

September 8, 2005
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Jim Wirth called the three hundred sixty-sixth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:00 p.m. Thursday, September 8, 2005, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Dave Neddenriep
Mike Speece

STAFF PRESENT: Bob Hilske, Manager
Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
Glenda Bates, NRD Clerk, Tecumseh NRCS

GUESTS PRESENT:	June Hess, Pawnee City	Wes Pope, NRCS, Tecumseh
	Lyle Hess, Pawnee City	Lewis Rogers, Pawnee City
	Bill Sunneberg, Pawnee City	Bryan Mellage, Auburn
	Elsie Sunneberg, Pawnee City	Lisa Beethe, Elk Creek

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chair Wirth continued the meeting with a moment of silence.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of Publication was presented and is on file.

3. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

A request for excused absence had been received from Mike Speece.

White moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the excused absence of Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

All directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

White moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the minutes as submitted. Godemann commented on Gary Bedea's statement at the last meeting that he had never been contacted regarding the Pawnee County Lake project. Godemann referred to the May, 2000, minutes of the Pawnee County Lake Task Force at which Mr. Bedea represented the Rural Water District and spoke to the group. Rush thought Mr. Bedea's point was that no one had approached him regarding the possibility of this lake serving as a public water supply.
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 and Nelson reviewed their written reports. Nelson reviewed in further detail his report from a Lake Neiamoka meeting he and Hilske had attended. Starr asked Nelson how he would define his role as the NRD's liaison for this project. Nelson replied that his role was to work with the Louisiana Purchase Group and report back to the board, field calls and questions from the press, attend any meetings he is invited to or feels are appropriate to attend, and provide updates to the board. Starr asked if the role is pretty widely defined. Nelson said one place he felt uncomfortable was in trying to speak for the board when talking to the press. Starr then asked Hilske what he considered staff's role to be in dealing with questions pertaining to Pawnee County Lake; he also added that he did not think Nelson's role was meant to include producing master plans. Hilske felt we needed to talk with Coach Reed and determine what they saw as the NRD's role in the project so that we could get something in front of the board to show what they are looking at. Hilske saw the NRD's role, if any, would be to make sure there was a public recreation component to the project as the board had originally asked for years ago. Lisa Beethe asked about the NRD's position in restricting government funded projects in this area and if this would be a staff decision or board decision. Hilske clarified that this was not a suggestion to halt other government programs in that area but rather to make sure the other government entities were aware of this project and the Louisiana Purchase Group's interest in working with these entities if possible. Regarding the establishment of flood improvement corridors, Beethe also asked if the staff could proceed with implementing these or if this would require board action. Hilske replied that this would require board action. Hilske responded to a question from Rush that this meeting had been a private meeting organized by the Louisiana Purchase Group and that NRD staff was an invited guest; it was not a public meeting organized by the NRD.

8. AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Pope reviewed his written report and commented on the problems encountered with the TSP reimbursements for engineering.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Kudrna reported on their meeting held earlier that day, upcoming classes to be offered, and the Nebraska Community Foundation.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reminded board members of the annual conference, reported on State Fair activities, and stated that NARD would again have a booth at Husker Harvest Days.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Watermeier reported they had met in July and that much of the discussion centered on Roger Patterson's retirement and water issues. The next meeting is scheduled September 28 in Kearney.

E. Pawnee County Lake Steering Committee

No report.

F. Water Policy Task Force Report

Sugden reported on the 10-50 decision made by Roger Patterson. The Task Force also is working on funding issues trying to decide whether the irrigators should pay the most or if everyone should pay. A return to the fertilizer tax is also still being considered.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. *FY 05/06 Budget:* No action.

2. *Contract with HWS for Geological Investigation at Duck Creek:*

Sherrow moved, seconded by Meyer, to accept a proposal dated August 15, 2005, from HWS to perform Phase IIb of the geological site investigation at the Duck Creek site. The cost of the original proposal was reviewed by staff and NRCS; and after working with HWS and narrowing the scope, the cost was reduced from \$124,000 to \$93,500. In response to a question from Heskett, Hilske stated the District is committed to \$50,000 with the NRCS picking up \$160,000 to a total of \$210,000. Anything over that would be the NRD's cost. Kudrna asked what the cost was for Buck Creek, and Hilske replied it was about \$83,000. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

ABSENT: Neddenriep, Speece

- 3. Request by Craig Hemje to Assist with Leakage Problems on His Dam:** Sherrow reviewed four potential solutions to this problem. Staff's recommendation was to wait until spring to determine if the lake would fill. However, the committee recommended that the staff do some field investigation and find out exactly what the problem is, which may require some excavation work. Funding, estimated at no more than \$2,500, would come from the dam repair budget item.

B. Operations & Education Committee

- 1. Awards Policy Review:** White stated the committee reviewed the current awards policy, which had not been updated since 1994. However, they decided not to make any changes. No action.
- 2. Resolution to Submit an Application for RTP Grant Funds to Assist with the Steamboat Trace:** White reported that just prior to the meeting, staff was notified that the Steamboat Trace would not qualify for this grant since Transportation Enhancement Funds had been used in the original development of the trail. Therefore, no action would be needed on this item.
- 3. FY 05/05 Budget:** No action.

C. Executive Committee

- 1. Review NARD Conference Resolutions:** Hilske reviewed each of the three resolutions received, which all were on water related issues.

Godemann moved, seconded by Kudrna, to support all three NARD resolutions. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Neddenriep, Speece

2. *Voting Delegates for NARD Annual Conference:*

Godemann moved, seconded by Sugden, to designate Orval Gigstad as the voting delegate and Dan Watermeier as the alternate at the NARD annual conference. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Neddenriep, Speece

3. *Easement to Access Bridgewater WRP Property:* Hilske reviewed this easement, which is similar to one approved last month, to allow USDA to cross and travel adjacent to the trail to access property that will be in the Wetland Reserve Program.

Godemann moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the easement with USDA-CCC for access to the Bridgewater property. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Neddenriep, Speece

4. *FY 05/06 Budget:* No action.

10. **FY 2005/2006 BUDGET AND LEVY SETTING**

Godemann moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the FY 2006 budget as presented.

Hilske reviewed the total budget, total tax requirements, and the changes made to the budget since last month. He reported the tax request would remain the same as last year, \$1,246,110.73, but the levy would drop to .042175 due to the valuation increases.

Crunk moved, seconded by Starr, to table the motion. Motion failed.

AYE: Crunk, Rush, Starr

NAY: Albrecht, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Royal, Sherrow, Siske, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Neddenriep, Speece

Crunk felt that the recreation aspect of the Pawnee County Lake project was more of a Game & Parks issue. Therefore, he moved to strike the \$10,000 for the recreation benefits study from the budget. Starr seconded his motion. Hilske pointed out that a change to the total budget figure would require that it be republished. Crunk then withdrew his motion. **Crunk moved, seconded by Starr, to amend the motion to approve the FY 2006 budget with the following change: remove the \$10,000 consultant fees for determining recreation**

benefits for Pawnee County Lake and increase the cash reserve \$10,000. Starr pointed out that this item was put into the budget without board action or discussion. He felt this could be a waste of money since the lake's future is more dependent upon its use as a public water supply. Kudrna thought this study would help determine whether the NRD could even be involved in the project, but he did not agree that this project hinged upon its possibility as a water supply. Hilske explained that there is no number included in the pre-feasibility study regarding the value of recreation benefits. Therefore, it would be difficult to discuss the District's interest in recreation until that is determined. He added that the need for a study was mentioned to the Executive Committee last month as the thought that this might be beneficial came up just prior to the last board meeting. Though Hilske originally thought the study might wait a year, the recent meeting with the Louisiana Purchase Group made it apparent that this might need to be done sooner than later. Rush questioned spending money on this study since the District does not even own the property and it apparently is not even for sale. Starr asked that the minutes reflect that though the board has met several times to discuss the budget, this budget item, to his knowledge, had never been discussed before the board. Royal felt without some information like this, the Manager could not do his job. Royal added that it is not his job as a director to micromanage the District. Watermeier pointed out that even though these funds are included in the budget, the board still has the option of deciding when and if to proceed with the study. Upon roll call vote on the motion to amend, **motion failed.**

AYE: Crunk, Hunzeker, Rush, Starr

NAY: Albrecht, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Kudrna, Meyer, Royal, Sherrow, Siske, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White, Wirth

NOT PRESENT: Neddenriep, Speece

Upon roll call vote on the original motion to approve the budget, **motion carried.**

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

NAY: Crunk, Hunzeker, Rush, Starr

NOT PRESENT: Neddenriep, Speece

Godemann moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the tax request of \$1, 246,110.73 and the levy of .042175. Kudrna pointed out that the levy has only been above four cents in the last two years and that he would like to see it back under four cents. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Neddenriep, Speece

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

Hilske reminded directors of the NARD conference registration deadline. Starr asked that a Pawnee County Lake Committee meeting be scheduled sometime before the next board meeting. Starr also asked that the Pawnee County Lake issue be placed on the Executive Committee's agenda next month.

10. CONSENT AGENDA

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

AYE: Albrecht, Crunk, Gigstad, Godemann, Heskett, Hunzeker, Kudrna, Meyer, Royal, Rush, Siske, Sugden, Walker, Watermeier, Weber, White

ABSTAINING: Sherrow, Starr, Wirth

ABSENT: Neddenriep, Speece

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

ABSENT: Neddenriep, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, October 13, 2005, at 8:00 p.m. at the NRD headquarters at 62161 Hwy 136 in Tecumseh.

(Approved 10/13/05)

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District