

February 9, 2017
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Vice-Chair Dan Hodges called the five hundredth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:02 p.m. Thursday, January 12, 2017, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	Lisa Beethe	Doug Iske	Mike Speece
PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Tim Loseke	Dan Stukenholtz
	Jim Gerweck	Michael McDonald	Duane Sugden
	Orval Gigstad	Russel Moss	Kevin Thorne
	Dave Guhde	William Niedfeldt	
	Dan Hodges	Don Siske	

DIRECTORS	Jenny Kearney	Jon Keithley
ABSENT:	Alan Romine	

STAFF	Bob Hilske, Manager
PRESENT:	Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Charlie Pierce, Water Resources Technician

GUESTS	Patsy Wing, Shubert	Jim & Lisa Rush, Tecumseh
PRESENT:	Richard Wing, Shubert	Andrew Rieschick, Dawson
	Roger Reichmuth, NRCS, Tecumseh	Roy Rieschick, Falls City

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Hodges announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted at the back of the room.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of Publication was presented and is on file.

3. **OATH OF OFFICE**

Directors requiring oath of office were not present at this meeting.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS TO FILL BOARD VACANCIES IN SUBDISTRICTS 1 & 8**

Hilske explained how the process would work to appoint someone to fill these vacancies. One person had expressed interest in each position, but neither were present. Therefore, the board decided to wait until next month to take any action on filling the vacancies. Any additional applications would also be considered next month. No action.

5. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Siske moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the excused absences requested by Jenny Kearney and Jon Keithley. Motion carried on consent agenda.

6. **OPEN FORUMS**

All NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

7. **MINUTES**

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

8. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sugden moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion carried on consent agenda.

9. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hilske reviewed his report. He also reviewed some of the recent legislative activities. Nelson reviewed his report. (Both reports are filed with the minutes.)

10. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Reichmuth provided a written report adding that they should be approving some EQIP funds next week. He reviewed some staffing changes and closed by expressing his appreciation for Glenda Bates, the clerk in their office, as she approaches her retirement date on February 28.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported that their bee pollinator grant was not approved. RC&D has been approached about sponsoring a farmers market, and they discussed future plans for the Doc Gigstad race. They also asked if a tour of Duck and Buck Creek could be arranged in conjunction with one of their upcoming meetings.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported on the changes to the tree and recreation websites, which are now part of the NARD's website. The budget will include a four percent dues increase. Shrub sales have outnumbered tree sales recently. He also reported on the NACD meeting in Denver that he recently attended. Nebraska's bid to host the 2020 National Envirothon in Lincoln was accepted.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Hilske relayed that Steve Sugden reported that their next meeting would be February 22 in Kearney.

11. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. **Programs & Projects Committee**

1. *Review/Action on Well Permit Application:*

Permit#	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N685	James M. Rush	SE¼ SE¼ Section 12-2-15, Richardson Co.	150	SSD Irr.	334
N686	James M. Rush	NW¼ SE¼ Section 12-2-15, Richardson Co.	150	SSD Irr.	341
N689	Nemaha NRD	Duck Creek Rec Area-NW¼ SE¼ Section 11-6-14, Nemaha Co.	80	Public Supply	208

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve well permits N685, N686, and N689. Following information provided by Wingert on the wells, **motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

ABSTAINING: Siske

NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

2. *Update on Staff Meeting with District's Attorney Regarding Shubert Water Supply Well:*

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to go into closed session to protect the public interest and to discuss advice and comments from the District's attorney related to the Shubert well interference issue. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Siske, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

The board went into closed session at 8:02 p.m.

Sugden moved, seconded by Gerweck, to return to regular session. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Siske, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

The board returned to regular session at 8:30 p.m.

3. *Request by Shubert to Pay the Cost to Perform Start-up Protocol for their Community Well:*

Sugden moved, seconded by Gerweck, not to pay the costs to perform the start-up protocol for Shubert's community well. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Siske, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

4. **Review 2016 Data Collected from Shubert Wells:** Wingert reviewed the data that was provided to the board. It included information about the surrounding irrigation wells and the water that was applied during the season, Shubert's public water supply wells, graphs of the water levels, and contour maps.

B. Operations & Education Committee

1. **Review Urban Special Project "Intent to Apply" Applications:** Loseke reviewed the six applications received which included outdoor education projects and pond rehabilitation. Applicants will now be contacted to review which components of their projects qualify for potential funding, and final application packages will be due for the May board meeting.
2. **Update on FY2017 Urban Special Projects:** Loseke reviewed the current projects from Auburn Public Schools (greenhouse), Johnson Brock Public Schools (outdoor classroom/greenhouse), Village of Shubert (native landscaping), Lewiston Public Schools (outdoor classroom). All projects are underway with deadlines of June 1.
3. **Bids to Drill Water Supply Well for Duck Creek Recreation Area:** Seven contractors were provided with bid packages, and two bids were received (both below engineer's estimate):

Sargent Drilling, Geneva	\$25,500.00
Rieschick Drilling, Falls City	\$28,737.75

Loseke moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the bid of \$25,500.00 submitted by Sargent Drilling for the public water supply well at the Duck Creek Recreation Area. Pierce reviewed the other five contractors who received bidding materials. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Siske, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

4. **Review Duck Creek Recreation Area Construction Activities/Timeline:** Loseke briefly reviewed the timeline of events planned for completion of the recreation area plans at Duck Creek. Hilske added that we did not get the grant for the playground equipment and associated items but that they were still in the plans.
5. **Potential Plans to Address Recreation Area Demand During August, 21, 2017, Solar Eclipse:** Loseke explained that Kirkman's Cove and possibly even Iron Horse Trail Lake would be within the prime viewing area for the upcoming eclipse. The

office has already had one request to use an area at Kirkman's for viewing. Staff suggested coming up with a plan since it appears there may be increased interest in camping that weekend. No action was taken but directors were encouraged to contact staff with any questions or comments prior to next month so that a plan can be developed and advertised soon.

C. **Executive Committee**

1. ***Letter to DNR on District's Plans for Developing Integrated Management Plan:***
Niedfeldt explained that we would be waiting 18 months while we collect additional data and then revisit options for submitting the plan. A proposed letter to submit to DNR outlining these plans was provided to directors for their review. Hilske further explained that the purpose of the letter is to ensure the District is in a position to apply for Water Sustainability Funds between now and the time an IMP is completed.

Niedfeldt moved, seconded by Beethe, to send the proposed letter to DNR agreeing to work with them to continue to collect the appropriate data and meet with DNR in 18 months to determine the best course of action towards developing an Integrated Management Plan for the Nemaha Basin and asking that the NRD be declared eligible to apply for Water Sustainability Funds. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Siske, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

2. ***Update on Land Rights Acquisition Plan for Upper Big Nemaha 25C Project:***
Niedfeldt reported that a six-month extension has been granted for obtaining the land rights. Nelson reviewed the land rights situation and the landowners involved. He added that the final design is behind schedule as well. He is hoping to have the land rights secured by the end of June.
3. ***Agreement Extension for ENWRA Project:*** Hilske explained that this agreement extension is to allow the group to create a GeoCloud to store the data collected in a place so that it is accessible to all cooperating agencies. Water Sustainability Funds were approved for the project, and the required matching funds will come from the annual dues paid by each of the NRDs involved.

Niedfeldt moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the ENWRA Interlocal Cooperative Agreement to develop a GeoCloud Program. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Siske, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

12. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, MARCH MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

The next board meeting will be on Thursday, March 9, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

13. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Sugden moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the consent agenda. Consent agenda items: Excused Absences, Minutes, Treasurer's Report. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Siske, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Siske moved, seconded by Thorne, to adjourn. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Siske, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Kearney, Keithley, Romine

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District