

August 11, 2011
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Beethe called the four hundred thirty-fifth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, August 11, 2011, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	John Albrecht	Ted Godemann	Duane Sugden
PRESENT:	Charles Bausch	Wayne Goering	Steve Sugden
	Lisa Beethe	Dave Guhde	William Umland
	Rob Bohling	Scott Kudrna	Bruce Walker
	Orval Gigstad	William Niedfeldt	Paul Weber
	Mike Gilson	Don Siske	Tom White

DIRECTORS	Charles Duryea	Dan Watermeier
ABSENT:	Mike Speece	

STAFF	Bob Hilske, Manager
PRESENT:	Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
	Allison Caspers, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS	Anna Ferguson, NRCS, Tecumseh
PRESENT:	Judy Albrecht, Nebraska City
	Carol Sisco, The Pawnee Republican

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed. Chair Beethe 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**

White moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the excused absences requested by Charles Duryea and Dan Watermeier. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

All NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

7. STAFF REPORT

Hilske reviewed his written report. Nelson reviewed his report. Nelson then reviewed the Muddy Creek Project final report. Caspers gave a brief update on the SWCP program from both last fiscal year and the new approvals and funds this year. Hilske reviewed what is likely the final draft of the Master Plan.

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

Anna Ferguson reviewed their report and what their staff have been busy doing. Layout of cost-share is a big push right now. They are busy with CRP contracts; only 32 of the 102 contracts offered in Johnson County were approved. She explained the TIP program for beginning farmers to lease CRP acres that were not re-approved.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Kudrna reported they are looking at options to raise revenue, and they are still doing projects. They have contacted all the counties now asking for additional funding. One option they are looking at as a revenue source is waste management.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported that NACD finally has a new CEO. The NARD annual meeting is coming up in Kearney, and the NRDs will have a booth at the state fair and at Husker Harvest Days. During a recent legislative conference in Washington, DC, there was a motion to require landowners to have a conservation plan and be in compliance in order to qualify for federal assistance. However, it did not pass.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

The next Commission meeting won't be until late September. No report.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES**A. Programs & Projects Committee*****1. Interlocal Agreement with Nebraska Department of Roads to Renovate Brownell 1-5A:***

Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the interlocal agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads for renovation of Brownell 1-5A. After some discussion about the terms of the agreement, **motion carried.**

AYE: Albrecht, Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Weber, White

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece, Watermeier

2. ***Ranking & Approving Dams for FY2012 Small Dams Program:*** Weber explained the process for ranking dams and that the landowner with the highest one on the list had decided not to do it at this time. The only other application considered was for a dam on the Eldon Busboom property which actually is within the Lower Big Blue NRD but its drainage is within the Nemaha.

Weber moved, seconded by Godemann, to contribute \$10,000 toward the Eldon Busboom small dam project. Kudrna asked for an explanation of why we are participating in this project which is not in our District. It was explained that the project benefits land in our District and that it has not been unusual to cross borders for similar projects. Hilske added that we would probably provide our cost-share directly to the landowner and would not serve as the contracting agent for the project. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Albrecht, Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Weber, White

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece, Watermeier

3. ***Well Permit Applications:*** Weber reviewed the permit received from Olmsted Family Farms for an irrigation well with a capacity of 1,000 gpm.

Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the permit submitted by Olmsted Family Farms for an irrigation well four miles west of Tecumseh. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Weber, White

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece, Watermeier

B. Operations & Education Committee – No meeting

C. Executive Committee

1. ***Five Rivers RC&D Request to Increase NRD Dues:***
Bohling moved, seconded by Siske, to increase the NRD's annual dues to the Five Rivers RC&D to \$1,000. Bohling explained that the committee felt this was a

reasonable increase for now, but if the NRD could help with any projects during the year, we will. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Weber, White

NAY: Niedfeldt

NOT VOTING: Albrecht

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece, Watermeier

2. ***Options for Adjusting Sub-district Boundaries Based on 2010 Census:*** Hilske reviewed the procedures for drawing sub-district boundaries and provided three options for eight of the ten sub-districts. He further explained that Nebraska City posed a problem for the current directors since the only option that would maintain the current two directors per sub-district was somewhat confusing. If no other options are available, the board would need to select one of the three options for the eight sub-districts and pair it with one of the three options for the Nebraska City area sub-districts. The goal is to narrow the choices to one option at next month's meeting so it can be advertised and then voted on at the October meeting. No action.
3. ***Plans for Obtaining Mitigation Easements with the Buck Creek Project:*** Hilske reviewed the plans for these easements. Most of the area needed may be obtained from one landowner. No action.
4. ***Voting Delegates for NARD Annual Conference:*** Gigstad stated he would be unable to attend the Annual Conference this year. Siske will attend and serve as the voting delegate; however, someone else must serve as the alternate. Beethe and Duane Sugden both indicated they may attend but would have to check schedules before committing. A final decision on the alternate will be made by the September board meeting so NARD can be notified in advance.
5. ***Request to Allow Steve Bartels Continuous Annual Leave Beyond Two-Weeks:*** **Bohling moved, seconded by Siske, to allow Steve Bartels to take continuous annual leave beyond the two-week maximum.** Hilske explained that Bartels would be participating in a mission project and had plenty of annual leave to cover the approximately three weeks he is requesting. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Albrecht, Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Weber, White

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece, Watermeier

10. FY2012 BUDGET

Hilske reviewed the potential cuts needed to balance the budget. The committee did not want to raise the tax levy and wanted any extra funds to be dedicated to the Buck and Duck projects. They wanted to reduce some operations costs particularly in the contracted consulting services and make sure we are using as much of our own staff as possible for some of these services. Kudrna compared our increase in tax collections of 1.7 percent last year to the proposal for a 5 percent increase this year and what we were able to do with the increased funds last year. There was discussion about using any extra funds for Buck and Duck Creek versus lowering the levy. An email from Dan Watermeier was circulated asking that the board consider budgeting additional funds towards the Buck and Duck Creek project and, if necessary, increase tax collections to do so. Kudrna suggested that the District needed to budget an additional \$150,000-\$200,000 for Buck and Duck Creek but did not want to see more than a five percent increase in tax collections; so the balance would need to be made up with a reduction to expenditures. Board consensus was to do this, and if valuations come in higher than the five percent, the levy would be lowered accordingly. The Budget Committee agreed to meet prior to the budget notice going out if necessary to balance the budget and make changes.

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

The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 8, at 8:00 p.m. with committee meetings and budget hearings prior to the board meeting.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

AYE: Albrecht, Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Weber, White

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece, Watermeier

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

AYE: Albrecht, Bausch, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Gilson, Godemann, Goering, Guhde, Kudrna, Niedfeldt, Siske, D. Sugden, S. Sugden, Umland, Walker, Weber, White

NOT PRESENT: Duryea, Speece, Watermeier

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be Thursday, September 8, 2011, at 8:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

Approved September 8, 2011

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District