

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

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

Vice-Chair Scott Kudrna called the three hundred eighty-seventh meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:10 p.m. Thursday, July 12, 2007, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	John Albrecht	David Hunzeker	Duane Sugden
PRESENT:	Lisa Beethe	Scott Kudrna	Bruce Walker
	Rob Bohling	Roland Meyer	Dan Watermeier*
	Jeff Crunk	Jim Rush	Paul Weber
<i>*Left Early</i>	Orval Gigstad	Steve Sherrow	Tom White
	Ron Heskett	Don Siske	Jim Wirth

DIRECTORS	Ted Godemann	Chuck Starr
ABSENT:	Mike Speece	

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

GUESTS	Terry Newell, NRCS, Tecumseh
PRESENT:	Terry Keebler, Sterling

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence was observed. Vice-Chair Kudrna 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 Ted Godemann, Mike Speece, and Chuck Starr. 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.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Terry Newell reported that technicians have been busy now that wheat harvest is done. They have been working on FSA status reviews and have had numerous requests for CRP haying and grazing. They are still waiting for word on the Phase I office closures.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Kudrna announced that Howard McNiff will be retiring September 3 and that a retirement coffee will be held on August 24. They will be doing a computer collection with the remaining household hazardous waste funds.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported that the risk management pool held their first meeting. He added that the Association is considering a dues increase.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Watermeier distributed a handout showing the Resource Development Fund projected needs. He pointed out that the Legislature provides less than half the funds needed to fund all the approved and pending projects. He felt that it is time for a grassroots effort to encourage the Legislature to increase the funds provided.

E. Water Policy Task Force Report

Sugden stated their next meeting is now scheduled for July 30. He also circulated maps showing where moratoriums exist for both groundwater and surface water.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. Proposals to Provide Feasibility Analysis, Engineering & Design Service for a Sediment Control Structure above Iron Horse Reservoir:

Sherrow moved, seconded by Albrecht, to direct staff to negotiate a contract with The Flatwater Group for Phase I of the Iron Horse project. Sherrow stated that only EA Engineering and The Flatwater Group submitted estimates and that Olsson Associates had opted to withdraw. Sherrow explained some issues that were brought up regarding the proposal from EA Engineering. He added that a contract would still have to be negotiated and subsequently approved by the board and that this would probably be a time and materials type of contract. Crunk asked if EA was who did the sediment basin design at Kirkman's Cove and what type of treatment was in place above Iron Horse. Hilske replied that EA had done Kirkman's Cove but that at Iron Horse the treatment would already be in place prior to construction of the sediment basin, which wasn't the case at Kirkman's Cove. Meyer felt like we had eliminated an opportunity to hire the best qualified firm by changing the rules in the middle of the game. Rush and Hunzeker both felt that the board couldn't always pick the highest price and still justify it to their constituents. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Albrecht, Beethe, Bohling, Crunk, Gigstad, Heskett, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Rush, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NAY: Siske, Sugden, Walker

ABSTAINING: Meyer, Sherrow

NOT PRESENT: Godemann, Speece, Starr

2. Inter-local Agreement with Nemaha County for Muddy Creek Project:

Sherrow moved, seconded by White, to approve the inter-local agreement with Nemaha County for the Muddy Creek Watershed Project. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Godemann, Speece, Starr

3. Update on Craig Hemje Dam and Binder Drainage Issue: Sherrow stated the committee discussed this item but there was no action to be taken at this time.

4. **Review FY2008 Budget:** Sherrow stated the committee had no comments or recommendations at this time.

B. Water Resources Ad-Hoc Committee – No meeting.

C. Operations & Education Committee

1. **Review FY2008 Budget:** The committee had no recommendations. However, Rush requested that the property taxes be increased by no more than 3.5 percent.

D. Executive Committee

1. **Development of District Policy for Selecting and Hiring Firms to Provide Professional Services:** Sugden stated the committee would like to have board input and comments on this policy. Hilske reviewed information on methods used by other NRDs and agencies. He had suggested that before making any decisions on the policy that the committee come up with a comfortable dollar amount that would be considered before this policy would be required. Kudrna wanted to see board members included in the interviews, especially those members who would be on the committee making the decision on a firm. Hunzeker asked if it would be possible to contact one firm to prepare a scope that other firms could then use to bid on for a project. Beethe suggested using a more detailed scope, using a website such as NARD's to advertise for proposals, setting a dollar amount with different levels, and consider using a ranking scale or more specific criteria when evaluating firms. Kudrna suggested using \$20,000 as the level when this policy would be used. No action was taken.
2. **Authorize Manager to Work with FEMA on Federal Disaster Assistance Funding:** Sugden moved, seconded by Watermeier, to appoint the General Manager to act as the District's authorized representative to work with FEMA on federal disaster assistance funding. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Godemann, Speece, Starr

3. **Collection of Overdue Accounts for Randy Frey and Andy Dutcher:** Hilske explained that we probably need to do something with these accounts and that at some point they may need to be written off as uncollectible. He added that doing so would not mean they could not still be collected. He was waiting for word from the attorney on what options we have. There was some discussion on filing liens against these properties. No action.
4. **FY2008 Budget Review:** The committee had discussed the budget and had provided some ideas. They would like to see the levy kept the same as last year. No action.

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

Kudrna stated the next meeting would be August 9 at 8:00 p.m.

11. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Godemann, Speece, Starr, Watermeier

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Godemann, Speece, Starr, Watermeier

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, August 9, 2007, at 8:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

Approved 8/9/07

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District