

February 14, 2008
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Ted Godemann called the three hundred ninety-fourth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:05 p.m. Thursday, February 14, 2008, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	John Albrecht	Ron Heskett	Duane Sugden
PRESENT:	Lisa Beethe	David Hunzeker	Bruce Walker
	Rob Bohling	Roland Meyer	Dan Watermeier
	Jeff Crunk	Jim Rush	Paul Weber
	Orval Gigstad	Don Siske	Tom White
	Ted Godemann	Chuck Starr	Jim Wirth

DIRECTORS	Scott Kudrna	Mike Speece
ABSENT:	Steve Sherrow	

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 Siske, to approve the excused absences requested by Scott Kudrna and Steve Sherrow. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

All directors, NRD staff, NRCS 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 & Nelson reviewed their written reports. Wingert reviewed his report and also discussed the status of the Groundwater Management Plan and associated timelines.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Terry Newell provided his written report and briefly reviewed the status of their budget, since they don't have a farm bill right now. He also reported that their new forester, Jay Seaton, had started.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

No report.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported that David Wolf had been hired to replace Kody Schrader, who recently resigned. He added that NARD is considering hiring another person as well. Nebraska raised \$3,125 for the NACD Capitol Court Campaign, which Gigstad presented to NACD at the annual meeting earlier that week in Reno. This year's basin tour will be in the North Loup basin.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Watermeier stated that a lot of their discussion continued to center on the Resource Development Fund. He has testified on the legislative bill to increase the fund.

E. Water Policy Task Force Report

Sugden reported their next meeting would be February 19 in Lincoln.

9. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. *Agreement with Flatwater Group for Iron Horse Reservoir Restoration Plan:*
Walker moved, seconded by Meyer, to approve the agreement with The Flatwater Group to complete the plan and designs for restoration of the Iron Horse Trail Lake reservoir. NDEQ will provide 60 percent or \$87,000 and NRD will provide 40 percent of the cost for this planning. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

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

2. *Contract Amendment with JEO Consulting for Design of 4 Muddy Creek Dams:* **Walker moved, seconded by Meyer, to enter into a contract amendment with JEO Consulting to provide design for four dams in the Muddy Creek Watershed. Motion carried.**

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

- 3-5. *Project Agreements with Diane McGuire, Daniel & Elizabeth Hill, and Dennis & Bonita Schuster to Act as Contracting Officer and Provide Funding Assistance for Dam Construction Projects:* Project locations/descriptions are as follows: Diane McGuire-2 miles west of Steinauer; Daniel & Elizabeth Hill-2 miles northwest of Falls City; Dennis & Bonita Schuster-2 miles east of Lewiston.

Walker moved, seconded by Rush, to enter into project agreements with Diane McGuire, Daniel & Elizabeth Hill, and Dennis & Bonita Schuster to act as contracting officer and provide funding assistance on the construction of dams on their properties as listed in each agreement. Nelson explained that the NRD will provide up to \$10,000 per project, which will come out of the small dams budget next year and will supplement the federal funding these landowners are receiving for their projects. There was some discussion about how contractors will be selected for these jobs. **Motion carried.**

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

6. *Request to Allow Horses in Mitigation Easement Area at UBN 27-R:* Walker explained the landowner, Greg Carpenter, had met with the committee and felt his realtor had not provided him with all the information about this area. However, the committee agreed that the NRD could not allow horses in this area since it would violate the terms of the easement. No action.

B. Water Resources Committee

1. *Review Draft Groundwater Management Plan Revisions:* No action. Wingert hoped to have a draft for review in March.
2. *Delwin Antholz Request for a Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:* No action was taken on this request so that more information could be obtained.
- 3-7. *Requests for Variances to Allow Issuance of Well Permits:*
White moved, seconded by Wirth, to approve the following requests for variances to allow issuance of well permits for irrigation: Mike Bean-2 wells 3 miles southeast of Nebraska City; David Benson-1 well 3 miles northeast of Sterling; Twin Sycamore Farms-1 well 2.75 miles west of Sterling; Lee Thimgan-1 well 2 miles southwest of St. Mary and 1 well 2 miles northwest of Vesta. Motion carried.

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

C. Operations & Education Committee

1. *Bunge Corporation Annual Lease of Steamboat Trace Trail Property near Brownville:*
Siske moved, seconded by Albrecht, to approve the annual lease with Bunge Corporation for a portion of the Steamboat Trace trail near Brownville with an increase of three percent. Siske explained that the lease allows up to three percent increase each year and that it had not been increased for the past couple of years. Therefore, the lease will increase from \$566.50 to \$583.50. **Motion carried.**
- 2-7: *Urban Special Project Program Pre-Applications:* The following pre-applications were received:

<i>Applicant</i>	<i>Amount Requested</i>	<i>Project Description</i>
Nebraska City	\$8,250	Wildwood Park Native Species/Outdoor Classroom
Nebraska City	\$25,000	Wildwood Pond Restoration

Falls City	\$25,000	Stanton Lake Trail & Lake Enhancement
Pawnee City	\$1,500	Benches for City Fishing Pond
Pawnee City	\$1,100	Benches along city trail
Freeman School	\$9,250	Outdoor Classroom

Siske explained that the committee reviewed each application to determine if they met the basic criteria of the program. After review, the committee determined that the two applications from Pawnee City did not fall under any of the priority guidelines set in the policy. All other applications meet the requirements; and applicants will be contacted to proceed with preparing their final, more detailed applications to be reviewed by the board in May for final approval and potential funding.

D. Executive Committee

- 1. Legislative Review:** Gigstad reported that the committee had reviewed a listing of the bills, which were provided to all directors for their review. No action.
- 2. Review Plans to Replace Explorer:** Gigstad stated bids will be obtained for consideration at the March meeting for a replacement vehicle. No action.
- 3. Procedure for Selecting Appraiser for Buck and Duck Creek Watershed:** Gigstad reported the committee recommended that the Manager and Chair review the applications and determine how many are qualified. If several are received, then a committee would be appointed to help with the interview process to recommend one to the board in March for approval. There was some discussion about the qualifications required and the type of appraisal required. No action.

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

Wingert announced that we have received first round approval for our flow meter Environmental Trust grant. Godemann reminded directors that the March meeting will return to its regular time of 8:00 p.m.

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

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, March 13, 2008, at 8:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

(Approved 3/13/08)

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District