

**LITTLE BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
**Minutes** **April 12, 2011**

**OPENING OF MEETING – RICHARD KAHMAN**

The directors of the Little Blue Natural Resources District met in regular session on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at the Little Blue Natural Resources District Office, Davenport, Nebraska. Chairman Kahman called the meeting to order at 7:50 p.m.

Kahman led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kahman noted that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meeting Act was posted and available for any one who may want to review the document

Roll call was held.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

**Board members present:**

Michael Allen, Warren Brakhahn, James Cunningham, Ross Fisher, Edward Fleharty, Jeremy Groves, Lyle Heinrichs, Joe Hergott, Marlin Kimle, Sacha Lemke, Tim Pohlmann, Charles Rainforth, John Rieckman, Steve Shaw, Gene Thomas, Randy Uhrmacher and Rich Kahman.

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mike Onnen, Daryl Andersen, Marlene Faimon, Marie Herbek, Phil Odom; Dave Bedlan and Janet Valasek representing the NRCS.

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF OFFICIAL DISTRICT NOTICE PUBLICATIONS**

Legal notice of the regular meeting was provided to the *FAIRBURY JOURNAL NEWS* and the *HASTINGS TRIBUNE*. The agenda was mailed to all board members, radio, television and newspapers in the district and posted at the NRCS offices in the district and the Little Blue NRD office.

**ADOPTION OF BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

Onnen noted that the following change had properly been added to the posted board meeting agenda at least 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting: item #14 e) Projects Committee Report, Other Business, to include Irrigation Project Budget. **MOTION # 1 – Heinrichs moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the corrected agenda for the April 12, 2011 meeting as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

**ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA - ACCEPTANCE OF BOARD MEMBER ABSENCES AND MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2011 BOARD MEETING**

**MOTION # 2 – Thomas moved, seconded by Groves to approve the minutes of March 8, 2011.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

**TREASURER'S REPORT – Joe Hergott**

Copies of the Little Blue NRD Treasurer's Report were circulated. Hergott reviewed the report.

**MOTION # 3 – Hergott moved, seconded by Cunningham to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Hergott reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project Treasurer's Report.

**MOTION # 4 - Hergott moved, seconded by Cunningham to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

Hergott reviewed the Little Blue Public Water Project - South Treasurer's Report. **MOTION # 5 -**

**Hergott moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the report and payment of bills as presented.**

Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

**AGENCY REPORTS**

**NRCS Report – Dave Bedlan**

Bedlan gave a brief report of the activities in the NRCS offices.

**RC&D Report**

No report was available this month.

**STAFF REPORTS – Marlene Faimon**

The staff report was mailed to the Director's earlier. Faimon reviewed the report and answered questions.

**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE REPORT – Tim Pohlmann**

A Water Resources Committee meeting was held March 15, 2011.

**Report on Activities**

Pohlmann reviewed the minutes from the March 15 meeting.

**IRRIGATION TRANSFER PERMITS**

Two Transfer Permit applications were submitted for approval. **MOTION # 6 – Heinrichs**

**moved, seconded by Shaw to approve the groundwater transfer request for Sharon Bondegard from the Southwest ¼ of Section 26-4N-6W to the Northwest ¼ of Section 26-4N-6W but condition the transfer permit such that the applicant agrees that should adverse impacts be experienced by domestic water well owners as a result of the use of the water well associated with the new irrigation transfer, the applicant will work cooperatively with the domestic well owners to seek reasonable remedies which provide a safe and ample domestic water supply.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Allen, Fleharty, Groves, Heinrichs, Hergott, Kimle, Lemke, Pohlmann, Rieckman, Shaw, Thomas, Uhrmacher and Kahman. No: Brakhahn, Cunningham and Rainforth. Absent: Fisher.

**MOTION # 7 – Cunningham moved, seconded by Uhrmacher to table the application for a groundwater transfer for Paul Soucie from the SW1/4 of Section 31-5N-7W to the NW1/4 of Section 31-5N-7W in order to receive additional information about the potential impacts to the domestic water supply of the Village of Deweese. The applicant will be responsible for obtaining such credible information and providing it to the Board.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

**MOTION # 8 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Uhrmacher to not accept any additional well permits for wells located in Section 31-5N-7W until such time as the investigation is completed regarding potential impacts with the domestic water supply for the Village of Deweese.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

## **EDUCATION AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT – WARREN BRAKHAHN**

The Education and Research Committee met prior to the regular Board Meeting.

### **Urban Conservation Award**

The Urban Conservation Award recognizes organizations, groups, communities and individuals for their dedication to urban tree planting, landscaping and recreational projects in and around their community. **MOTION # 9 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Shaw to award the City of Nelson and the Belvidere Women’s Club the 2011 Little Blue NRD Urban Conservation Award** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### **Tree Planter Award**

The outstanding LBNRD Tree Planter Award recognizes individuals, organizations or agencies for their outstanding tree planting efforts.

**Edd and Ethan Epley** from Nuckolls County planted 543 trees since 2004 through CRP. Together they have 21 CRP and CREP contracts totaling 114.9 acres.

**Jerry Keim** from Nuckolls County planted over 1900 trees and shrubs in 2006 and installed 13,760 feet of weed barrier over the plantings.

**MOTION # 10 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hergott to award Edd and Ethan Epley and Jerry Keim a 2011 Tree Planter Award which consists of 50 free trees and a plaque.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### **Farm Photo Awards**

The LBNRD Conservation Farm Photo award recognizes producers that have gone the extra mile in conservation work. They are real stewards of the land and have a commitment to sustaining our soil and water quality.

**Robert and Brenda Janda** was nominated by the Nuckolls County NRCS Office. The Janda’s installed a new terrace and underground system in 2009. A windbreak installed on this same tract in 1993 consisting of 289 trees is in excellent condition yet today. Another windbreak of 337 cedars was also planted in 1991. They have an active CRP contract which is in effect through 2016 and consists of 2.8 acres of wetland and 3.3 acres of buffers.

**Jack Robinson** was nominated by the Jefferson County NRCS Office. Robinson's farm consists of 61.3 acres of cropland of which 49.5 acres are enrolled into several different CRP and CREP contracts. He has converted the rangeland on his property from season long grazing to a prescribed grazing system. Through the EQIP Program a well was installed for livestock water, 3,960 feet of pipeline, 4 livestock water tanks and 5,859 feet of permanent electric cross fences were installed.

**MOTION # 11 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Rainforth to award Robert and Brenda Janda and Jack Robinson the 2011 Farm Photo Award, receiving an aerial photo of their farm.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

### **Scholarship Awards**

The LBNRD offers six \$500 scholarships to qualified students that reside within the District or parents have property in the District. The student must be attending a four year college majoring in a conservation or environmental field and academically be in good standing. **MOTION # 12 – Brakhahn moved, seconded by Hergott to award Jessie Nielsen of Deshler, Joe Grady of Bruning, William Mick of Carleton, Matraca Meyer of Edgar, Jerad Reiman of Lawrence and Keriann Shaw of Dewese a Little Blue NRD \$500 scholarship for 2011.** Carried by roll call vote. Yes: Allen, Brakhahn, Cunningham, Fisher, Fleharty, Groves, Heinrichs, Hergott, Kimle, Lemke, Pohlmann, Rainforth, Rieckman, Thomas, Uhrmacher and Kahman. Abstain: Shaw.

### **PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT – Ed Fleharty**

The Projects and Planning Committee met prior to the regular Board Meeting.

#### **Dam Site 73 Status & Activities**

Onnen presented an update on the status of Dam Site 73. **MOTION # 13 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve staff to solicit bids for the roadway raising, the box culvert and channel modification and construction of the dam.** Motion carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

#### **Prairie Lake Race**

The District has received a request to use Prairie Lake for a running race for Hastings and the surrounding area. **MOTION # 14 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Brakhahn to approve the use of Prairie Lake for a running race and to authorize staff to draft a special-use permit for the race.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

#### **Cost Share for Schoenrock Dam**

DNR contacted Mark Schoenrock of Jefferson County after the inspection of a dam on his property indicated some necessary repairs be made. **MOTION # 15 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Thomas to authorize staff to obtain three bids for the repair of the Mark Schoenrock dam and to contact the landowner regarding the cleanup of trees on his own.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

#### **Crystal Lake Working Agreement**

A Working Agreement with the Village of Ayr was presented for approval. **MOTION # 16 – Fleharty moved, seconded by Rainforth to approve and authorize the signature of the Crystal Lake Working Agreement upon approval by the Village of Ayr.** Carried by roll call vote – 17 yes votes.

