

LOWER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
July 21, 2022, 8:00 A.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 north wall of the meeting room for public viewing.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jason Pohlmann at 8:00 a.m.

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

Staff Present: Scott Sobotka, Manager; Teresa Langley, Administrative Secretary; Tyler Weishahn, Assistant Manager; Adam Kimmerling, Administrative Assistant; Nick Schroeder, GIS, IT, Data Specialist; Scott Theis, Operations Supervisor; Jerry Bucy, Special Projects Coordinator; Ryan Thomas, Resources Specialist.

APPROVAL OF JULY 21, 2022, CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Duane Parde, to adopt the Consent Agenda for the July 21, 2022, board meeting with correction of the minutes presented to reflect that chairperson Pohlmann adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m. The consent agenda includes adoption of the agenda as submitted, approval of the June 16, 2022, meeting minutes, financial status report dated June 30, 2022, June and July bills payable, revenues and Beatrice West and Wymore Rural Water financials. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Katz, Kelley, Lorenz, McClintock, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brent Katz asked that the board meeting date be placed on next month's agenda for discussion.

WELL PERMITS, IRRIGATION AGREEMENTS

None

URBAN CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Programs and Projects Committee chair, Larry Barta, stated that the committee met on Tuesday, July 19th to review the Urban Conservation program. The committee reviewed the FY 2023 project applications. The City of Beatrice's application was received in March but was not included in the June project totals. Eligibility of the Village of Jansen application was discussed. A summary of the communities that have participated over the past several years, description of the projects and monies allocated was reviewed. The rules for the program were discussed and the committee questioned if some of the recent projects were partially on private property. For the past couple of years, the installation and cost of the culverts for private property have been approved for funding. Discussion about the application process, application format and contracts

were discussed. Discussion of the need for the projects to be reviewed and communities needing to have a contract in place before they proceed was recommended. The committee recommended that the manager contact the communities regarding their concerns before finalizing the contracts. The committee then took a tour of one of the projects in Diller. After viewing the Diller project and discussing the details of the FY 2023 applications the committee recommended that the project applications submitted this year be funded. The committee will review the Urban Conservation Assistance Program's rules, requirements, application, and contract before the next fiscal year.

Motion by Bob Lorenz to recommend to the full board that the eight applications for a total cost share amount of \$132,269.63 be approved for FY 2023 funding and that the committee review the Urban Cost Share Program's rules, requirements, budget, application, and contract before next fiscal year, seconded by Darrell Rains; Motion Carried by unanimous vote.

Scott reviewed the history of the program with the board. Discussion on ways to improve the effectiveness of the program was held.

MOTION #2 was made by Bob Lorenz, seconded by Steve Kelley, to approve the FY 2023 urban conservation applications. Motion Carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Katz, Kelley, Lorenz, McClintock, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN RULES AND REGULATIONS UPDATE

Nick reviewed the comments from DNR's review of the plan. DNR staff clarified spacing of replacement wells, public water supply wells, and the definition of commingled. No changes were made to the board approved plan following the DNR review.

MOTION #3 was made by Larry Barta, seconded by Jason Sand, to hold a public hearing, as required by Nebraska Revised Statute 46-707, on Thursday August 25, 2022 at 6:00PM at the Lower Big Blue NRD office to hear public comment on the District's revisions to the Groundwater Quantity Rules and Regulations. Motion Carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Katz, Kelley, Lorenz, McClintock, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

HAYLAND BIDS

Adam reviewed the process for bidding hay land at district owned areas. Solicitations for bids were direct mailed to 73 individuals and published in the Beatrice Daily Sun on June 28th, July 5th, and July 12th. Sixteen bids were received with all areas except Clatonia 3-A receiving a bid. Bids ranged from \$26.10 to \$117.55 per acre. Adam asked for a motion to approve the high bids received. Scott reminded the board that the NRD hays these areas for maintenance purposes. Clatonia 3-A will not be hayed since it was hayed in 2021.

MOTION #4 was made by Jason Sand, seconded by Dean Roehr, to approve the high hay bids received. Motion Carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Katz, Kelley, Lorenz, McClintock, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

Scott spoke about Cub Creek 12-A. The area was not solicited due to the ongoing renovation. Scott recommended allowing the neighboring landowner, Brandon Pohlmann, to hay the accessible portions of Cub Creek for 50% of the hay. Brandon will have the option to buy LBBNRD's portion of the hay at a price to be set by the board at the August meeting.

Motion #5 was made by Brent Katz, seconded by Duane Parde, to allow Brandon Pohlmann to hay Cub Creek in exchange for 50% of the bales. Motion Carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Katz, Kelley, Lorenz, McClintock, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

NARD RESOLUTIONS

Scott informed the board that he had no resolutions at this time. Scott stated that the NRD conference will be September 25th-27th in Kearney. Directors were asked to inform Teresa as soon as possible if they plan to attend.

FY 2023 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Scott reviewed items which have been updated in the FY 2023 budget. He noted that the insurance increased by \$3,000 due to the addition of a cyber liability policy. The District continues to work with Inspro on the building and vehicle claims from the June 11th hail storm. Monies received for these claims will be shown as a separate line item on the budget.

Scott recommend that the Budget Hearing be set for September 20th at 8:00 A.M., with the Levy and Property Tax Request Hearing immediately follow the Budget Hearing.

MOTION #6 was made by Jason Sand, seconded by Steve Kelley, that the district hold a public hearing for the proposed FY 2023 budget with a public hearing for the 2023 Levy and Property Tax Request immediately following on September 20th at 8:00 A.M. at the LBBNRD office, and that legal notices for said public hearings be published once on or before September 14, 2022 in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Crete News, Fairbury Journal News and Pawnee Republican. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Katz, Kelley, Lorenz, McClintock, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

NRD ACTIVITIES

Scott reported that the Little Indian WFPO project study is approximately 60% complete. Staff plans to apply for a Water Sustainability Fund grant for \$1,788,300. That is 60% of the NRD share of the land rights and permitting costs.

MOTION #7 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Dean Roehr, that staff apply for a Water Sustainability Fund Grant in the amount of \$1,788,300 to fund part of the land rights and permitting costs. Motion carried.

YEA: Barta, Birkett, Katz, Kelley, Lorenz, McClintock, Parde, Pohlmann, Rains, Roehr, Sand, Skleba, Stokebrand. **NAY:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

Scott spoke about the idea for an NRD funded nitrogen use dashboard. Several other NRD's have expressed interest in developing a tool for producers to use for nitrogen management.

Ryan reviewed a program for reverse osmosis systems through NDEE. The program is funded through the American Rescue Plan Act. The 1.2 million dollars in funding could provide systems to 300 households at approximately \$4,000 per system.

Scott mentioned that Lewiston has requested a letter of support applying for a Nebraska Environmental Trust Grant to help fund a new agricultural education building. Ryan is working with the Lewiston Educational Foundation to provide a letter from LBBNRD.

Electrical was installed at Cub Creek on Tuesday for the camper pads. Summer help has also been installing docks at the area this week.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

The NRCS report was distributed to the directors.

EXTENSION OFFICE

No Report.

FIVE RIVERS R C & D

Bob reported that the committee had not met since the last meeting.


NARD

Steve reported on NARD award nominations.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 29 th – 31 st	-	NRD Managers Meeting – Alma
August 25 th -Sept.5 th	-	Nebraska State Fair
August 25 th	-	Groundwater rules and regs public hearing 6:00, NRD Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Sept. 20 th	-	Budget Hearing, NRD Meeting, 8:00 A.M.
Sept. 13 th -15 th	-	Husker Harvest Days
Sept. 25 th -27 th	-	NARD Annual Conference, Kearney

Being no further business, Chairperson Jason Pohlmann adjourned the meeting at 9:17 a.m.


Secretary, Jason Sand