

August 13, 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 fourteenth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:03 p.m. Thursday, August 13, 2026, at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS	Kraig Coonce
ABSENT:	Orval Gigstad

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

GUESTS	Mike Burgert, NRCS
PRESENT:	Brad Wilken, Firth
	Laurie Huls, Cortland

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, Orval Gigstad
- Minutes: No questions.
- Treasurer's Report: No questions.

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

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

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

Directors and staff introduced themselves.

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild reported on the following items: meeting with NRCS regarding a potential pilot project that may allow for funding on CIPP work, NRD water staff field work, staff offices, benches to be installed at Duck Creek, and budget finalization.

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 completed scoring work with official project scoring for the annual meeting in Kearney. There was discussion regarding the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) and Water Sustainability funds.

7. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

1. Discussion/Action on Changes to Groundwater Rules and Regulations: Schaardt discussed concerns brought to the Board's attention from the public hearing held prior to the meeting. Wingert reviewed specific rules pertaining to these concerns about data centers/industrial use section 5.11. Lassen questioned well registration fees, how high-capacity wells may be more administratively demanding and recommended considering fees to address this. Loseke prompted that the NRD legal team review the document to ensure the rules meet concerns with large water users. Wingert explained the document has received legal review with guidance on modifying the use of a well. Hauschild explained that the use of wells is unable to be modified without our review and following the proper process. Wingert discussed the document DWEE provided with recommendations on floodplain well standards, which he explained water well standards state that wells cannot be drilled on a 100-year floodplain.

Schaardt moved, seconded by James, to approve the changes to the Groundwater Rules and Regulations, with an effective date of August 14, 2026.

Brad Wilken expressed a few areas of concern including legal review with wording concerns, concern regarding clustering wells, hydrological study and model, and

recommended that the board review the changes thoroughly prior to implementation. Hauschild explained the increase to 1,000ft spacing on wells and provided clarification on the groundwater model system, MODFLOW, being utilized. Wingert explained that the Board can deny permits to those who show a reasonable short or long-term probability of adversely impacting the local aquifer and surrounding groundwater wells with a higher preference of use. He stated that a peer review of the hydrogeologic evaluation could be required to determine if the well meets required conditions. Hauschild explained the word choices selected for the rule verbiage. He further explained that due to the current stay on well permits, taking no action would prompt another stay to take place. Iske stated the attorney used by the NRD is a water rights attorney who has reviewed the proposed changes to the rules. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. ***Discussion on Guidelines for Maintaining NRD Recreation Areas:*** Snoke reported the committee had met at Kirkman's Cove prior to the meeting to tour the recreation area with NRD staff. He explained they discussed current and future projects, maintenance items to be addressed, and that the tour helped the committee to understand the operation and needs of the recreation areas. No action.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. ***Action to Designate NARD Annual Conference Delegate/Alternate:***

Romine moved, seconded by Ensor, to designate Orval Gigstad as delegate and Doug Iske as alternate for the NARD annual conference. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ehmen, Ensor, Hodges, Howard, James, Knipe, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

ABSTAINING: Iske

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

2. ***Discussion/Action on ONE RED Program Agreement:***

Romine moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve proceeding with the ONE RED program agreement. Hauschild explained the motion was previously tabled due to lack of information. He stated that this is a federal program being administered by the state and would provide about \$75,000 per year for 3 years with the NRD to promote and provide information on the ONE RED program to landowners and producers within the district. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

3. *Discussion/Action on 457 Deferred Compensation Plan In-Plan Roth Amendment:*

Hauschild explained the current plan is pretax, and this option would allow NRD employees to elect to pay post tax following retirement.

Romine moved, seconded by Ensor, to approve the 457 Deferred Compensation Plan for NRD employees.

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

4. *Discussion/Action on Staffing Plans and Additional Salary Adjustments:*

Romine explained that a position was not replaced following the retirement of an NRD employee a few years ago.

Romine moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve a field staff position with a salary of \$45,000 along with \$1,500 in funds for additional salary adjustments.

Schaardt questioned the addition of this position following the recent I&E staff transition. Moss explained reasoning for the position with the probability of current, long-term NRD employees retiring in the next 1-2 years. Schaardt expressed his concern regarding how the position may affect the budget and current levy. Hauschild stated the funds are included in the proposed budget and would not affect the current levy. Hauschild explained the need for an employee who understands NRD field work and expressed that the hiring candidate has developed current staff trust.

Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

5. *Discussion/Action on Request to Reinstate Park Privileges:*

Romine explained an individual is requesting to have their park privileges reinstated following a ban in 2025. **Romine moved, seconded by Boellstorff, to reinstate park privileges with no allowance for rule violations.** Moss explained by taking action to reinstate these privileges, any following violations would be handled by NRD staff, who would have authority to immediately reinstate the ban. **Motion carried.**

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

Knipe, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Thorne

NAY: Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

6. Discussion/Action on Request from Laurie Huls Regarding Upper Big Nemaha 13-C :.

Romine moved, seconded by Iske, to deny the payment request for Upper Big Nemaha 13-C. Huls addressed the Board regarding their decision and the process for reporting issues with the structure in the future. Moss explained that the Board is unable to approve a payment request for work that was not approved prior. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

8. REVIEW AND DIRECTION ON PROPOSED FY27 BUDGET

Kuhl reviewed the proposed budget, explaining changes from the previously proposed budget and different tax scenarios.

Ensor moved, seconded by Hodges, to provide direction to staff to prepare the FY27 budget based on a levy of \$0.029987 with any excess funds going into the Watershed Development sinking funds. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, AUGUST AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the board meeting. The budget hearings will be held starting at 5:30 p.m.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Romine moved, seconded by Boellstorff, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Gigstad

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District