

February 8, 2018
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Dan Hodges called the five hundred twelfth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:05 p.m. Thursday, February 8, 2018, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Tim Loseke	Eldon Snoke
	Jim Gerweck	Michael McDonald	Mike Speece
	Orval Gigstad	Russel Moss	Dan Stukenholtz
	Dave Guhde	William Niedfeldt	Duane Sugden
	Dan Hodges	Alan Romine	Kevin Thorne
	Doug Iske	Don Siske	

DIRECTORS ABSENT:	Lisa Beethe	Jon Keithley
	Jenny Kearney	Robert Lassen

STAFF PRESENT:	Bob Hilske, Manager
	Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS PRESENT:	Roger Reichmuth, NRCS, Tecumseh
	Katie Cameron, LPSNRD, Lincoln
	Scott Honan, NioCorp, Centennial, CO
	Lavon Heidemann, Elk Creek
	Lindy Rogers, FYRA Engineering

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Hodges announced that the Open Meetings Act was posted at the back of the room.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of Publication was presented and is on file.

3. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Bohling reported on behalf of the nominating committee that all current officers had agreed to run again as follows: Chair-Dan Hodges; Vice Chair-Bill Niedfeldt; Secretary/Treasurer-Mike McDonald. The floor was opened for additional nominations for Chair, but none were offered. Following a secret ballot vote, Dan Hodges was elected chair with 15 votes. The floor was opened for additional nominations for Vice Chair, but none were offered. Following a secret ballot vote, Bill Niedfeldt was elected Vice Chair with 17 votes.

The floor was opened for additional nominations for Secretary/Treasurer. Being none, a secret ballot vote resulted in Mike McDonald elected Secretary/Treasurer with 17 votes.

Bohling reported that Orval Gigstad and Don Siske had agreed to serve as the NARD representative and alternate, respectively.

Sugden moved, seconded by Gerweck, to appoint Orval Gigstad and Don Siske as NARD representative and alternate for 2018. Motion carried.

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

ABSTAINING: Gigstad, Siske

NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

4. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Siske moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the excused absences requested by Lisa Beethe, Jenny Kearney, Jon Keithley, and Bob Lassen. Motion carried on consent agenda.

5. **OPEN FORUMS**

All NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

6. **MINUTES**

Siske moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried on consent agenda.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hilske reviewed his written report. He also gave a summary of the current legislation as it affects NRDs. Nelson provided a short, oral report.

9. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Reichmuth announced that he did not have a written report but offered to answer any questions.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported that Les Agena may be joining the RC&D board.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported that Larry Reynolds is the new NARD President. He also reported on tree sales issues and grass seed sources. He concluded with a report on the NACD meeting in Nashville that he attended.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report.

10. PRESENTATION ON NIOCORP MINE PROJECT WEST OF ELK CREEK

Scott Honan from NioCorp gave a presentation on the feasibility study for their project specifically as it applies to groundwater in the area. He explained the wells and water source that would be used to dewater the site and the difference between them and other, more shallow water sources in that area. He also explained their plan to pipe the water, which would have a high salt content, to the Missouri River. Honan answered questions about other logistics of the site.

11. ENWRA PROGRAM REPORT & AEM PROJECT UPDATE

Katie Cameron with ENWRA gave a PowerPoint presentation on the recent activities of the group and the grant from Water Sustainability Funds that is helping to fund more AEM flights. She reviewed the flight lines for the Nemaha NRD and the project timeline.

12. STANDING COMMITTEES**A. Programs & Projects Committee**

1. *Irrigation Agreement Renewal with Lee Rohrs from Spring Creek 9-3:* Nelson reviewed the history of this agreement.

Sugden moved, seconded by Gerweck, to approve the 10-year agreement with Lee Rohrs for irrigation from Spring Creek 9-3. Motion carried.

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

2. *Proposed Solution to Janssen/Vermeer Irrigation Runoff Complaint:* Nelson reviewed the solution proposed which involves piping the water to the edge of the fields with both parties to share the cost. Mr. Vermeer was at the committee meeting and agreed to share half the cost, and Mr. Jensen had called the office earlier in the day and agreed with the proposal though he asked to discuss one of the figures with the contractor.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to support the proposed solution to the irrigation runoff complaint by David Vermeer against Jared Janssen. Motion carried.

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

3. **Well Permit Applications:** Permits received were, as follows:

Permit #	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N699	Annette Ottemann	SW¼ NW¼ 10-4-12, Nemaha Co.	700	Irrigation	325
N700	Joseph Sand	NW¼NE¼ 21-6-12, Johnson Co.	800	Irrigation	338
N701	Blane Anthony	NE¼SW¼ 9-6-12, Johnson Co.	800	Irrigation	230
N702	Blane Anthony	SE¼SW¼ 9-6-12, Johnson Co.	800	Irrigation	229

Gerweck moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the following well permits: No. N699 for Annette Ottemann, N700 for Joseph Sand, and N701 and N702 for Blane Anthony. Motion carried.

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

B. Operations & Education Committee

1. **Urban Special Projects Intent to Apply Submissions:** Loseke briefly reviewed the applications submitted and explained that those deemed as qualifying would now proceed to prepare and submit detailed application packages that are due May 1. Submissions were:

Applicant	Funds Requested	Description
Village of Firth	\$1,500	Native Tree Planting
Humboldt Garden Club	\$25,000	Native Planting/Outdoor Classroom
City of Humboldt	\$25,000	Pond Improvements
Village of Bennet	\$25,000	Trail, Native Plantings
Village of Sterling	\$25,000	Trail, Native Plantings

Loseke added that staff will work with each applicant to prepare a final application that fits the program requirements and qualifications. No action.

2. **Renewing Lease on Steamboat Trace with Lakeshore Farms:**
Loseke moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the lease renewal with Lakeshore Farms at the annual rate of \$600. There was some discussion about the repairs they had made to the slope above the trail since last year. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

3. **Sponsoring the Southeast Nebraska Soil Health Conference:**
Loseke moved, seconded by Siske, to approve a \$200 sponsorship donation to the Southeast Nebraska Soil Health Conference. The conference is scheduled March 5 in Syracuse and is offered free to the public. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

4. **FEMA Siren & Saferoom Grant Application:** Loseke reviewed the status of the grant, which now only includes the saferooms. Hilske reviewed the details of the grant and proposed costs. He asked if the board was in favor of continuing with the lengthy grant application, which is due March 31. The original plan was to try and incorporate the saferooms with concrete restrooms already budgeted for Kirkman’s Cove.

Loseke moved, seconded by Gerweck, to proceed with the grant application for the saferooms at Kirkman’s Cove. There was considerable discussion about not only the value of saferooms but also the need for sirens at the parks. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NAY: Stukenholtz
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

5. **Bids for Mowing District Recreation Areas:** Loseke reviewed the bids received and process for requesting bids this year. Bidders could bid on all five parks together (Bid Package #3) or to bid separately on Kirkman’s/Iron Horse/Wirth Brothers (Bid Package #1) or Prairie Owl/Duck Creek (Bid Package #2). Bids received were:

Bidder	Package #1	Package #2	Package #3 (All)
Leland Laue, Pawnee City	No Bid	No Bid	\$19,500.00
Stan Borchert Mowing, Sterling	\$17,360.00	\$5,124.00	\$22,484.00
JC Dirt Work, Cook	\$22,722.14	No Bid	\$25,999.00
Jeff McClintock, Pawnee City	No Bid	No Bid	\$26,180.00

All bids are listed as totals per year. Detailed tabulations with breakdowns by park/year are filed with the minutes.

Loseke moved, seconded by Siske, to approve the bid of \$22,484 per year from Stan Borchert Mowing for a three-year, annually renewable contract to mow all five parks (Bid Package #3). Hilske explained that after discussing the project with the low bidder, who would be doing it by himself, staff felt he would not be able to complete all the mowing in the timetable required. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

C. Executive Committee

1. ***FY18 Committee Appointments:*** Niedfeldt reported that committees would remain the same unless someone specifically asks to be moved. No action.
2. ***Future Project Planning Meeting for the Board:*** Niedfeldt asked if there was any interest and, if so, when to hold this meeting. Hilske explained that this came up as an idea during the last budget cycle. Consensus was to hold a planning meeting and for staff to come up with some possible dates.
3. ***Legislation:*** This item was covered during the Staff Report.
4. ***Status of NRD Staff Located in NRCS Offices during Federal Government Shutdowns:*** Niedfeldt explained that this question came up because of the recent government shutdown and the possibility of another and that NRD staff are not allowed to work in the NRCS offices during a shutdown. A proposed policy was presented:

“In the event of a federal government shutdown, the District’s NRCS clerks will be placed on paid administrative leave until the shutdown ends or until the end of the pay period following the next meeting of the NRD Board, whichever is sooner. During the time on administrative leave, the clerks could be asked to work for the District on duties similar to their normal responsibilities. If working for the NRD results in added expense for the clerk to go to or from the job location, the District would reimburse the expense at normal rates.”

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the Policy on Federal Shutdowns as presented. Motion carried.

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS, MARCH MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

The next meeting will be March 8 at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the meeting.

14. CONSENT AGENDA

Siske moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the consent agenda. Consent agenda items: Excused Absences, Minutes, Treasurer’s Report. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss,
Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Siske moved, seconded by McDonald, to adjourn. Motion carried.

AYE: Bohling, Gerweck, Gigstad, Guhde, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss,
Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Beethe, Kearney, Keithley, Lassen

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Approved March 8, 2018

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District