

October 8, 2026
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Vice-Chair Alan Romine called the six hundred sixteenth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:05 p.m. Thursday, October 8, 2026, at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS	Kraig Coonce	Robert Lassen	Dan Stukenholtz
ABSENT:	Ed Ehmen	Russel Moss	
	Doug Iske	Tim Schaardt	

STAFF	Kyle Hauschild, Manager
PRESENT:	Jane Kuhl, Assistant Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Maddie Million, Information & Education Coordinator
	MacKinze Gordon, Administrative Secretary

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Romine 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**

- a. Excused Absences: Ed Ehmen, Doug Iske, Robert Lassen, Russel Moss, Tim Schaardt, Dan Stukenholtz
- b. Minutes: No questions.
- c. Treasurer's Report: No questions.

Bohling moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Ehmen, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

Directors and staff introduced themselves.

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild reviewed his written report.

6. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mike Burgert reviewed his written report.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported on the NRD Annual Conference, including record attendance, fundraising, increased donations to education programs, and the Perkins County Canal. He also discussed an NRCS program funded through NARD to help producers improve soil health and provided information regarding the retirement of Dean Edson, NARD Executive Director.

C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report.

7. **FY2026 AUDIT REPORT – DANA F. COLE**

Ryan Bruns with Dana F. Cole presented their report on the audit of the FY2026 financials.

Romine moved, seconded by Thorne, to approve the FY2026 audit report as presented. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Ehmen, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

8. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

1. *Action on Well Permit Applications:* No permits were received.

2. *Discussion/Action on Potential SWCP Extensions:* Hodges reviewed four SWCP applications seeking extensions in Johnson, Nemaha, and Otoe counties due to work in progress or nearing completion. Kuhl discussed SWCP policy and the impact of recent wet weather on project timelines, expressing concern about extending the Nemaha County application since work had not begun by the deadline. Hodges noted that the Otoe County project was nearing completion, and Burgert discussed the progress of several projects in relation to SWCP policy. The consensus was to extend the three applications in Johnson and Otoe counties and cancel the Nemaha County application.

Hodges moved, seconded by James, to extend the SWCP application deadlines for Othmer Bros., Lavon Beethe, and Ross Farms, Inc. until November 12 and cancel the one in Nemaha County. Ensor questioned the application period; Kuhl explained it is from January 1 through April 1. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Ehmen, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

3. Discussion/Action on Bids for Delivery & Placement of Rip Rap on 4 Watershed Structures: Bids for placement of rip rap were received as follows:

Contractor	Wilson Creek 12-3	Spring Creek 6-A	Long Branch 2	South Branch 2-5	Total Bid
Tim Sisco Const.	\$2,925.00	\$4,050.00	\$6,075.00	\$4,830.00	\$17,880.00
Borrenpohl Excavating	\$5,850.00	\$5,625.00	\$9,855.00	\$5,775.00	\$27,105.00
BAB, Inc	\$5,362.50	\$5,850.00	\$10,968.75	\$6,562.50	\$28,743.75
Thomas Dredging & Exc	\$7,475.00	\$8,100.00	\$14,850.00	\$9,975.00	\$40,400.00
Gana Trucking & Exc	\$8,050.25	\$8,415.00	\$15,923.25	\$8,557.50	\$40,946.00
High Plains Structural GP	\$14,381.25	\$15,300.00	\$18,225.00	\$18,112.50	\$66,018.75
Yost Excavating	\$13,162.50	\$16,267.50	\$21,870.00	\$18,112.50	\$69,412.50
Mueller Trenching	\$9,750.00	-	-	-	\$9,750.00

Bids to deliver rip rap to the sites were:

Contractor	Wilson Creek 12-3	Spring Creek 6-A	Long Branch 2	South Branch 2-5	Total Bid
Armstrong	\$2,112.50	\$4,050.00	\$7,897.50	\$3,675.00	\$17,735.00
Gana Trucking	\$2,778.75	\$6,138.00	\$10,010.25	\$4,026.75	\$22,953.75

Hodges moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the bid of \$17,880.00 from Tim Sisco Construction for placement of rip rap and the \$17,735.00 bid from Armstrong for delivery of rip rap on the 4 watershed structures; Wilson Creek 12-3, Spring Creek 6-A, Long Branch 2, and South Branch 2-5. Sugden asked if there is a possibility of running out of rip rap. Hauschild explained the different companies providing rip rap and that fewer dams are in need of rip rap. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Ehmen, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. ***Discussion/Action on Staff & Director Awards Policy:*** Snoke explained the current Staff and Director Awards Policy has not been updated since 1994.

Snoke moved, seconded by Knipe, to approve amending the Staff and Director Awards Policy to \$10 per year of service with a cap of \$300. Ensor questioned when the awards are given out. Million explained awards begin at 5 years of service, with awards given out at the December board meeting annually. Hauschild explained the difficulty in finding awards to meet the current expenditure amounts. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Ehmen, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

2. ***Discussion on Guidelines for Maintaining NRD Recreation Areas:*** Snoke reported on the committee's continued discussion on planning and maintenance for the recreation areas. He opened suggestions to the rest of the board for ideas on improvements and projects in the recreation areas. No action.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. ***Discussion/Action on Agreement with Aqua IQ:*** Ensor explained the district employees were using Longitude 103's HydroData application to collect static water level measurements, chemigation inspections, flowmeter readings, and flood control structure inspections. However, after waiting two years for a functioning product, the district is pursuing an agreement with AquaIQ for their data collection application.

Ensor moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the agreement with AquaIQ, contingent on review by the District's legal counsel. Sugden questioned the purpose of AquaIQ. Hauschild explained that AquaIQ is an NRD-focused database that consolidates information, including dam inspections, chemigation inspections, meter readings, and irrigated acres, into one application. Potential future uses include tracking buffer strips, SWCP contracts, and water quality information. The application would also help collect information required for producers participating in the ONE RED program. Wingert and Kuhl discussed how AquaIQ would reduce paperwork, improve reporting accuracy, and allow staff to access prior reports and share information with designated landowners while in the field. Ensor questioned data ownership, accessibility, and cost. Hauschild explained that the NRD would retain rights to its data, which would not be publicly accessible, and that data rights would be addressed in the contract. He also clarified that the cost would remain

unchanged, with only the payee changing. In response to a question about the contract term, Hauschild indicated it should be three years. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Ehmen, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

2. *Potential Action on Amendment to FY27 Budget:*

Ensor moved, seconded by Thorne, to amend the FY27 Budget and schedule a public hearing prior to the November board meeting. Ensor explained the amendment would be necessary to account for funds received from DWEE and passed through the district to pay AqualQ for administrative services. Hauschild clarified that the funds must be reflected in the budget and that an agreement, likely in the form of a memorandum of understanding (MOU), would be needed with participating districts to authorize the arrangement. Romine questioned whether the amendment would require a public hearing and public notice and whether it would affect the levy. Hauschild explained the process would be similar to the budget hearing held in September but would not affect the levy. Ensor summarized that DWEE would provide funds to participating districts, which would then pay the contractor. **Motion carried.**

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Ehmen, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOVEMBER AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

Hauschild discussed plans for the December board meeting, with the Operations & Education Committee to recommend a start time at the November meeting. He and Wingert would attend the Gage County Planning Commission meeting with Lower Big Blue NRD staff on October 15 to discuss groundwater rules, including large water user regulations and well spacing, in light of a potential data center/power plant in northeast Gage County. Wingert noted they would share the six-step process developed earlier in the year for large water users. Million announced an upcoming tree planting at Duck Creek Recreation Area. The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the board meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Ehmen, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Stukenholtz

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.