

July 9, 2026
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Russel Moss called the six hundred thirteenth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:06 p.m. Thursday, July 9, 2026, at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	Todd Boellstorff	Adam Howard	Russel Moss
PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Dan Hodges	Alan Romine
	Patty Coates	Doug Iske	Eldon Snoke
	Ed Ehmen	Dick James	Duane Sugden
	Tracy Ensor	Klark Knipe	Kevin Thorne
	Orval Gigstad	Tim Loseke	

DIRECTORS	Kraig Coonce	Tim Schaardt
ABSENT:	Robert Lassen	Dan Stukenholtz

STAFF	Kyle Hauschild, Manager
PRESENT:	Jane Kuhl, Assistant Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Maddie Million, Information & Education Coordinator
	Brooke Gerdes, Administrative Bookkeeper

GUESTS	Mike Burgert, NRCS
PRESENT:	Jon Mohr, Spheros
	Mayrene Thummel, Nebraska City
	Laurie Huls, Cortland
	Stacey Knippelmeyer, Cook
	Jessi Riggins, Brock

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Moss announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall at the back of the room.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of publication was presented and is on file.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Excused Absences: Kraig Coonce, Bob Lassen, Dan Stukenholtz
- Minutes: No questions.
- Treasurer's Report: No questions.

James moved, seconded by Thorne, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Howard, Iske, James, Knipe, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Lassen, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

Directors and staff introduced themselves. Mayrene Thummel from Nebraska City addressed the board regarding concerns about a potential data center within the district. Laurie Huls addressed the board regarding Upper Big Nemaha 13-C.

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild reported on the following items: Watershed of Wonders, SWCP and NET funding, potential Urban Special Project with Peru State College on the Trail, NWRA meeting and Water Leaders Academy, dam efficiency, a pilot project with NRCS for sliplining, an article in the Nebraska Examiner about the state NRCS office, NRCS working group meeting, Budget Committee meeting, ACE Camp, and Upper Big Nemaha 13-C.

6. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mike Burgert reviewed his written report.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

No report.

C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Iske reported that the Scoring Committee met and will finalize project scoring for the annual meeting in Kearney.

7. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

1. ***Presentation from Spheros on Guidelines for Large Water Users:*** Jon Mohr from Spheros discussed a protocol for high-capacity well permit reviews. Mohr presented on the Hydrogeological Evaluation Guidance for high-capacity groundwater users.

2. ***Discussion/Action on Groundwater Rules and Regulations:*** Wingert reviewed the final draft changes to the current rules and regulations. A timeline was discussed with a public hearing being required prior to approval of a final version of the rules, which should be held next month. Moss explained the rules apply to newly constructed wells and asked about the potential for flowmeter installation requirements in the district. Wingert explained the potential of utilizing grant funding to provide cost-share on this requirement. Moss addressed the Executive Committee about discussing the need for a cost-share program utilizing ONE RED funding.

Hodges moved, seconded by James, to approve the final draft of the

Groundwater Rules and Regulations. Stacey Knippelmeyer addressed the board to thank them for addressing changes to the rules. Jessi Riggins expressed concerns about the flow chart for high-capacity groundwater users and irrigation well usage. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Howard, Iske, James, Knipe, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Lassen, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. ***Discussion on Guidelines for Maintaining NRD Recreation Areas:*** Snoke discussed prior projects at Kirkman's Cove and explained that the committee would like to meet with the field staff members who oversee each recreation area for future recreation planning opportunities. No action.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. ***FY27 Budget Planning:*** Romine stated the Budget Committee had met. Gerdes provided an update on the budget planning process including details on upcoming projects and expenses. She discussed that the Budget Committee plans to meet again prior to the end of the month to finalize a budget draft for the board's review.

2. ***Discussion/Action to Combine Kirkman's Cove and Trail Sinking Funds:***

Romine moved, seconded by Iske, to approve combining Kirkman's Cove and the Steamboat Trace Trail sinking funds into the Recreation Maintenance Sinking Fund. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Howard, Iske, James, Knipe, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Lassen, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

3. ***Discussion/Action on Agreement with NRCS for Technical Service Provider:*** Romine stated there is not enough information to take action on an agreement at this time.

Romine moved, seconded by Iske, to postpone action on the agreement with NRCS for a Technical Service Provider position. Burgert explained this position would be an NRD employee housed in the NRCS office to work on technical service and conservation work. He stated this action would only be to show an interest in the position at this time. After further discussion, Romine withdrew his motion.

Romine moved, seconded by Iske, to show interest in an agreement with NRCS for a Technical Service Provider position.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Howard, Iske,

James, Knipe, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Lassen, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

4. Discussion/Action for ONE RED Program Agreement:

Romine moved, seconded by Ensor, to postpone action on the ONE RED Program Agreement until more information is provided on the program. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Howard, Iske, James, Knipe, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Lassen, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

5. FY27 Budget Review & Restricted Fund Allowance – 1%: Hauschild explained the restricted fund allowance and how it affects future budgets.

Romine moved, seconded by James, to approve a 1% increase to the restricted fund allowance in the FY27 budget. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Howard, Iske, James, Knipe, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Lassen, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS, AUGUST AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, August 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the board meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Sugden moved, seconded by Gigstad, to adjourn. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ehmen, Ensor, Gigstad, Hodges, Howard, Iske, James, Knipe, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Lassen, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District