

LOWER BIG BLUE NRD 2023-2024 BUDGET HEARING

Chairperson Birkett opened the Public Hearing at 8:00 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 2023-2024. Chairperson Birkett 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 8th, Wilber Republican on September 13th, Fairbury Journal News on September 6th and the Pawnee Republican on September 7th, 2023. 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, Bob Lorenz, Duane Parde, Jason Pohlmann, Darrell Rains, Dean Roehr, Jason Sand, Rodney Skleba, Doug Stokebrand, Chad Weichel.

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

The FY 2024 budget calls for expenditures of \$3,845,976 as compared to FY 2023 of \$3,407,925. The FY 2024 expenditures include \$185,000 for the Little Indian Watershed Flood Prevention Project, \$80,071 for the Turkey Creek National Water Quality Initiative Land Treatment Program, \$130,000 for the buffer strip program, \$100,000 for NRD land treatment cost-share, \$60,000 for Water Quality Programs, \$50,000 for NRD Small Dams Program, \$100,000 for flood control maintenance work, \$50,000 for P.L. 566 emergency watershed maintenance work, \$62,000 for recreation and wildlife management area Operation and Maintenance, \$460,333 Water Sustainability Airborne Electromagnetic Surveys, \$15,000 for Cub Creek 12-A renovations, \$5,000 for the interactive producer portal and \$14,697 for the Blue Basin Groundwater Model. The District has \$900,000 budgeted for office design and construction and \$94,466 for the Urban Conservation Assistance Program. Separate expenditures include \$68,708 for the Beatrice West Public Water Project and \$324,267 for the Wymore Rural Water Project.

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

Following no public comments, the hearing was closed at 8:15 a.m.

This record shall be attached as part of the September 21, 2023, regular meeting minutes of the Lower Big Blue NRD.

LOWER BIG BLUE NRD 2023-2024 PROPERTY TAX REQUEST HEARING

Chairperson Birkett opened the Public Hearing at 8:16 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 2023-2024. Chairperson Birkett 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 8th, Wilber Republican on September 13th, Fairbury Journal News on September 6th and the Pawnee Republican on September 7th, 2023. 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, Bob Lorenz, Duane Parde, Jason Pohlmann, Darrell Rains, Dean Roehr, Jason Sand, Rodney Skleba, Doug Stokebrand, Chad Weichel.

Staff Present: Scott Sobotka, Manager; Tyler Weishahn, Assistant Manager; Scott Theis, Operations Supervisor; 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 2024 are expected to be \$3,474,585 as compared to FY 2023 Revenues of \$3,011,813. The District begins FY 2024 with \$147,425 cash on hand and \$261,867 in Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust. In FY 2024, the District expects \$523,804 from state funds (FY2023 \$408,952), including \$276,199 from the Water Sustainability Fund for Airborne Electromagnetic Surveys, \$35,645 from the Water Quality Fund and \$134,000 for buffer strips. Federal funds are estimated to be \$148,688 (FY2023 \$335,100) with \$100,000 for the Little Indian Watershed Flood Prevention Project. Property rent will be \$26,386, customer charges for camping, tree planting, tree protectors and flags is \$67,500; Miscellaneous Revenues, \$163,606; and \$2,595,700 from property taxes. The District has \$205,145 in a P.L. 566 dam operation and maintenance and emergency watershed repair sinking fund, \$1,044,024 in a building sinking fund and \$78,100 in rural water project reserve funds.

Valuations of the NRD for FY 2024, as provided by the County Assessors, are as follows:

	<u>Valuations</u>			<u>Tax Requirements and Percentages</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>% of Change</u>		
Gage	\$3,333,469,272	\$3,046,091,887	8.62%	\$ 1,341,977	51.7%
Saline	\$2,355,274,110	\$2,226,601,233	5.46%	\$ 916,282	35.3%
Jefferson	\$ 940,651,927	\$ 834,045,743	11.33%	\$ 280,336	10.8%
Pawnee	\$ 196,163,490	\$ 192,743,416	1.74%	\$ 57,105	2.2%
TOTALS	\$6,825,558,799	\$6,299,482,279	7.71%	\$ 2,595,700	100%

2023 Growth Value – \$48,335,372 = 0.77% of total valuation

Pawnee - \$ 1,168,425
Jefferson - \$10,587,221

Gage - \$21,498,683
Saline - \$15,081,043

The Tax Requirement for FY 2024 is \$2,595,700

The NRD levy for FY 2023 is \$0.038029/\$100 Valuation. Last year's was \$0.031665/\$100 Valuation.

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

Following no public comments, the hearing was closed at 8:30 a.m.

This record shall be attached as part of the September 21, 2023, regular meeting minutes of the Lower Big Blue NRD.