LOWER BIG BLUE NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
November 12, 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 Wiechel at 7:00 P.M.

Directors Present: Larry Barta, Ryan Birkett, Steve Kelley, Bob Lorenz, Matt Mason, Duane Parde, Jason Pohlmann, Dean Roehr, Jason Sand, Rodney Skleba, Doug Stokebrand, Bruce Weise, Chad Weichel.

Staff Present: Scott Sobotka, Manager; Tyler Weishahn, Assistant Manager; Adam Kimmerling, Office Administrator; Scott Theis, Operations Supervisor; Nick Schroeder, GIS/IT/Data Specialist.

Others Present: Kelli Evans, NRCS District Conservationist, Gage County.

CONSIDERATION OF EXCUSED ABSENCES

None

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 8, 2026, CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION #1 was made by Duane Parde, seconded by Dean Roehr, to adopt the Consent Agenda for the November 12, 2026, Board Meeting, which includes: adoption of the agenda as submitted, approval of the October 9, 2026 meeting minutes, financial status report dated October 31, 2026, October 2026 revenues, and expenditures; Beatrice West and Wymore Rural Water financials.

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

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

WATER WELL PERMITS, IRRIGATION AGREEMENTS

None

GROUNDWATER RULES AND REGULATIONS DISCUSSION

Scott reviewed a summary of irrigated acres compiled by the NRD's.

Scott shared a news article highlighting comments by the Nemaha and Lower Big Blue NRD's to the Gage County Planning and Zoning Commission regarding large water user provisions.

Tyler updated the Board on the drilling of a new monitoring well in Sub-area 7.

Scott asked about possible dates for a water committee meeting before the end of the year. The committee needs to meet to discuss the review of AEM data by Olsson, fall water levels, and possible rule revisions.

Phase II quality trainings are currently planned for February 23rd in DeWitt and February 24th in Beatrice

LITTLE INDIAN WFPO UPDATE

Scott reviewed progress on surveys and wetland delineations. The project has been divided into groups. The current project schedule calls for 90% design of the first group to be completed in November 2027.

ONE RED AG DATA BANKS AND GRANTS PROGRAM

Scott reviewed a new ONE RED brochure. Training dates for staff were also reviewed.

CONSIDERATION OF NINE COUNTY MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE FUNDING

Scott stated that in consideration of a request for information and clarification from FEMA, the applications budget has been modified to remove in-kind contributions. Scott noted that a new commitment letter and updated application will need to be signed.

MOTION #2 was made by Jason Pohlmann, seconded by Dean Roehr, to sign a new commitment letter and updated application for the nine county hazard mitigation plan.

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

BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dean reviewed the minutes of the October 22nd building committee meeting and todays building committee meeting. Rogge has switched from a full roof replacement back to repair. The committee met today with representatives from S & Sons Inc. who has submitted a proposal for the repair. The committee is still waiting on a written document from NUCOR that the 20 year weathertightness warranty would be honored if the proposed fixes are completed.

MOTION #3 was made by Dean Roehr, seconded by Steve Kelley, to allow the building committee to authorize the contractor to proceed with the proposed remediation plan pending legal review, consultation and appropriate documentation.

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

Dean stated that in order to receive federal green energy tax credits for the geothermal HVAC system, Geary Engineering and Fakler Architects need to work on an energy audit and reimbursement application. The submittal is expected to cost $10,000.00 with approximately $60,000.00 being reimbursed to the NRD for the energy efficient system.

MOTION #4 was made by Dean Roehr, seconded by Rodney Skleba, to allow Geary Engineering and Fakler Architects to submit the application for reimbursement on behalf of the NRD at a cost of approximately $10,000.00

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

NRD PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES REPORT

Scott reviewed election results. All current board members retained their positions.

Scott Theis reported that staff plans to line three structures this fall.

Staff are working on fencing projects with the landowners near Cub 12-A and Plum 3-C

Scott noted that the Districts RCPP application was not approved, however, staff will modify the application and reapply next fiscal year.

Scott reviewed NACD dues. Currently, the NRD has $1,776.00 budgeted but the membership tier has increased meaning that a $2,500.00 contribution would be needed to stay at the current level.

Scott noted that the District received $2,000 in funding for the Turkey Creek Streamguage from Nutrien.

Scott also shared that NARD 55th anniversary appeal ordering is now open.

Staff shared pictures of a recent water line break which resulted in a boil notice on Beatrice West. That boil notice has been lifted.

Scott state that the Homestead Conservation and Trail Association has contacted the NRD about hooking up to the Wymore Rural Water Project east of Blue Springs. The association currently has a hookup near Holmesville. They have an agreement to pay seven months of base for the current pit and have asked for the same with the new pit. Scott will have that on next month's agenda for consideration.

AGENCY REPORTS

NRCS

Kelli reported that the NRCS continues to work on design and staking of EQIP jobs as well as ranking of 2027 applications.

EXTENSION

No Report

NRC

Scott reported that the Lower and Upper Big Blue will caucus in January. This is generally done following the January Board meeting at a central point for both NRDs, most likely the caucus will be held in Milford on January 12th.

NARD

Steve noted that he attended the NARD meeting this week and reviewed a history prepared by Dean Edson prior to his retirement. The summary covers items of note in his 29 years of service as Executive Director. He also reviewed the financial status of the NARD.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 26th & 27th	-	Thanksgiving – Office Closed
December 10th	-	Board Meeting 1:30 p.m.
January 12th	-	Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.
		Caucus in Milford to follow.

Being no further business, Chairperson Chad Weichel adjourned the meeting at 8:42 P.M.

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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 12, 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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