

April 12, 2007
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Ted Godemann called the three hundred eighty-fourth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:05 p.m. Thursday, April 12, 2007, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	John Albrecht	Roland Meyer	Bruce Walker
PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Jim Rush	Dan Watermeier
	Lisa Beethe	Steve Sherrow	Paul Weber
	Orval Gigstad	Don Siske	Tom White
	Ted Godemann	Mike Speece	Jim Wirth
	Ron Heskett	Chuck Starr	
	Scott Kudrna	Duane Sugden	

DIRECTORS Jeff Crunk
ABSENT: David Hunzeker

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

GUESTS Terry Newell, NRCS, Tecumseh
PRESENT:

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed. Chair Godemann announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall at the back of the room.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of Publication was presented and is on file.

3. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

White moved, seconded by Kudrna, to approve the excused absences requested by Jeff Crunk and David Hunzeker. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

All directors, NRD staff, NRCS staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. **STAFF REPORT**

Hilske & Nelson reviewed their written reports. Wingert also reviewed a few water related issues on his report.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Terry Newell reviewed his written report. He also reviewed the status of the Hemje site. He also reported on the funding for CSP in the new farm bill and the field office closings in other parts of the state.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Kudrna reported on the Household Hazardous Waste collections scheduled for the next month. He also reported on the funding status of RC&D.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported that the basin tour will be in June in the Lower Platte basin.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Watermeier reported that they are getting close to offering some Resource Development Fund guidelines to the Department.

E. Water Policy Task Force Report

Sugden provided minutes and reported on their last meeting. He thought it was a very productive since their time was not taken up by discussing how to raise money.

9. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. Proposed Contract with JEO Consulting for Muddy Creek Watershed:

Sherrow moved, seconded by Meyer, to approve the Phase 2 Big Muddy Creek Watershed contract agreement between the Nemaha NRD and JEO Consulting Group for a total cost not to exceed \$148,240.00. Hilske pointed out that the NRD, Nebraska Environmental Trust, landowners, and Nemaha county would be sharing in this cost. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Albrecht, Bohling, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Speece, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

ABSTAINING: Beethe

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Hunzeker

2. *Selection of Muddy Creek Advisory Group:*

Sherrow moved, seconded by White, to authorize the establishment of the Big Muddy Creek Advisory Group and authorize the group to provide recommendations and advice to the Board of directors on the following three issues: establishing critical sub-basins for implementing grade control structures; establishing a prioritization and ranking system for potential structures; making decision on funding issues; and other topics as assigned by the board of directors. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Speece, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Hunzeker

Sherrow moved, seconded by Siske, to appoint the following to the advisory group: Dave Dunekacke, Randall Rippe, Duane Caspers, Laverne Gerdes, Rob Bohling, Jim Rush, Mike Speece, and Tom White. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Beethe, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, Wirth

ABSTAINING: Bohling, Speece, White

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Hunzeker

Sherrow expressed appreciation to the Task Force members who were not chosen for the Advisory Group for their contributions.

B. Water Resources Ad-Hoc Committee

1. *Eugene Wiese Request for Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:*

Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the variance request from Eugene Wiese for the issuance of a well permit to drill a well one mile northeast of Adams for irrigation. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Speece, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Hunzeker

2. *Craig Behrends Request for a Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:*
Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the variance request from Craig Behrends for the issuance of a well permit to drill a well five miles southwest of Auburn for irrigation. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Speece, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Hunzeker

C. Operations & Education Committee

1. *Envirothon: Request for State Contest Sponsorship for Norris School:*
Siske moved, seconded by White, to sponsor the Norris Envirothon team by providing their \$100 registration for the state contest. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Speece, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Hunzeker

D. Executive Committee

1. *Update on Landowner Request to Release Water from County Road Structure near Lorton:* Hilske reported on his meeting with the Otoe County Attorney and the NRD's attorney. Hilske suggested revising the agreement with the County to reflect how the project turned out. He also suggested assigning the easement to the County. Starr questioned whether it might be more appropriate to draft a new agreement instead of revising the original one. Hilske replied he would look into that option and report back to the board next month.
2. *Update on Process to Report Travel Expenses to the Board:* Kudrna reported that currently the District does not have a policy for travel expenses beyond the budget. Hilske will draft something based on some information received from other Districts. No action.
3. *Update on Legislative Activity:* A listing of current bills of interest was provided.

4. **Update on Washington, DC, Trip:** Kudrna felt it is imperative that a board member attend this trip because a board member brings a lot of credibility to the meetings when you say you are representing the voters. He encouraged other directors to consider attending future meetings.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, MAY MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

Hilske reminded directors of the deadlines to register for the basin tour. Godemann stated the next meeting would be May 10 at 8:00 p.m.

11. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

AYE: Albrecht, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Speece, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth
NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Hunzeker

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Kudrna moved, seconded by White, to adjourn. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Speece, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth
NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Hunzeker

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, May 10, 2007, at 8:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

(Approved 5/10/07)

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District