

LOWER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
November 13, 2025
1:30 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 north wall of the meeting room for public viewing.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Duane Parde at 1:31 P.M.

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, Bruce Weise.

Staff Present: Scott Sobotka, Manager; Tyler Weishahn, Assistant Manager; Scott Theis, Operations Supervisor; Ryan Thomas, Resources Specialist; Nick Schroeder, GIS/IT/Data Specialist.

Others Present: Tim Alfs, Alfs Well Drilling.

CONSIDERATION OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

None

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 13, 2025, CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 was made by Steve Kelley, seconded by Doug Stokebrand, to adopt the Consent Agenda for the November 13, 2025, Board Meeting, which includes: adoption of the agenda as submitted, approval of the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes, financial status report dated October 31, 2025, October 2025 revenues, and expenditures; Beatrice West and Wymore Rural Water financials. Motion Carried.

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tim Alfs addressed the Board about a situation where two 80 acre parcels have been historically irrigated by one well. The owner of the parcel where the well is located has chosen to discontinue irrigating the neighboring parcel.

Scott shared that Darrell Rains passed away November 2, 2025. Darrell served on the Board from 2007 to 2024.

WATER COMMITTEE REPORT

Chad reviewed the minutes of the November 12th Water Committee meeting. Nick presented fall water levels to the Board.

MOTION #2 was made by Steve Kelley, seconded by Dean Roehr, to approve the Groundwater Quantity Rules and Regulations Revisions and establish that these rules and regulations shall become effective on the 15th day of December 2025, and shall remain in full force and effect until revised, repealed, amended, or superseded. On that day, all previous groundwater quantity rules and regulations shall henceforth be superseded. Motion Carried.

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

WATER WELL PERMITS, IRRIGATION AGREEMENTS

Tyler presented a replacement well permit for a municipal well for the Village of Swanton.

MOTION #3 was made by Larry Barta, seconded by Bruce Weise, to approve the replacement well permit for the Village of Swanton. Motion Carried.

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

LITTLE INDIAN WFPO STATUS AND SCOPE OF SERVICES AGREEMENT

Scott noted that a letter regarding the project has been sent to landowners in the watershed. In addition to WFPO program funds, Staff are seeking a Congressionally directed spending allocation to help fund the estimated \$29 million project.

Scott presented a Scope of Services provided by JEO Consulting to assist with permitting and design updates. The estimated cost is \$132,000.00 and would be paid utilizing an existing WSF award meaning the District would be responsible for 40% of that cost.

MOTION #4 was made by Chad Weichel, seconded by Larry Barta, to authorize the Manager to sign the Scope of Services agreement with JEO for the Little Indian project. Motion Carried.

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

CLATONIA CREEK 319 PROJECT SCOPE OF SERVICES AGREEMENT

Scott presented a Scope of Services provided by JEO Consulting to assist with design and permitting for the Clatonia Creek 3A project. The services agreement is for \$49,900.00

MOTION #5 was made by Rod Skleba, seconded by Chad Weichel, to authorize the Manager to sign the Scope of Services agreement with JEO for the Clatonia Creek 319 project. Motion Carried.

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

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dean reviewed progress on the new office and shop construction. He noted that the next Building Committee meeting will be November 25th.

RESOLUTION FOR BENEFITS PLAN

Scott informed the Board that the NARD Benefits Committee has approved adding a ROTH option to the 457 Plan. A Roth option will provide employees with the option to make elective after tax contributions. A resolution needs to be signed by each of the 23 NRD's.

MOTION #6 was made by Steve Kelley, seconded by Dean Roehr, to authorize the Chairman to sign a resolution to add a Roth option to the NARD 457 Plan. Motion Carried.

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

Scott also mentioned that the NARD Benefits Committee has voted to add Blue Vision to the NARD plan. The coverage will replace the current \$250 per year benefit.

NRD PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES REPORT

Scott Theis presented pictures of a recently completed slip lining project at Plum 2E.

Scott Theis also presented estimates for repair of Plum 4A. Scott received an estimate to do a cast-in-place lining which was approximately \$30,000 more than the estimated cost of a Snap-Tite liner. The landowner has agreed to pay half that difference to avoid draining the lake and keep the fishery intact.

Scott noted that staff are working with representatives from Tallgrass Energy to negotiate the crossing of NRD easements by the project.

Scott stated that the deadline for Nitrogen Reduction Applications is November 15th. The State will then review the applications and determine if additional funding is available to extend the program.

NRCS/NRD MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Scott presented an updated Memorandum of Understanding. This process must be done every five years to maintain the partnership between the two agencies.

MOTION #7 was made by Doug Stokebrand, seconded by Chad Weichel, to authorize the Manager to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Motion Carried.

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

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

Scott reported that the Federal Government opened today.

EXTENSION OFFICE

No Report

NRC

Steve reported that the next meeting will be held February 25, 2026.

NARD

Steve reported that neither he nor the NARD alternate could attend the meeting in Scottsbluff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

Scott reminded the Board that Larry Moore is retiring as the Nebraska Citizen Advisor to the Blue River Compact Committee. He requested that anyone interested in serving or nominating someone to serve contact him.

- a. November 18th - Integrated Management Plan annual meeting
- b. November 27th & 28th - Thanksgiving Holiday-Office Closed
- c. December 11th - Board Meeting 1:30 p.m.

Being no further business, Chairperson Duane Parde adjourned the meeting at 2:48 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 November 11, 2025, 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 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.

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