

February 13, 2020
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Bill Niedfeldt called the five hundred thirty-sixth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:07 p.m. Thursday, February 13, 2020, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	Lisa Beethe	Dan Hodges	Don Siske
PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Doug Iske	Eldon Snoke
	Jessica Donnelly	Robert Lassen	Mike Speece
	Randy Fox	Russel Moss	Dan Stukenholtz
	Jim Gerweck	William Niedfeldt	Duane Sugden
	Orval Gigstad	Alan Romine	Kevin Thorne

DIRECTORS	Jon Keithley	Michael McDonald
ABSENT:	Tim Loseke	

STAFF	Bob Hilske, Manager
PRESENT:	Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Jill Rogman, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS	Roger Reichmuth, NRCS, Tecumseh
PRESENT:	Karen Griffin, Olsson Engineering
	Keith Grimm
	Andrew Rieschick, Falls City
	Ryan Rieschick, Auburn

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Niedfeldt 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. **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Siske moved, seconded by Thorne, to approve the excused absences requested by Jon Keithley, Tim Loseke, and Mike McDonald. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

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

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hilske reviewed his written report. Nelson reviewed his report.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Reichmuth reported on field visits of CRP renewals, the upcoming EQIP sign up deadline, and the local work group meeting scheduled February 19.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported that they reviewed various grant applications at their last meeting.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported on the board meeting that followed the Legislative Conference. They will have container trees for the first time at Halsey, and each NRD will receive some this year. He also reported on the NACD annual meeting held recently.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report.

9. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. Well Permit Applications: Wingert reviewed the following applications:

Permit#	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N724	Stephen Miller	NE¼NW¼ Section 9-5-11, Johnson County	800	Irrigation	304
N725	Michael Damme	NW¼NE¼ Section 17-7-12, Otoe County	300	Irrigation	208

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve Well Permit #N724 and N725. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Donnelly, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Keithley, Loseke, McDonald

2. ***Approving Groundwater Rules Revisions & Issuing Administrative Order:*** Wingert reviewed the highlights of written testimony received from five individuals or agencies. Some of the main concerns brought up were the minimum transmissivity value of 20,000, whether to continue to award 25 points for use of subsurface drip irrigation, and the density calculation when there's a major river between a well on one side of the river and one on the other. Comments that are not specifically in the rules were about the 300 points required in a specific area and about what the minimum score should be along the Nemaha and Missouri River alluvial aquifers. He indicated these could be addressed by the board at a future meeting.

Sugden moved, seconded by Gigstad, to set the points for use of subsurface drip irrigation at zero in the well permit ranking formula. After some discussion and explanation by Wingert of the benefits of this irrigation method, **Sugden withdrew his motion.** There was considerable discussion on the advantage to niche farmers, odd shaped or smaller parcels, or lower capacity wells.

Romine moved, seconded by Lassen, to leave the points for use of subsurface drip irrigation at 25. It was clarified that the proposed revision to the rules is to change this from 25 to zero, so this motion would leave that number at 25 points as it is currently in the rules. After additional discussion, **motion carried.**

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

Gerweck moved, seconded by Hodges, to approve the proposed changes to the Groundwater Rules and Regulations with the three recommended adjustments: dropping the minimum transmissivity value to 10,000; degree of sorting and hydraulic conductivity table, and density calculation observing boundary conditions. Motion carried.

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

Sugden moved, seconded by Lassen, to issue an administrative order making the rules effective March 13, 2020. Motion carried.

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

3. ***Agreement with DNR for Water Sustainability Fund Grant:*** Wingert explained the grant which would provide funding for more AEM data collection. The total amount of the grant is \$236,100, which is 60% of the project cost.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the agreement with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources for Water Sustainability Funds for the AEM Data Collection Project. Hilske explained that this item was not in the budget and that we would have to make a down payment of approximately \$118,000, 60% of which would be reimbursed from the grant. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

4. ***Contract with Aqua-Geo Frameworks for AEM Data Collection Project:*** Gerweck explained that this company will do all the AEM flight work and that the \$118,000 down payment would be required to secure the company that provides the helicopters.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Iske, to approve the contract with Aqua-Geo Frameworks for coordination of the AEM data collection project. Motion carried.

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

5. ***Consulting Costs to Complete Integrated Management Plan:***
Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve providing 50% of the total estimated consulting costs of \$48,000 to complete the NRD's Integrated Management Plan. Hilske provided background on the process for completing the plan, which will be done by HDR. This was also not included in this year's budget. Upon further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

6. ***Proposed Mitigation Plan for Kirkman's Cove Sediment Basin:*** Nelson explained the plan and that the application for the 404 permit and wetland mitigation plan were complete. The committee had some concerns about whether there are any alternatives that are more cost efficient. They suggested delaying action for a month to allow time to investigate other options. No action.
7. ***Otoe County Request for Rip Rap to Address County Road 22 Erosion Issue:*** Nelson explained the situation where three recent conservation projects on private land were contributing to severe erosion to the county road ditch. The County asked the NRD to provide 75 tons of rip rap to use as rock checks in the ditch to address the erosion. Hilske clarified that since the conservation work, some of which was funded through EQIP, was the main cause of the damage, we would consider assisting. The

Committee discussed offering to provide 50% of the cost for the rip rap, which would be approximately \$1,200.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Gigstad, to authorize paying Otoe County up to \$1,200 toward purchase of 75 tons of rip rap for repair of erosion on County Road 22 northeast of Burr. Motion carried.

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

B. Operations & Education Committee

1. ***Urban Special Projects Intent to Apply Submissions:*** Romine briefly reviewed the following Intent to Apply submissions for next fiscal year's Urban Special Project funding:

Humboldt Lions Club – trail - \$10,000

Pawnee City Public Schools – native plantings - \$3,000

No action was required. Both projects qualify and will now be required to complete and submit detailed applications to be considered in May for possible approval.

2. ***Lease Renewal with Lakeshore Farms:*** The annual lease at the Steamboat Trace with Lakeshore Farms due April 1 was set at \$600 last year.

Romine moved, seconded by Siske, to renew the trail lease with Lakeshore Farms to access the Steamboat Trace near Brownville at the rate of \$600. Motion carried.

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

3. ***Funding for Palmyra and Pawnee City Land Judging Teams:*** Romine explained that both schools qualified a team to compete at the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma in May. In the past we have provided up to \$500 for teams to attend.

Romine moved, seconded by Siske, to provide up to \$500 to Palmyra and to Pawnee City high schools' land judging teams upon request to defray expenses to compete at the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma in May, 2020. Motion carried.

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

C. Executive Committee

1. **Update on Legislation:** Hilske reviewed legislation that might impact the NRDs.
2. **Review FY2020 Budget vs. Actual Expenses/Revenues:** Hilske reviewed the budget report that was provided showing all funds expended or received to date. He further provided a project-program budget review that outlined areas that were not included in the original budget as well as areas where expenditures were less than anticipated. He explained that because we have had a couple of larger items come up that were not included, we may have to look at other areas where funds might be available. Iske commented that he was not in favor of using the monies not yet obligated for conservation assistance for this purpose until all applicants had been offered funds. No action. (*This item was discussed immediately prior to the Programs & Projects Committee report.*)
3. **FY2020 Budget Adjustments:** Hilske explained that the two items approved earlier for funds that were not in the budget are both mainly for consultant fees. We have enough funds right now in the consultant budget item to cover the extra needs. Therefore, there was no adjustment required at this time.
4. **Strategy and Timeline for Master Plan Update:** Hilske explained that each committee would be reviewing their corresponding sections of the plan over the next few months. No action.
5. **Plan to Upgrade Interior and Exterior Lighting in Shop & Office:** One quote had been obtained from an electrician to determine approximate costs, and it was split among the south portion of the shop, north shop and outdoor fixtures, and the main office.

Lassen moved, seconded by Gerweck, to get more quotes and if the quote for the south portion of the shop is \$1,600 or less to authorize staff to proceed with that portion of the project. Hilske added that only the south shop would need to be done now and that the other portion could wait until next budget year. **Motion carried.**

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

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

The next meeting will be March 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the regular meeting. Agenda items will include a Healthy Soils Task Force presentation by Mike McDonald. Hilske also reminded board members of the upcoming incumbent filing deadline.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

Hodges moved, seconded by Fox, to adjourn. Motion carried.

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Approved 3/12/20

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District