

January 10, 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-third meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 10, 2008, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS	David Hunzeker
ABSENT:	Mike Speece

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

GUESTS	Doug Teten, Talmage
PRESENT:	Justin Linder, NRCS, Pawnee City

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. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Wirth provided the report of the nominating committee. All previous officers had agreed to have their names on the ballot for re-election. The floor was opened for additional nominations. With no additional nominations received for any of the positions, results of the secret ballots were as follows:

Chair: Ted Godemann – 16 votes
Vice-Chair: Scott Kudrna – 16 votes
Secretary/Treasurer: Duane Sugden – 17 votes
NARD Representative: Orval Gigstad – 18 votes
NARD Alternate: Lisa Beethe – 19 votes

NARD Risk Pool Board Representative: Orval Gigstad – 18 votes

NARD Risk Pool Board Alternate: Lisa Beethe – 17 votes; Don Siske-2 votes

4. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

White moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the excused absences requested by David Hunzeker and Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. **OPEN FORUMS**

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

6. **MINUTES**

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

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

8. **STAFF REPORT**

Hilske & Nelson reviewed their written reports. Hilske also reviewed in more detail the potential timeline for the Duck and Buck Creek projects. Directors were reminded of the upcoming Washington, DC, trip, NARD Legislative Conference, and election filing deadlines. Committees will also be redrawn for the next meeting, so anyone wishing to change committees was directed to notify staff or the Chair prior to the next meeting. Hilske added that NRCS may not do anything with Wilson Creek 8-H until 2009 because of budget constraints.

9. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Justin Linder, Resource Conservationist in Pawnee City, introduced himself and provided some background on his education and work experience. He reported on EQIP contracts signed compared to those that were not approved due to lack of funding. A new NRCS forester will begin in February to take the place of Phil Jones, who recently left to take another job.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Kudrna stated their meeting would be the next week. He updated the board on the LEAD program, years of service recognition for RC&D members, and an upcoming EDGE class in Syracuse. They should have dates set for the used computer collection by next month.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reminded directors of the Legislative Conference stating he felt there would be some big issues to discuss this year, particularly regarding water.

1. NACD Capitol Court Campaign:

Gigstad moved, seconded by Sugden, to send \$300 to the NACD Capitol Court

Campaign. Gigstad explained that NACD's building in Washington was in need of repairs and that this contribution would help protect and maintain the building. He suggested that \$200 of the donation be designated for the Past Presidents campaign and \$100 in memory of Olin Sims, former NACD president who passed away in December.

Motion carried.

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

NAY: Rush, Starr

ABSTAINING: Crunk

NOT PRESENT: Hunzeker, Speece

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Watermeier reported that their November meeting had a lot to do with funding. He has been pushing hard to ask the Legislature for more money for the Resource Development Fund. He and some other members met with the Governor, whose main concern was where the money would come from. They would ask to increase the fund from \$3.4 million to \$11.6 million.

E. Water Policy Task Force Report

Sugden stated in an email received that day, Ann Bleed had reported that both the Middle and Upper Republican NRDs had adopted integrated management plans.

10. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Water Resources Committee

2. Doug Teten Request for Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:

Weber moved, seconded by White, to deny the request by Doug Teten to drill an irrigation well 3.5 miles east of Talmage for irrigation.

Wingert reviewed the details of this proposed well and the best and worst case scenarios for neighboring wells. He explained that Olsson's had run some models to determine the impacts to the aquifer and other wells. The committee felt since the moratorium is in effect and there have been problems in this area already that they could not approve the request. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Hunzeker, Speece

Doug Teten thanked the board for their consideration and for providing the information from Olsson's that explained the situation.

1. *Review Draft Groundwater Management Plan Revisions:*

Wingert reported he will be meeting with Olsson's next week and will get the model from them to begin using. The report is coming along well. He will start delineating the boundaries of some areas of concern.

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. *Irrigation Agreement with Lee Rohrs for Spring Creek 9-3:*

Sherrow moved, seconded by Walker, to approve a 10-year irrigation agreement between the Nemaha NRD and Lee Rohrs to irrigate from Spring Creek 9-3.

Sherrow added that the staff will be working with Mr. Rohrs to do a pump test to determine if there is enough water. The committee directed staff to coordinate this testing with the landowner. Starr asked if the agreement is contingent upon the pump test, but staff replied that it is not as the test is the landowner's option and that the agreement specifies how much water he can withdraw. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

NAY: Siske

NOT PRESENT: Hunzeker, Speece

C. Operations & Education Committee

- 1. *Motorized Vehicles on Ice at District Owned/Operated Recreation Lakes:*** Siske reviewed the issue brought up again by a group wishing to ride motorcycles on the ice at Prairie Owl. He explained that upon checking with the District's insurance company and legal counsel, they both recommended against allowing this activity. Therefore, the committee saw no need to change their action from about a year ago that denied this activity. No action.

D. Executive Committee – No meeting

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

There was some discussion about the need for the Water Resources Ad-hoc Committee to continue. Board consensus was that it should remain intact until the groundwater plan is completed and moratorium lifted. Godemann reminded directors to submit their committee change requests before the next meeting, which will be February 14 at 7:00 with committees meeting prior.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, February 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District