

October 11, 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 ninetieth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:05 p.m. Thursday, October 11, 2007, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS	Ron Heskett	Jim Wirth
ABSENT:	Mike Speece	

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

GUESTS	Bob Sullivan, NRCS, Tecumseh	Karen Griffin, Olsson Associates, Lincoln
PRESENT:	Caleb Herr, Table Rock	Jamie Miller, Olsson Associates, Lincoln
	Cade Herr, Humboldt	Derek Ryter, Olsson Associates, Lincoln
	Ryan Gobber, Humboldt	

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 Ron Heskett, Mike Speece, and Jim Wirth. 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**

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

7. **STAFF REPORT**

Hilske & Nelson reviewed their written reports. Hilske also reviewed in more detail the resolutions passed at the NARD Annual Conference. Wingert also reviewed his report.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Bob Sullivan reported that the selection process was underway for the RC positions in Pawnee City and Tecumseh and could be decided very soon. They will be getting a new CET in Tecumseh as well. Kelly Kinnison will be leaving for her new position in early November. The design for Buck Creek is 80 percent done, and Duck Creek is 25 percent complete and would hopefully be done in January.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Kudrna reported their annual conference was the previous week and that Dottie Holliday received the Outstanding Program Support Assistant award. Three RC&D coordinators have retired this year state-wide. Ken Noonan is also leaving in December. Tammy Timms, the new RC&D Coordinator, will be starting November 26.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad thanked Lisa Beethe for attending the annual conference in his absence. Beethe added that the resolutions passed and that the NARD audit was the only other item discussed.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Watermeier reported that there is a push to get the legislature to try and get more Resource Development Funds.

E. Water Policy Task Force Report

Sugden stated their next meeting is October 22 in Kearney; he added that the Nebraska Water Resources Association and the Nebraska State Irrigation Association convention was coming up also.

9. **OLSSON ASSOCIATES UPDATE ON GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ACTIVITIES**
Representatives from Olsson Associates gave a PowerPoint presentation detailing the data collection and modeling activities they have completed so far. They stated the next step is to install the observation wells in the Talmage/Brock area.

10. STANDING COMMITTEES

B. Water Resources Ad-Hoc Committee

1. *Garry Heetderks Request for Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:*
Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the request by Garry Heetderks for a variance to allow issuance of a permit to drill a well five miles northeast of Adams for irrigation. Weber explained that information received did not indicate any conflicts with the nearby Lancaster Rural Water District wells. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Heskett, Speece, Wirth

2. *Michael Bean Request for Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:* Weber reported that the additional information required still had not been received. No action.

3. *Twin Sycamore Farms, LLC, Request for Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:*

Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the request by Twin Sycamore Farms, LLC, for a variance to allow issuance of a permit to drill a well 7.5 miles northeast of Humboldt for irrigation. Weber added this well permit was actually issued prior to the moratorium but that they did not get their wells drilled before the permit expired. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Heskett, Speece, Wirth

4. *Herr Farms Request for a Variance to Allow Issuance of a Well Permit:*
Weber moved, seconded by White, to approve the request by Herr Farms for a variance to allow issuance of a permit to drill a well five miles northwest of Humboldt for irrigation. Weber stated there is one high capacity irrigation well about 1800 feet away. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Heskett, Speece, Wirth

A. Programs & Projects Committee

- 1. Discussion on the District Obtaining Funding from FEMA to Develop a District-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The committee directed staff to continue investigations to identify partners for participation and cost-share and determine what would be necessary for preparing the application. Kudrna felt this plan could end up becoming a liability if it would identify projects that we would be forced to do. Sherrow felt if such needs exist that we should be pursuing them anyway and that this might be a method for accessing funds to help. Hilske thought by being involved at this stage it might allow us to tailor the plan to projects we might do anyway. No action.
- 2. FY 2008-2009 Small Dam Approvals:** Sherrow reviewed the applications and top ranked structures recommended for approval. The committee was in agreement with the five projects recommended and directed staff to plan for these projects and notify the other applicants that their applications were not selected. Action to formally approve the structures will not be taken until the FY09 budget is drafted.
- 3. Request by Keith Bohling for Cost-Share Assistance to Repair a Grade Control Structure:** Sherrow stated the staff will continue investigation into this request and bring more information back if necessary for future action.

C. Operations & Education Committee

- 1. Bids for Resurfacing 3.5 Miles of the Steamboat Trace:** Bids received were as follows:

Bidder	Total Bid
Lottman-Carpenter Construction, Diller	\$54,454.50
B.A.B. Construction, Adams	\$81,187.50

Siske moved, seconded by Bohling, to accept the low bid of \$54,454.50 from Lottman-Carpenter Construction for the Steamboat Trace resurfacing contingent upon receipt of additional funds from FEMA. Hilske explained that FEMA had estimated the cost for this project at about \$36,000, which was quite a bit less than the low bid. However, there is a possibility of getting additional funding for the project from the state Emergency Management Agency. Rush suggested asking some of the other entities near the trail to contribute to the costs. Upon roll call vote,

motion carried.

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

NAY: Rush

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Heskett, Speece, Starr, Wirth

D. Executive Committee

1. ***Update on Business Management Assistant Staff Position:*** Hilske had reported during the Staff Report that he decided not to fill this position but instead would divide the duties between Allison Caspers and Jane Kuhl and that Lisa Bartels would be increasing her schedule from four to five days per week.

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

Rush asked staff to investigate what our obligations are on the trail and come up with some options on how to fund repairs and maintenance and report back at the next meeting. Siske asked to have the meeting times for winter months on the November agenda. Godemann stated the next meeting would be November 8 at 8:00 p.m.

12. 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, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Rush, Sherrow, Siske, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Heskett, Speece, Starr, Wirth

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Crunk, Heskett, Speece, Starr, Wirth

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, November 8, 2007, at 8:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

(Approved 11/8/07)

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District