

July 12, 2018
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Dan Hodges called the five hundred seventeenth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, July 12, 2018, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Lisa Beethe	Jon Keithley	Mike Speece
	Rob Bohling	Michael McDonald	Dan Stukenholtz
	Jim Gerweck	Russel Moss	Duane Sugden
	Orval Gigstad	William Niedfeldt	Kevin Thorne
	Dan Hodges	Alan Romine	
	Doug Iske	Eldon Snoke	

DIRECTORS ABSENT:	Dave Guhde	Robert Lassen	Don Siske
	Jenny Kearney	Tim Loseke	

STAFF PRESENT:	Bob Hilske, Manager
	Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
	Kerri Miller, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS PRESENT:	Steve Sugden, Adams
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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. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Sugden moved, seconded by McDonald, to approve the excused absences requested by Dave Guhde, Jenny Kearney, Tim Loseke, and Don Siske. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

All NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

7. STAFF REPORTS

Hilske reviewed his written report. Nelson reviewed his written report.

8. AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**A. Natural Resources Conservation Service**

A written report was distributed to all board members.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported their budget is looking very good. They have a household hazardous waste grant as well as an invasive weed grant and electronics collection grants. He announced dates for the hazardous waste collections in the area.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported that they are looking for volunteers for Husker Harvest Days. The registration for the annual conference is now open too.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Steve Sugden reported on their upcoming meetings which will all be in Kearney. He talked about the funds available and what happened with the cuts in the budget. He also reviewed the funding process.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES**A. Programs & Projects Committee**

- 1. *Request from Otoe County to Assist with Culvert Replacement:*** Gerweck explained the problem and circulated some photos. The Committee had a lot of unanswered questions and, therefore, wanted more information. They were concerned about what precedents might be set by any action the board might take. No action.
- 2. *Well Permit Applications:*** None.
- 3. *Discussion on Groundwater Rules Changes:*** Wingert explained that his plan is to summarize everything the board and Committee have talked about over the past year and distribute to all board members via email.
- 4. *Report on 6/27/18 Future Projects Meeting:*** Nelson reviewed the topics that were discussed at the meeting. He included the Turkey Creek project, Honey Creek project, Muddy Creek project as something to look into further. They also talked about the current projects underway such as Upper Big Nemaha 25C and the sediment basins at Duck Creek and Kirkman's Cove. He reviewed the four areas the board identified as

priorities for future consideration which were the Kirkman's Cove sediment basin, working with counties on road issues due to stream downcutting, landowner conservation and wildlife habitat programs, and future plans for Prairie Owl Recreation Area. Beethe asked if they talked about more education for irrigators on best management practices. McDonald agreed that we need to have more education in this area. No action.

B. Operations & Education Committee-No meeting

C. Executive Committee

1. ***Discussion on District's Late Payment to Employee Retirement Program:*** Hilske explained that by mistake the contributions to the employee retirement program had not been forwarded to the third-party administrator for the past four months. A payment for those months plus June was submitted as soon as the error was discovered. He checked with our investment advisor for the fund, and it appears almost all the investments actually decreased during this time period, so employees were not negatively impacted. He added that he wanted the board to be aware of this in the event any questions arose. No action.

10. FY2019 BUDGET

- A. ***Budget Committee Report:*** Hilske reviewed some potential projects to include in the budget. He also outlined the requirements for operating the District on a day-to-day basis. Because of the discussion on increasing conservation work, Hilske asked the board to consider setting an amount to include in the budget for the SWCP program this year. There was some discussion on the need for conservation work funding and the possibility of a program to cost-share on cover crops. Bohling added that he felt it is a good time to cut where we can.

Beethe moved, seconded by Gigstad, to include \$150,000 in the FY19 budget for the SWCP program. There was discussion about the number of applications, dollars requested, and practices allowed. McDonald expressed concern about whether the work done is maintained. Hilske pointed out that approving the funds now would allow us to proceed with approval of summer applications since we do not yet have confirmation of State funding. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NAY: McDonald

NOT PRESENT: Guhde, Kearney, Lassen, Loseke, Siske

- B. ***Consideration of 1% Increase in Restricted Fund Allowance:*** Hilske explained the purpose of the additional 1% increase and that it does not result in an increase in the amount of property taxes collected. He added that a 75% affirmative vote of the entire voting body (which would equal 16 votes) is required to approve the increase. There was some discussion on the restricted fund allowance versus cash reserve and the actual

property taxes collected. Several directors expressed their support for the increase as a means of insuring greater flexibility in the future should a large or emergency project come up.

Beethe moved, seconded by Sugden, to increase the restricted fund allowance by 1%. Motion failed due to lack of 75 percent affirmative vote.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NAY: McDonald

NOT PRESENT: Guhde, Kearney, Lassen, Loseke, Siske

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS, AUGUST MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

The next meeting will be August 9 at 8:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the regular meeting. Sugden requested that the 1% increase in restricted funds allowance be placed on the August agenda for reconsideration. McDonald asked for a breakdown that shows the projected income for the next three years.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Guhde, Kearney, Lassen, Loseke, Siske

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Guhde, Kearney, Lassen, Loseke, Siske

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Approved 8/9/18

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District