

July 11, 2019
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Bill Niedfeldt called the five hundred twenty-ninth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:05 p.m. Thursday, July 11, 2019, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT:	Jessica Donnelly	Robert Lassen	Mike Speece
	Jon Keithley	Tim Loseke	

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

GUESTS PRESENT:	Roger Reichmuth, NRCS, Tecumseh
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Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Niedfeldt 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. **APPLICATIONS FOR FILLING BOARD VACANCY IN SUBDISTRICT 5**

Hilske explained that one person had sent in a letter of application. However, the packet of information about the meeting that was mailed to him a week ago did not reach him until the day of the meeting, which was too late for him to attend. Board consensus was to wait until next month to make the appointment so the board could meet the applicant in person. No action.

4. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Siske moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the excused absences requested by Jessica Donnelly, Jon Keithley, Robert Lassen, Tim Loseke, and Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. **OPEN FORUMS**

NRD directors and staff introduced themselves. Niedfeldt announced that guests have the option to introduce themselves at this time, and by doing so their names would be included as part of the meeting minutes.

6. **MINUTES**

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

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

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

9. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Reichmuth provided a written report and reported on EQIP, CRP, and CSP.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported that the electronics collections would take place on Saturday with the one in Johnson County located at the County Shop from 10-1.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported on the recent board meeting where the budget was approved. They also chose the award winners for this year, discussed ways to increase tree sales, and reviewed advertising planned on NET. He also reported on the NACD regional meeting held in Gothenburg last month which included sessions on the different areas that were flooded throughout the state.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

McDonald stated their next meeting will be at the end of August and that Water Sustainability Fund applications are due this month.

10. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. *Exceeding Allowable NRD Cost-Share for Haug Small Dam:* Nelson reviewed three different scenarios for cost-sharing on this project resulting in the NRD's share ranging from 50% to 78% of the total.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Gigstad, to provide 75% cost-share for engineering, permitting, and construction costs for the Haug small dam and to

authorize exceeding the \$60,000 maximum cost-share. McDonald asked about discrepancies on the contractor's estimate versus the engineer's estimate. Nelson explained the difference in the pipe specs for each estimate. After further discussion on the cost estimates, **motion carried.**

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

2. ***NRD Funds to Include in NSWCP Cost-Share Program:*** Kuhl explained that last year we budgeted \$150,000 in NRD funds to supplement the State funds. For this year if the board wanted to assure enough funding to approve all the summer applications, \$100,000 would be adequate. Hilske added that if the budget allows, additional funds could be included prior to finalizing the budget. Action would be required now to allow approval of summer applications.

Sugden moved, seconded by Bohling, to include \$100,000 in the FY2020 NRD budget for the SWCP cost-share program. Motion carried.

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

3. ***Well Permit Applications:*** One application was received as follows:

Permit#	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N718	James D. Nielson	NE¼ SE¼ 28-5-12, Johnson Co.	600	Irrigation	251

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve well permit No. N718 for James D. Nielson. Motion carried.

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

4. ***Firth Observation Well Lease Renewal:*** Wingert reviewed the lease terms and the options to consider. The committee had recommended a lease of 15 years instead of 10 years and directed staff to contact the landowner with this option and report back to the board.
5. ***Proposed Kirkman's Cove Lakeview Golf Course Drainage Plan:*** Nelson explained how the sediment basin is affecting the course. The golf course is asking for 50 percent up to \$15,000 to install a levee and drainage system to protect the course and drain any water that does end up on the course. The committee's recommendation was to wait and see how the budget comes out to determine if there is room in the

budget to fund any or all of this request. It was pointed out that any work they do would not interfere with the future construction of a new sediment basin. No action.

6. **Request for Assistance to Repair the Mittelberg Dam near Cook:** Nelson explained the request to help replace the riser and outlet pipe in this privately-owned structure. He estimated it could be a \$50,000 project and that the landowner was asking for 50 percent cost-share. The committee felt there was not enough room in this year’s budget to consider this request and that they would need more information. No action.
7. **Update on Groundwater Rules, Projects, & Other Programs:** Gerweck reported that they reviewed a draft of the changes, which was about 85 percent complete. The final draft may be completed by the August board meeting.

B. Operations & Education Committee – No meeting

C. Executive Committee

1. **Quotes for Installing Concrete Floor in Duck Creek Maintenance Building:** Two quotes were obtained for installing the concrete floor:

Contractor	Quote
Mahoney Concrete, Tecumseh	\$7,830.00
Pieters Construction, Auburn	\$9,270.00

McDonald moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the quote of \$7,830.00 from Mahoney Concrete to install the concrete floor in the maintenance building at Duck Creek Recreation Area. Hilske pointed out that 65% of the cost would be covered by the grant we have for this project. After some discussion, **motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Speece

2. **Update on FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan & Grant:** Hilske explained the purpose of the plan and the timetable for the grant application. He added that we are trying to get this done as soon as possible so it is available to communities who were affected by the recent flooding.
3. **Final Draft of District’s Annual Plan:** McDonald provided some suggestions for editing and finalizing the plan, which will be made available for approval next month. Hilske talked about the need to also update our Master Plan in 2021. No action.
4. **Director/Staff Recognition Event:** McDonald explained that this would be an opportunity to recognize staff and directors. Hilske suggested it could involve a meal before the September board meeting with staff invited. More details will be provided next month.

5. *Pending Meeting with Nebraska Equal Opportunity Commission Regarding Discrimination Claim:*

McDonald moved, seconded by Sugden, to go into executive session to protect the public interest as provided in State statute and update the board on a discrimination claim filed against the District. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Speece

The board went into executive session at 9:32 p.m.

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Speece

The board returned to regular session at 9:40 p.m.

11. **FY2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Hilske reviewed the budget summary which currently showed a deficit of \$39,555. He then reviewed some items that had been changed since last month. Beethe expressed concern about reducing the cash reserve back to \$400,000. Romine was concerned about removing the vehicle purchase from the budget and its effect on the replacement schedule. Bohling questioned if any of the watershed repairs could be delayed. Miller stated she is working on getting more accurate numbers to help finalize some areas in the budget.

Hilske then reviewed the purpose of the additional one percent for the restricted fund adding that it does not increase the actual budget itself.

Sugden moved, seconded by Hodges, to increase the restricted fund an additional 1% for the FY2020 budget. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Speece

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

The next meeting will be August 8, 2019, at 8:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the regular meeting.

13. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Speece

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 p.m.

Approved 8/8/19

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District