

July 13, 2006
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Jim Wirth called the three hundred seventy-fifth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:50 p.m. Thursday, July 13, 2006, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	John Albrecht	Roland Meyer	Bruce Walker
PRESENT:	Jeff Crunk*	Gerald Royal	Dan Watermeier
	Ted Godemann	Jim Rush	Paul Weber
	Ron Heskett	Steve Sherrow	Tom White
<i>*Left Early</i>	David Hunzeker	Chuck Starr	Jim Wirth
	Scott Kudrna	Duane Sugden	

DIRECTORS	Orval Gigstad	Don Siske
ABSENT:	Dave Neddenriep	Mike Speece

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

GUESTS	Dan Swanson, <i>Nebraska City News Press</i>
PRESENT:	Terry Newell, NRCS, Tecumseh

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed. Pursuant to a new state law, Chair Wirth announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted on the wall at the back of the board 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 of Orval Gigstad, Dave Neddenriep, and Don Siske. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

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

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. **STAFF REPORT**

Hilske reviewed his written report. Nelson then reviewed his written report. Hilske also alerted directors to a change in the way land involved with watershed structures is being valued for tax purposes in some counties.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Terry Newell provided a written report of activities in the NRCS offices in the District. He reported that they are in the process of developing new CRP contracts. He added that they hoped to select a new Resource Conservationist for the Pawnee City office within the next week or so.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Kudrna reported that an emergency volunteer center training session would be held in Tecumseh on July 29. He also reviewed the RC&D's involvement in helping with engineering for the Duck Creek recreation development. Kudrna stated this could save about \$40,000 in engineering. Because of some reluctance on the part of the NRCS State Engineer, however, RC&D was sending a letter and asked the NRD to consider also signing the letter which says we have had a similar arrangement in the past and would like to continue this arrangement. Kudrna added that in order to begin the process, the letter needed to be sent as soon as possible.

Kudrna moved, seconded by White, to add this item, Approval of a Letter Requesting RC&D Engineering Assistance for Duck Creek recreation, to the agenda as an emergency item. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Crunk, Godemann, Heskett, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Royal, Rush, Sherrow, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Gigstad, Neddenriep, Siske, Speece

Kudrna moved, seconded by Sherrow, to authorize the Chair to sign the letter to NRCS regarding the Duck Creek design work. Motion carried.

AYE: Albrecht, Crunk, Godemann, Heskett, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Royal, Rush, Sherrow, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Gigstad, Neddenriep, Siske, Speece

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Royal reported on the NARD meeting that he attended in place of Gigstad. He added that he appreciated Gigstad's contribution to the NARD after having experienced the numerous committees Gigstad is involved with.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Watermeier reported that Ann Diers would be leaving the Commission as legal counsel. Tom Pesek would also be retiring as of September 1. Hilske reviewed the policy for Resource Development Funds proposed by NDEQ which would require that any project with recreation have a watershed implementation plan in place.

E. Water Policy Task Force Report

Sugden commented on the changes that took effect in July as a result of LB1226.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. *Review/Action on the Dennis Thomas Request for Additional Cost-Share:*
Sherrow moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve payment of cost-share in the amount of \$51,584 for the Dennis Thomas small dam project. Sherrow explained the additional, unforeseen costs associated with engineering and construction on this project. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Albrecht, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Royal, Rush, Sherrow, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, Wirth

NAY: Godemann, Heskett, White

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Gigstad, Neddenriep, Siske, Speece

2. *Action to Revise District Policy to Pay \$500 Maximum on Decommissioned Drilled Wells:*

Sherrow moved, seconded by Watermeier, to approve the revisions to the Abandoned Well Cost-Share Program as presented. Wingert explained that this will put us into compliance with new state laws and that other, housekeeping type updates were also made to the program policy. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

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

3. **Budget Review:** The committee reviewed the budget but had no recommendations.

B. Operations & Education Committee

1. **Budget Review:** White stated the committee reviewed the budget but had no recommendations.
2. **Review/Action on Renewing Cooperative Agreement with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for Partners for Wildlife Program:**
White moved, seconded by Albrecht, to approve the Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the Partners for Wildlife Program. This agreement would be for five years and provides funds for various wetland and wildlife projects. **Motion carried.**

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

C. Executive Committee

1. **Discussion/Action on Bridgewater Trail Easement to Access WRP Property Adjacent to Trail Near Brownville:**
Godemann moved, seconded by Watermeier, to authorize the staff to draft an easement with the NRCS to conduct NRCS business on the Bridgewater WRP property from the north as originally presented. Godemann reported that Don Doty from NRCS had addressed their committee regarding this issue and had indicated NRCS would be willing to accept an easement that is for the exclusive use of NRCS for inspection of the property. There was discussion about how Mr. Bridgewater would access his property and where he is currently crossing the trail. It was clarified that this motion did not provide any access to Mr. Bridgewater and that he would have to come back to the board to request a separate easement for him. Hilske clarified that the original easement that the board approved a few months ago is still with NRCS but that it would not work for this situation. He added that he would not provide the new, signed easement until the old one is released. Upon roll call vote, **motion carried.**

AYE: Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, Wirth

NAY: Albrecht, Hunzeker, Royal, White

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Gigstad, Neddenriep, Siske, Speece

2. **Budget Review:** Godemann stated the committee had reviewed the budget but had no specific recommendations. Rush commented on the levy and suggested that we split the difference between the lowest levy over the last five years and last year's levy to come up with this year's levy. Some directors pointed out that this could actually result in an increase in taxes collected if valuations increase significantly. Watermeier asked for clarification of how the budget process would continue. Hilske explained that during the August meeting, the expenditures needed to be pretty well finalized so that the budget that is advertised for the September hearing would be the final budget. He added that the board will also be asked to vote on a 1% restricted funds increase, which requires 75% of the board's approval to pass.

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

Wirth stated the next meeting would be August 10 at 8:00 p.m. Starr asked that Hilske again review the budget at the August meeting.

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, Godemann, Heskett, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Royal, Rush, Sherrow, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Gigstad, Neddenriep, Siske, Speece

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

AYE: Albrecht, Godemann, Heskett, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Royal, Rush, Sherrow, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Gigstad, Neddenriep, Siske, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, August 10, 2006, at 8:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

(Approved 8/10/06)

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District