

November 12, 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 forty-fifth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:08 p.m. Thursday, November 12, 2020, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	Lisa Beethe	Robert Lassen	Don Siske
PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Tim Loseke	Eldon Snoke
	Randy Fox	Michael McDonald	Dan Stukenholtz
	Jim Gerweck	Russel Moss	Duane Sugden
	Dan Hodges	William Niedfeldt	Kevin Thorne
	Doug Iske	Alan Romine	

DIRECTORS	Jessica Donnelly	Jon Keithley
ABSENT:	Orval Gigstad	Mike Speece

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

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. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Beethe moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve the excused absences requested by Orval Gigstad and Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. STAFF REPORTS

Hilske reviewed his report. Nelson reviewed his report.

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

A written report was distributed.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported they did not have a meeting in October.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

No report.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

McDonald reported that they met October 28 and approved Water Sustainability Fund applications including one for the Peru water project. He added that there were only seven applications.

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

1. Well Permit Applications: None.

2. Discussion on Landowner Concern Regarding 300 Point Permit Requirement:

Wingert reviewed a map of the area in Richardson County where well permit applications must score at least 300 points to be approved. He suggested that some adjustment could be made based upon some information from the Conservation and Survey Division.

3. Discussion on 2020 Master Plan Update: Gerweck reported the committee continued to discuss the plan. No action.

B. Operations & Education Committee

1. 2021 Steamboat Trace Reopening Alternatives: Hilske reviewed a map showing the different areas requiring work and some possible options for reopening different sections of the trail. He explained that this plan would allow the north half to be opened with staff working on it sometime in the spring-summer time frame. The flood-prone section would not be repaired until the levee is repaired near Peru, but efforts would be made to make it passable. The major areas of repair would be done late next summer. Hilske stressed that this plan does not commit any funds for the major resurfacing project but simply puts a timeline in place for opening parts of the trail. There was additional discussion about the District's liability if someone would get hurt on the trail and the amount of staff time required to improve parts of the trail.

Romine moved, seconded by Gerweck, to approve the proposed repair and reopening plan for the Steamboat Trace. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne

NAY: Moss, Stukenholtz

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

2. **2021 NRD Park Fee Schedule:** Romine reported that the committee discussed raising electrical camping fees but to leave the park permit fees at their current amount.

Romine moved, seconded by Gerweck, to raise the electrical RV camping fees to \$16 at all parks effective January 1, 2021. Romine added that the park permit fees were in line with other areas so they were not changed, but the camping fees were generally lower. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Hodges, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NAY: Iske, McDonald

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

3. **Developing a Park Use Survey:** Romine reported the committee again discussed the survey and would be looking into options for doing an online survey. No action.
4. **Revisions to NRD Park Rules/Policy:** Romine reported the committee reviewed the issues presented and specifically discussed the policy for use of handicapped camping sites.

Romine moved, seconded by Lassen, to provide direction to staff for using designated handicapped camping sites as follows: occupants must have a valid, state-issued disabled permit; persons without disabled permits may use a handicapped site if all other non-handicapped sites are occupied at the time of camper registration. There was some discussion about use of UTVs in the parks with general consensus not to allow their use at this time. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT VOTING: Beethe

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

5. **2020 Master Plan Update:** Romine reported the committee finished reviewing and updating their portions of the plan.

C. Executive Committee

1. **Report/Discussion on Peru Floodplain Buyout Plan:** Hilske provided some explanation of the potential role that the NRD might take in this plan. The committee did not show interest in participating in the property buyout, but the NRD could be a partner with Peru in developing the property for public use once the City has purchased it. No action.
2. **Resolution Adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan:** McDonald reviewed portions of the plan and the need for developing a drought management plan. Hilske then reviewed the different components of the plan and the section specifically for the Nemaha NRD. He explained that the resolution presented was for the NRD to approve its section of the plan so that once FEMA approves the entire plan our section will be effective as of the date of the resolution.

Romine moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve the resolution adopting the Nemaha Natural Resources District Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

3. **Selection of Nominating Committee for Board Officer Elections:** McDonald asked for at least three volunteers for this committee. Niedfeldt volunteered to serve. Others interested were asked to notify either Niedfeldt or the staff.

10. DISCUSSION/ACTION ON MANAGER SEARCH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

McDonald moved, seconded by Beethe, to go into closed session at 8:40 p.m. to protect the public interest and review the qualifications and job performance of persons being considered for the General Manager position and prevent needless injury to the reputation of those persons. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

Sugden moved, seconded by Lassen, to return to open session at 9:30 p.m. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

McDonald moved, seconded by Lassen, to give the Search Committee the authority to offer the general manager position to the candidate they determine is the most qualified within the salary constraints provided in the District's budget. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

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

The next meeting will be December 10, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meeting schedules to be announced.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

13. ADJOURNMENT

Sugden moved, seconded by Gerweck, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Donnelly, Gigstad, Keithley, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Approved December 10, 2020

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District