

June 9, 2016
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Steve Sugden called the four hundred ninety-third meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:15 p.m. Thursday, June 9, 2016, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	Lisa Beethe	Jenny Kearney	Don Siske
PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Jon Keithley	Dan Stukenholtz
	Jim Gerweck	Tim Loseke	Duane Sugden
<i>*Left early</i>	Orval Gigstad	Michael McDonald	Steve Sugden
	Dave Guhde	Russel Moss*	Kevin Thorne
	Dan Hodges	William Niedfeldt	
	Doug Iske	Alan Romine	

DIRECTORS Charles Duryea
ABSENT: Mike Speece

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

GUESTS Richard Wing, Shubert
PRESENT: Patsy Wing, Shubert
Roger Reichmuth, NRCS, Tecumseh

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Sugden 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**

Siske moved, seconded by D. Sugden, to approve the excused absences requested by Charles Duryea and Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

All NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

D. Sugden moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted.

Some questions were addressed regarding insurance work to NRD properties and a towing bill for an NRD pickup. **Motion carried on consent agenda.**

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hilske reviewed his report. Nelson reviewed his report. (Both are filed with the minutes.)

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Reichmuth provided a brief review of activities during the past month which included trying to get compliance work done. He reported that the CRP sign-up was fairly low.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

D. Sugden was unable to attend their last meeting but reported that a pasture tour was scheduled for the end of June.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported their meeting would be in York on June 13 followed by the basin tour. He also reported on the NACD Northern Plains Regional meeting he attended recently.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

S. Sugden reported they will meet June 27-28 and talk about how to distribute the RDF funds and vote on the Sediment and Erosion Control Act rules.

9. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Programs & Projects Committee

3. ***Request for Easement Release on Upper Little Nemaha 63:*** Nelson explained that the easement originally included 286 acres, but only 140 would be needed to satisfy our requirements.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the release of an easement with Donald & Carol Wachter on Upper Little Nemaha 63 and authorize the manager to sign it. After some discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Kearney, Keithley, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece

4. *Request to Extend Deadline for NRD Maintenance on Jim Everett Structure:*

Nelson explained that the original easement which required the District to provide structural maintenance to this cost-share dam for 25 years expires in 2017. Jim Everett, a new owner of the structure, requested the District extend this agreement since he has little knowledge of how to properly maintain the structure. It was pointed out that we have many similar cost-share structures but few with maintenance responsibilities.

Gerweck moved, seconded by D. Sugden, to allow the maintenance requirements on the Jim Everett structure easement to expire in 2017 as written. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Kearney, Keithley, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece

1. *Potential Revisions to Groundwater Rules Updates:* Gerweck reported on the items discussed by the committee (list filed to minutes). However, they were not yet prepared to make any recommendations. Wingert briefly reviewed some of the information they discussed. He also discussed the possibility of using telemetry, which the committee felt should be considered down the road. A problem identified by the committee was the lack of reliable and correct information. They will continue to work on the boundaries for individual groundwater regions. They are also working on a plan of what needs to be done and when in order to get new rules in place as soon as reasonably possible. No action.

2. *Review/Action on Well Permit Applications:* None.

B. Operations & Education Committee-No meeting.

C. Executive Committee

1. *Proposal for FY2017 Property & Liability Insurance:* Hodges reviewed the proposal and the five percent premium increase.

Hodges moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the quote of \$44,534 from The Harry A. Koch Co. for property, liability, and workers compensation insurance for fiscal year 2017. It was pointed out that our agent, Carl Bibb, sold his company (Dunbar Peterson) to The Harry A. Koch Co. but is still representing us. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Kearney, Keithley, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Moss, Speece

2. ***FY2017 Staff Salary Schedule:*** Hodges reported that the committee reviewed figures and recommendations from the Manager, and they were recommending increasing the base salaries for seven positions. This results in an overall increase for based-staff of 4.9 percent. Hilske reviewed the other options for adjusting based staff which includes merit and service increases. The increases recommended for non-based staff were 4.5 percent. Across the board this would be a 4.8 percent increase. Steve Sugden commented that a lot of other NRDs do not have staff that have been around as long as ours and the benefit that provides. He questioned if there is a way to adjust long-term employees without increasing base salaries. Duane Sugden commended the staff for their work.

Hodges moved, seconded by Gerweck, to approve the recommendation for salary adjustments as presented. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Kearney, Keithley, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Moss, Speece

3. ***Richardson County Emergency Management FEMA Buyout Grant:*** Hodges reviewed the situation facing Richardson County and the need to find a governmental entity to take ownership of the proposed properties in and near Rulo. Because their grant application was due the following week, they were requesting an answer from the NRD at this meeting.

Hodges moved, seconded by Gerweck, not to accept ownership of the flood prone properties in and near Rulo. D. Sugden asked what alternative would be available if the NRD does not accept ownership. Hilske reviewed the request in more detail, but he did not know if they had another option available since the County was not willing to accept the properties. Niedfeldt pointed out that since this is voluntary, only part of the properties would be sold; and we would be required to maintain them if we accepted them rather than perhaps converting the property to a wetland if all of it were sold. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Kearney, Keithley, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Moss, Speece

4. ***Establish a Budget Committee:*** S. Sugden asked for volunteers to sit with him on this committee, which generally meets two or three times at the most. Dan Stukenholtz, Dan Hodges, and Mike McDonald volunteered.

10. FY 2017 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mahoney briefly reviewed the reports provided and what information was available at this time. Hilske added that we have some revenues still coming in and that most of the items in the preliminary budget were based on last year's figures. He also reviewed some of the major project areas in the budget. S. Sugden questioned whether we have any projects that would qualify for Water Sustainability Funds. Hilske replied that we have had interest for several potential projects but nothing ready at this time.

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

Hilske announced that Unadilla had invited someone the District to a dedication on June 25 of their trail project, which received Urban Special Project funding. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 14, at 8:00 p.m.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

D. 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, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Kearney, Keithley, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Moss, Siske

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Kearney, Keithley, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Moss, Siske

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Approved July 14, 2016

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District