

November 8, 2007
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-first meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, November 8, 2007, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jeff Crunk
Steve Sherrow

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Hilske, Manager
Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
Charlie Pierce, Water Resources Technician
Shawn Kreienhop, Resources Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Terry Newell, NRCS, Tecumseh Tom Riley, The Flatwater Group, Lincoln
Keith Bohling, Johnson Rick Krushenisky, The Flatwater Group, Lincoln
Roy Mulder, Firth Rod TeKolste, Firth
Royce Gobber, Tecumseh

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 Jeff Crunk 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. Hilske reviewed the repair work on the trail explaining that a total of 87 percent of the costs will be paid through state and federal grants.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Terry Newell had provided his written report, and he also reviewed the staff positions recently filled in Tecumseh and Pawnee City. In between field work they are busy with EQIP rankings. Howard McNiff will be working with Norm Koester part-time to evaluate dam hazard classifications.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Kudrna reported that Scott Willett is still their acting coordinator until their new coordinator, Tammy Timms, begins on November 26. He also reported on the wine school, weed management, a house built by in-mates, a Heritage Highway brochure grant, drug coalition, and a used computer collection that will be held next spring.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported they had a board meeting and a risk pool meeting in Beatrice. The insurance and retirement funds seem to be working like they should. The basin tour next year will be June 16 in the Loup basin. The Northern Plains Regional Meeting for NACD will be in Omaha June 8-10. A conference call was scheduled for November 9 for the Corps to get some information and feedback on how they will manage the river for endangered species.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Watermeier stated their meeting would be the following week. There is a big push for more funding for the Resource Development Fund.

E. Water Policy Task Force Report

Sugden stated they only had about 35 at their meeting in Kearney last month. He reported

on some issues to be taken to the Legislature regarding diverting water during times of flooding. Another proposal was to add a provision that integrated management plans must prevent any increases in depletions to the stream resulting from the removal of a surface water right for land that is also served by a well. He also reported on DNR's proposal regarding access for inspections of dams and measuring devices such as headgates as well as a proposal by Ann Bleed to change the size of storage on dams requiring a permit from 15 acres to three acres. Their next meeting will be in Lincoln in February.

9. **FLATWATER GROUP PRESENTATION ON IRON HORSE SEDIMENT BASIN STUDY**

Representatives from The Flatwater Group gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions regarding the feasibility of a sediment basin above the reservoir at Iron Horse Trail Lake. Their proposal provided three potential locations for a basin as well as options that could be included. Shawn Kreienhop added that we do have money in the budget for this project and funds from grants available. Directors were urged to review the information provided and contact the office if they come up with questions so this item can be acted upon at the December meeting.

10. **ANNUAL NEMAHA NRD WATER PROGRAMS REPORT**

Chuck Wingert and Charlie Pierce updated the board on the following water programs and issues: toxic algae, Clean Lakes and Muddy Creek data, statewide groundwater monitoring network, network monitoring wells, Phase II area sampling, pesticide sampling, network observation well monitoring, well permits, Eastern Nebraska Water Resources Assessment (ENWRA), and Interrelated Water Management Program grant-groundwater study. Kudrna asked for water department staff input to the board on whether there are any other things we should be doing or any additional needs that we should be addressing.

11. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. *Grant Request to Nebraska Emergency Management for Funds to Assist with Development of a District-Wide All Hazard Mitigation Plan:*

Walker moved, seconded by Speece, to submit a grant request to the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency for funds to assist with developing a District-wide All Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Hilske explained the idea of using NRDs to do the planning. He reported they had met with the counties and several cities, and all were basically in favor of doing the plan on a regional basis. The cash part of the 25% local match would be around \$30,000. Watermeier asked about administration of the grant and time that will be required. Hilske explained that we will be doing the grant administration, setting up meetings, and providing information about our potential projects but that the other entities will provide much of the information directly to the consultant regarding their needs. He added that the administrative logistics would

have to be determined as we proceed. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Sherrow

2. *Inter-local Agreement with Nemaha County for County Road/Bridge Issues with Buck & Duck Creek Project:*

Walker moved, seconded by Meyer, to enter into an interlocal agreement with Nemaha County for addressing county road and bridge issues in conjunction with the Buck and Duck Creek Watershed project. Hilske reviewed what is involved in the agreement and the roads involved. The work plan included can be revised as needed without requiring a new agreement. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Sherrow

3. *Request by Keith Bohling for Cost-Share Assistance to Repair a Grade Control Structure:* Walker reported that the committee took no action yet because they want more information.

B. Water Resources Ad-Hoc Committee

1. *Review Draft Groundwater Management Plan:* Wingert reviewed how he has put together the draft so far; he hoped to have another committee meeting soon to review the draft in more detail. No action.

2. *Rodney TeKolste Request for Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:* **Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the request by Rodney TeKolste for a variance to allow issuance of a permit to drill a well 1.5 miles east of Firth for irrigation.** **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Sherrow

3. *Royce Gobber Request for Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:* Weber stated the committee was recommending waiting until next month to act on this variance in order to confirm the location of a nearby irrigation well. No action.

4. *Roy Mulder Request for a Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:*
Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the request by Roy Mulder for a variance to allow issuance of a permit to drill a well 1.5 miles southwest of Firth for irrigation. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Sherrow

C. Operations & Education Committee

1. *Review Agreements and Long-Term Obligations Associated with the Ownership and Operation of the Steamboat Trace:* Siske reviewed some of the discussions about costs of closing the trail, whether it could even be closed or abandoned, and some ideas to set up interlocal agreements with some of the communities to help pay for maintenance on the trail. Rush felt if the communities are not interested that we could go to our legislative representatives to see if we can get some relief to help pay for this maintenance. Speece pointed out that there were a lot of cash donations provided for the trail development and that he is amazed at the amount of people who use the trail. He also felt there should be a strong trail association. Kudrna felt that we may not get much interest from communities in helping pay for something that we are already required to provide. No action.

D. Executive Committee

1. *Amendment to ENWRA Interlocal Agreement for Continued Groundwater Investigation:*
Kudrna moved, seconded by White, to approve the ENWRA Interlocal Agreement. Hilske explained that the original agreement did not allow for hiring a coordinator and that this one also includes a funding schedule. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Sherrow

2. ***Establish Board Meeting Time for December-March:***

Kudrna moved, seconded by Speece, to change the board meeting times for December, January, and February to start at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: Albrecht, Godemann, Speece

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Sherrow

12. **APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO OFFER NOMINATIONS FOR 2008 BOARD OFFICERS**

In response to a call for volunteers, Jim Wirth, Paul Weber, and Orval Gigstad were appointed as the nominating committee.

13. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, DECEMBER MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

Hilske announced that the grand opening of the Homestead Trail would be Saturday, November 17. Godemann stated the next meeting would be December 13 at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the board meeting.

14. **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, Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Siske, Speece, Starr, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Sherrow

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Sherrow

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, December 13, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

Approved 12/13/07

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District