

LOWER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
April 09, 2026
7:00 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 north wall of the meeting room for public viewing.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Chad Weichel at 7:00 P.M.

Directors Present: Larry Barta, Ryan Birkett, Brent Katz, Steve Kelley, 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; Adam Kimmerling, Office Administrator; Nick Schroeder, GIS/Data Specialist; Scott Theis, Operations Supervisor; Brandy Scholl, Gage County NRD Secretary and Programs Assistant.

Directors Absent: Bob Lorenz

Others Present: Mark Weers, Ethan Weers, Kelli Evans.

CONSIDERATION OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

MOTION #1 was made by Dean Roehr, seconded by Rodeny Skleba, to excuse Bob Lorenz from the April 9th board meeting. Motion carried.

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

APPROVAL OF MARCH 12, 2026 CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #2 was made by Duane Parde, seconded by Brent Katz, to adopt the Consent Agenda for the April 09, 2026, board meeting which includes: adoption of the agenda as submitted, approval of the March 12, 2026, meeting minutes, financial status report dated March 31, 2026, March 2026 bills payable, March 2026 revenues, monthly bank account summary and Beatrice West and Wymore Rural Water Financials. Motion carried.

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mark Weers addressed the Board regarding the rules and allocation in sub area 9.

WELL PERMITS, IRRIGATION AGREEMENTS

The following well permits received this month meet all District rules and regulations:

- LBB-1190 – SE ¼ Section 9-6N-4E. The permit is in sub-area one.
- LBB-1191 – SE ¼ Section 9-6N-4E. The permit is in sub-area one.
- LBB-1192 – SENW ¼ Section 31-5N-2E. The permit is in sub-area four.
- LBB-1193 – SWSE ¼ Section 30-4N-2E, The permit is in sub-area four.

Discussion was held on the well permits.

MOTION #3 was made by Steve Kelley, seconded by Jason Pohlmann, to approve well permits LBB-1190, LBB-1191, LBB-1192, and LBB-1193. Motion carried.

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

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dean updated the Board on the building project and reviewed the minutes of the March 25th progress meeting. Progress on concrete pours, interior framing drywall, and windows was discussed. There is also an issue in the lobby where the duct work installation conflicts with the vaulted ceiling in the plans. Fakler Architects and Rogge will need to remedy this error. The Board was shown a design for exterior signage. The sign was designed by Precision Signs of Bruning. Dean stated that the company would like to meet with the building committee to finalize the sign. The total cost is estimated to be around \$25,000 and would come from the I&E budget over two years.

MOTION #4 was made by Steve Kelley, seconded by Doug Stokebrand, to allow the building committee to and approve the notice to proceed. Motion carried.

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

NRD PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES REPORT

Scott stated that recreation areas will open for the season on April 16th

Staff have decided to cancel the fishing derby due to low water levels.

Scott presented a postcard which was mailed to owners and producers in sub areas 3, 7, and 9 which reminds them of the availability of Producer Connect and flow meter cost share.

Trees are expected to be delivered on April 16. The District has sold over 10,500 trees and has 16 machine plant jobs.

Staff sent an NSWCP news release out this week.

Scott noted that cast in place liner has been completed on Plum 4-A.

Concrete has been poured at the mitigation project below Swan 31 to reduce the low opening of the structure and allow the hazard classification to remain unchanged.

Scott presented possible dates for budget meetings.

Scott talked about the recommendations from the Water Quality Task Force. They established 14 goals relating to water quantity and quality.

Scott noted that the Blue River Compact meeting will be held May 6th in Beatrice. He has not heard anything on the appointment of a new Nebraska advisor.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND NARD WASHINGTON, DC ANNUAL MEETING

Scott reported on the Washington D.C conference and items of interest in the Nebraska Legislature.

BOARD AUTHORIZATION TO ATTEND STATE ENVIROTHON

Adam shared the results of District contests. Tri County was the Southeast region winner and also qualified for a wildcard spot. The state contest will be held April 29th at Prairie Loft near Hastings. Bob Lorenz has indicated that he would like to help with Envirothon.

MOTION #5 was made by Dean Roehr, seconded by Larry Barta, to authorize per diem and expenses for Bob Lorenz to attend State Envirothon. Motion carried.

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

NARD BASIN TOUR

Scott stated that the basin tour will be June 8th & 9th in North Platte. Directors should let Adam know if they wish to attend.

BEATRICE AND WYMORE RURAL WATER COMMITTEE REPORTS

Adam reviewed the minutes from the committee meetings held March 16th.

Adam noted that Administrative costs for 2025 have been figured at \$8,000. Administrative costs cover both in office and field staff time for sampling, maintenance and operation. The cost to install the radio read meters was \$5,600.00 The total due to the NRD for administration, operation, and installation of meters from the project for 2025 is \$13,600.

Rule revisions recommended by the committees were reviewed with the Board.

Discussion was held on the proposed changes.

MOTION #6 was made by Dean Roehr, seconded by Rodney Skleba, to approve the Beatrice West rules as proposed. Motion carried.

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

MOTION #7 was made by Bruce Weise, seconded by Jason Sand, to approve the Wymore Rural Water rules as proposed. Motion carried.

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

Brandy presented two forfeitures to the Board. Wymore Project rules provide that a benefit unit is subject to forfeiture after it has been unpaid for six months. Benefit unit 220 has not been paid since January of 2023. Benefit unit 515.01 has not been paid since March of 2023. Both pits are non water users and have been recommended for forfeiture by the Wymore Rural Water Advisory Committee.

MOTION #6 was made by Brent Katz, seconded by Larry Barta, to forfeit benefit unit #515.01 of the Wymore Rural Water project. Motion carried.

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

MOTION #7 was made by Jason Sand, seconded by Duane Parde, to forfeit benefit unit #220 of the Wymore Rural Water project. Motion carried.

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

PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Scott reviewed status of applications for both the Watershed Protection Position and NRCS clerk. Interviews for the watershed protection position are scheduled for next Monday.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

Kelli Evans reported on the activities of the Gage County NRCS office.

EXTENSION OFFICE

No Report

NRC

Steve reported that their next meeting will be April 29th in Kearney

NARD

Steve reported that their next meeting will be during the basin tour in June.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

April 24 th	-Arbor Day
April 29 th	-Nebraska State Envirothon – Hastings
May 6 th	-Blue River Compact Meeting -Beatrice
May 14 th	-NRD Board Meeting
May 16 th	-Swan 5 Family Fishing Day
May 25 th	-Memorial Day – Office Closed
June 8 th - 9 th	-NARD Basin Tour – North Platte
June 11 th	-NRD Board Meeting

Being no further business, Chairperson Chad Weichel adjourned the meeting at 8:27 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 April 9, 2026 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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