, Jason Sand, Rodney Skleba, Doug Stokebrand, Chad Weichel.

Staff Present: Scott Sobotka, Manager; Tyler Weishahn, Assistant Manager; Adam Kimmerling, Office Administrator; Nick Schroeder, GIS/IT/Data Specialist; Ryan Thomas, Resources Specialist; Brandy Scholl, NRD Clerk.

Scott reviewed the valuations and revenues from all sources. Revenues from all sources for FY 2025 expected to be \$3,690,176 as compared to FY 2024 Revenues of \$3,474,585. The District begins FY 2025 with \$98,742 cash on hand and \$224,522 in Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust. In FY 2025 we expect \$489,849 from state funds (FY2024 \$523,804), including \$294,999 from the Water Sustainability fund for Airborne Electromagnetic Surveys and Little Indian Flood Prevention Project, \$35,117 from the Water Quality Fund and \$154,754 for buffer strips. FY 2025 Federal funds are estimated to be \$298,908 (FY2024 \$148,688) with \$200,000 for the Little Indian Watershed Flood Prevention Project and \$65,000 for the Nine County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Property rent will be \$20,701, customer charges for camping, tree planting, tree protectors and flags is \$59,100; Miscellaneous Revenues, \$79,428; and \$2,758,013 from property taxes. The District has \$266,411 in a P.L. 566 dam operation and maintenance and emergency watershed repair sinking fund, \$1,957,080 in a building sinking fund. Separate revenues include \$33,210 for the Beatrice West Public Water Project and \$197,400 for the Wymore Rural Water Project.

Valuations of the NRD for FY 2025, as provided by the County Assessors, are as follows:

<u>Valuations</u>	<u>and Percentages</u>				
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>% of Change</u>		
Gage	\$3,703,880,963	\$3,333,469,272	11.11%	\$1,425,892.86	51.7%
Saline	\$2,558,523,479	\$2,355,274,110	8.63%	\$ 973,578.68	35.3%
Jefferson	\$1,051,489,788	\$ 940,651,927	11.78%	\$ 297865.43	10.8%
Pawnee	\$ 211,063,224	\$ 196,163,490	7.60%	\$ 60,676.29	2.2%
TOTALS	\$7,524,957,454	\$6,825,558,799	10.25%	\$2,758,013.26	100%

2024 Growth Value – \$76,413,838 = 10.93% Value Attributed to Growth : (Total Change: \$699,398,655)
Pawnee - \$ 1,439,873 (9.66%) Gage - \$30,472,476 (8.23%)
Jefferson - \$17,418,207 (15.72%) Saline - \$27,083,282 (13.33%)

The Tax Requirement for FY 2025 is \$2,758,013.26. Last year's was \$2,595,700.00.

The NRD levy for FY 2025 is \$0.036652/\$100 Valuation. Last year's was \$0.038029/\$100 Valuation.

Chairperson Barta asked for comments from the public. No members of the public wished to speak.

Following no public comments, the hearing was closed at 9:01 a.m.

This record shall be attached as part of the September 19, 2024, regular meeting minutes of the Lower Big Blue NRD.