

LOWER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
August 24, 2023, 6:00 P.M.

Notice of the meeting was published in accordance with Section 84-1411, Nebraska Statutes, in the Beatrice Daily Sun and the Wilber Republican. Notice was also sent to Radio Station KWBE, Crete News, and Fairbury Journal-News. In accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, the Open Meetings Act is posted on the east wall of the meeting room for public viewing.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ryan Birkett at 6:00 p.m.

Directors Present: Larry Barta, Ryan Birkett, Steve Kelley, 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; Adam Kimmerling, Office Administrator; Nick Schroeder, GIS/IT/Technical Specialist, Brandy Scholl, NRD Secretary.

Directors Absent: Brent Katz

Others Present: Jared Abraham, Aqua Geo Frameworks, Dave Barnard, Beatrice Public Schools, Kelli Evans, Gage County NRCS.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 24, 2023, CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Duane Parde, to adopt the Consent Agenda for the August 24, 2023, board meeting which includes: adoption of the agenda as submitted, approval of the July 13, 2023, meeting minutes, financial status report dated July 31, 2023, July 2023 bills payable, July 2023 revenues, monthly bank account summary and Beatrice West and Wymore Rural Water Financials. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Rains, Roehr, Skleba, Stokebrand. **NAY:** None
ABSTAIN: None. **NOT PRESENT:** Katz, Pohlmann, Sand, Weichel.

Jason Pohlmann arrived at 6:09 P.M.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Barnard addressed the board seeking funding to assist with the installation of an arboretum at Beatrice High School. Beatrice recently restarted the vocational agriculture program for high school students.

WATER PERMITS

Tyler presented a permit for low-capacity wells in a series. Eldean Banahan has requested a permit for two 40 gpm, not to run simultaneously, wells to serve a 6,250 head hog confinement. These barns require two wells so that there is always a backup water source.

MOTION #2 was made by Larry Barta, seconded by Steve Kelley, to approve the co-mingled well permit LBB-1155 for Eldean Banahan. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Skleba, Stokebrand.
NAY: None **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Katz, Sand, Weichel.

NRD CONFERENCE VOTING DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

MOTION #3 was made by Rodney Skleba, seconded by Larry Barta, to appoint Steve Kelley as Voting Delegate and Ryan Birkett as Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2023 NARD Annual Conference. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Skleba, Stokebrand.
NAY: None **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Katz, Sand, Weichel.

NARD RESOLUTIONS

Scott stated that no resolutions were received this year. If any resolutions are received, a two thirds vote would be required to adopt them. Directors who plan to attend annual conference need to let Adam know as soon as possible. Registrations are due September 1st.

Chad Weichel arrived at 6:19 P.M.

HUSKER HARVEST DAYS

Scott told the board that Bob Lorenz would like to volunteer at Husker Harvest Days again this year. He asked for a motion to approve mileage and per diem for Bob to attend.

MOTION #4 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Jason Pohlmann, to authorize mileage and per diem for Bob Lorenz to attend Husker Harvest Days. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Katz, Sand.

Jason Sand arrived at 6:28 P.M.

GROUNDWATER QUALITY RULES AND REGULATIONS UPDATE/ACTION

Jared Abraham with Aqua Geo Frameworks presented the preliminary results of the completed AEM study, which included 429-line miles. Data inversion is scheduled to begin soon, and Jared expects to have the final results to the NRD by mid-January. He reviewed the proposed flight plan for the study planned for this year. The District has received Water Sustainability Funding for the project in FY2024.

MOTION #5 was made by Steve Kelley, seconded by Chad Weichel, to sign the WSF grant agreement for FY 2024.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Katz.

Nick presented an update of the Groundwater rules and regulations revisions. Staff plans to meet with the attorney tomorrow to review updates. Preliminary sub area boundaries were also shown. Nick reminded the Board that sub areas can be changed in the future by board action. The next step is to ensure that all irrigated acres are certified with the NRD. A water committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 7th at 9:00 A.M. The committee will discuss guidelines to proceed with the certification of acres.

CONSIDERATION OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

Brent Katz has requested to be excused from the August 24th board meeting.

MOTION #6 was made by Larry Barta, seconded by Duane Parde, to excuse Brent Katz from the August 24th board meeting.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Katz.

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dean Roehr reviewed the building committee meeting minutes from August 23. The committee recommended proceeding with option #1 which includes completion of the repairs paid for by insurance. Color options were also discussed. The committee recommended light grey with white trim to match the newly installed gutters.

Scott stated that Homestead Land had recently looked at the building to get an idea of the benefits of potential improvements. He shared an email he received back from them stating that the upgrades to the front likely wouldn't add significant value as a new buyer will want to change the building to suit their needs. Jason stated that he had also talked to Don Kracke and he offered a similar opinion.

MOTION #7 was made by Jason Pohlmann, seconded by Dean Roehr to recommend option one and leave any further changes up to staff based on the conditions encountered during construction and proceed with a light grey.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Weichel. **NAY:** Stokebrand **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Katz.

LITTLE INDIAN WFPO AND NEW WFPO APPLICATIONS

Scott reviewed the progress on the Little Indian WFPO project. The NRD has received a 1-year extension to complete the project.

Scott also reviewed the areas for three additional PIFR(s) in Mud, Plum and Wolf-Wildcat Creek watersheds.

NRD PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES REPORT

Pictures of the recent slip lining of Big Indian 9-B were shown. Staff continue to do these projects in-house, resulting in a considerable cost savings to the District.

Scott reported that Blue River Compact closure notices were sent out on Monday.

Two vehicles were damaged in the recent hailstorm. Insurance has been notified.

Staff is working with the City of Crete and DNR to obtain base flood elevation map for a property below Walnut #2. The seller would like to sell lots to build homes. The BFE will determine where those homes could be constructed without affecting the hazard classification of the structure.

Scott reported that Jerry Bucy and Cherri Murphey continue to work with producers and The Nature Conservancy on the Turkey Creek Project.

A camper has been staying at Clatonia without paying. Staff is working with local law enforcement to ban them from all LBBNRD areas for nonpayment.

Scott reported that the FY 2023 audit has been completed. The preliminary draft has been received. Dana F. Cole will present to the board in November or December.

Scott reported that a bathymetric survey is being done on Swan 20, Swan 31 and BI 11B.

FY 2024 BUDGET DISCUSSION AND ACTION

Scott presented an updated budget. He highlighted changes since the last meeting. Scott reviewed the county valuations for FY2024. Dana F. Cole to prepare state budget forms. The county levy is estimated to be 3.8029 cents for a property tax requirement of \$2,595,700.00

Discussion on the budget was held. Scott asked for a motion to approve the FY2024 budget as presented.

MOTION #8 was made by Jason Sand, seconded by Chad Weichel to approve the FY 2024 Budget as presented, with the total Expenditures of \$3,845,976.54; Revenue of \$3,474,585.63; and to hold the Budget Hearing on September 21st at 8:00 a.m. followed by the Levy Hearing. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Kelley, Lorenz, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand, Weichel. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None. **NOT PRESENT:** Katz.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

Kelli Evans reported on the activities of the local NRCS office. Michael Young has been hired as a Soil Conservationist in the Wilber Field office.

EXTENSION OFFICE

No Report.

NRC

Steve reported on the WSF application ranking. He has also forwarded information to the Upper Big Blue NRD.

NARD

Steve reported that their next meeting will be at the annual conference.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Upcoming Meetings, Announcements & Activities:

August 25 – September 4 th	Nebraska State Fair
August 28 th – 30 th	Manager’s Meeting
September 4 th	Labor Day
September 12 th – 14 th	Husker Harvest Days
September 21 st	Budget Hearing 8:00 a.m. Followed by Levy Hearing
September 21 st	NRD Board Meeting – Following Hearings
September 25 th - 26 th	NARD Annual Conference

Being no further business, Chairperson Jason Pohlmann adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Secretary, Jason Sand

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Lower Big 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 August 24, 2023, 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 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 Lower Big Blue NRD Board of Directors Meeting June 5, 2023 for public inspection within ten working days and prior to the next convened meeting for 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.

:amk