

April 9, 2020
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Chair Bill Niedfeldt called the five hundred thirty-eighth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:04 p.m. Thursday, April 9, 2020, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska, and via telephone conference call. Niedfeldt briefly reviewed the meeting procedures prior to the initial roll call. He instructed everyone to state their name before speaking, including during roll call votes.

DIRECTORS	Lisa Beethe	*Doug Iske	Alan Romine
PARTICIPATING:	Rob Bohling	Jon Keithley	Don Siske
	Jessica Donnelly	Robert Lassen	Eldon Snoke
	Randy Fox	Tim Loseke	Mike Speece
	Jim Gerweck	Michael McDonald	Dan Stukenholtz
	Orval Gigstad	Russel Moss	Duane Sugden
	Dan Hodges	*William Niedfeldt	Kevin Thorne

STAFF *Bob Hilske, Manager
PARTICIPATING: Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
*Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager

GUESTS Roger Reichmuth, NRCS, Tecumseh
PARTICIPATING:

*Present at the meeting location; all other attendees were on conference call.

Chair Niedfeldt read the following public meeting announcement: This meeting of the Nemaha NRD Board is being held in accordance to Executive Order 20-03 issued on March 17, 2020 by the Governor of Nebraska which provides a limited waiver to State Statute 84-1409 allowing the use of video and teleconference to hold public meetings; all other requirements in the Open Meetings Act still apply to this meeting. The public is being allowed to access this meeting via tele-conference; however, they will be limited to listening to the meeting. The Open Meetings Act allows political sub-divisions to hold occasional meetings without allowing public comment; therefore, for the ease of holding this meeting, no public comment will be accepted.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of Publication was presented and is on file.

3. **EXCUSED ABSENCES – NONE**

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

Staff and guests, both in person and on conference call, introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

Iske moved, seconded by Romine, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on consent agenda.

6. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Iske moved, seconded by Keithley, to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted.

Following discussion on two of the expenditures, **motion carried on consent agenda.**

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hilske reviewed his report. Nelson briefly reviewed his report.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Reichmuth reported on their current working status within their offices. They are working on CSP renewals, and they have had 179 CRP renewals throughout their five offices. They are getting ready to start EQIP rankings.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden had nothing to report; their next meeting would be held via teleconference.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported the state and national Envirothon competitions had been cancelled. Some other meetings were in limbo as well.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

McDonald reported they have had no meetings or communications.

9. **WELL PERMIT APPLICATIONS**

Wingert reviewed the permits received:

Permit#	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N730	Cory Snethen	NE¼SE¼ Section 18-01-16, Richardson Co.	300	Irrigation	215
N731	Talbott Family	NE¼NE¼ Section 26-03- 14, Richardson Co.	600	Irrigation	306
N732	Talbott Family	SE¼NE¼ Section 26-03-14, Richardson Co.	600	Irrigation	307

Iske moved, seconded by Keithley, to approve well permit applications N730, N731, and N732. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Donnelly, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

10. **ENWRA GEOCLOUD AGREEMENT ATTACHMENT 1 & INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT 6**

Hilske explained that these will extend both current agreements through June 30, 2022.

Iske moved, seconded by Gerweck, to approve the ENWRA GeoCloud Agreement Attachment 1 and Interlocal Agreement Amendment 6. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Donnelly, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

11. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ON COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANS**

Hilske reviewed the proposed facility closure and staffing plan. Iske expressed that he would agree with closing the restrooms, playgrounds, and picnic shelters but not the camping at the parks. McDonald asked what procedure would be used to reverse any of these phases if they are enacted. Hilske replied that we would ease them back when that time comes. Hilske explained that we're planning to close the restrooms, playgrounds, and picnic shelters on Monday, April 13.

Iske moved, seconded by Fox, to approve the COVID-19 park operation plan. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Donnelly, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT VOTING: Siske

Hilske explained his proposal to provide 100 hours of additional, emergency leave to cover time off that is associated with COVID-19 but not eligible for the 80 hours of federal sick leave. The federal sick leave combined with the additional 100 hours would provide enough leave to get by until the next board meeting, if necessary. Stukenholtz felt the 100 hours was excessive. Beethe pointed out that the 80 hours of federal sick leave is very restrictive. Stukenholtz asked that the 100 hours be capped. McDonald questioned how this would affect the budget and what options might be available for staff to work at home. Hilske felt much of the work could not be done from home, particularly those performing field work.

Iske moved, seconded by Stukenholtz, to approve the COVID-19 facility closure and staffing plan and grant employees up to 100 hours of emergency leave in addition to the required federal sick leave. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Donnelly, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

Hilske explained the reason for a statement that park permit fees would not be refunded during any park closure. He did not rule out the possibility but suggested the board wait until the pandemic subsides to make any decisions.

Iske moved, seconded by Fox, that the NRD is not planning to provide refunds if the park facilities are limited or closed and no additional action will be considered until the pandemic is over. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Donnelly, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

12. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON POTENTIAL CASH FLOW/FINANCING

Hilske reviewed a cash flow projection and explained that it appears we will not need temporary financing based on the projections. No action.

13. PLAN FOR UPCOMING BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Hilske explained the options for next month's board meeting and committee meetings. Because there is not a quorum at committee meetings, they could be held via Zoom or another video conference method and could be on a different date. There was some discussion about different methods of holding the next board meeting. Staff will investigate different options and update the board in early May.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAY MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

The next meeting will be May 14, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. with committee meeting schedules to be announced.

15. CONSENT AGENDA

Iske moved, seconded by Donnelly, to approve the consent agenda. Consent agenda items: Minutes, Treasurer's Report. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Donnelly, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

16. ADJOURNMENT

Iske moved, seconded by Gigstad, to adjourn. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Donnelly, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Approved 5/14/20

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District