

February 10, 2022
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Doug Iske called the five hundred sixtieth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:03 p.m. Thursday, February 10, 2022, at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	Lisa Beethe	Dan Hodges	Bill Niedfeldt
PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Doug Iske	Alan Romine
	Randy Fox	Robert Lassen	Eldon Snoke
	Orval Gigstad	Tim Loseke	Dan Stukenholtz
	Jim Gerweck	Michael McDonald	Duane Sugden
	Dan Giittinger	Russel Moss	Kevin Thorne

DIRECTORS			
ABSENT:	Jon Keithley	Don Siske	Mike Speece

STAFF	Kyle Hauschild, General Manager
PRESENT:	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Ashley Rippe, Information, Education & Grants Coordinator
	Charlie Pierce, Resources Specialist

GUESTS	Jeremiah Schutz, NRCS, Tecumseh
PRESENT:	Steve Woerth, Brownville

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

Sugden moved, seconded by Hodges, to approve the requests for excused absences received from Jon Keithley, Don Siske, and Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Lassen reported on behalf of the nominating committee which was made up of himself, Bill Niedfeldt, and Duane Sugden. Doug Iske had agreed to be nominated for Chair. Lassen asked for additional nominations from the floor, but none were offered. Sugden moved, Gigstad seconded to close nominations. Upon secret ballot, 16 votes in favor, 1 vote to abstain, 1 vote opposed. Iske was elected Chair.

Lassen reported Russel Moss had agreed to be nominated for Vice Chair; he asked for additional nominations from the floor; none were offered. Fox moved, Sugden seconded to close nominations. Upon secret ballot vote, 16 votes in favor, 1 vote to abstain, 1 vote opposed. Moss was elected Vice-Chair.

Lassen reported Tim Loseke had agreed to be nominated for Secretary/Treasurer. He asked for additional nominations from the floor, but there were none. Sugden moved, Thorne seconded to close nominations. Upon secret ballot vote, 17 votes in favor, 1 vote to abstain. Loseke was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

Lassen reported Orval Gigstad had agreed to be nominated for NARD Representative. He asked for additional nominations from the floor, but there were none. Sugden moved, Bohling seconded to close nominations. Upon secret ballot vote, 17 votes in favor, 1 vote opposed. Gigstad was elected NARD Representative.

5. **OPEN FORUMS**

Directors and staff introduced themselves.

6. **MINUTES**

Minutes from the January meeting were provided. Beethe asked if the corrected December minutes would be provided to directors; Kuhl will send them after the meeting. McDonald asked why some of the agenda items listed on the January minutes as February agenda items were not on this month's agenda. Iske and Hauschild explained that the manager evaluation had been postponed to allow the new officers and Executive Committee to work on it. Regarding the question of streaming board meetings, Hauschild explained that we do not currently have adequate internet access and that this item was accidentally omitted.

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

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Lassen asked for explanation of the drainage district taxes we pay; McDonald asked about the wind energy tax we receive.

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

8. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild provided a brief report. Pierce updated the board on the various water programs and data available from the previous year. Rippe reported on the statistics for our website and social media accounts.

9. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Schutz briefly reviewed his written report.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported on a \$21,000 grant they received and plans to pay for some helicopter spraying. They meet again February 17.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported on the Legislative Conference, some of the legislation discussed, a new statewide award for water conservation, the NARD budget, and a government mandate requiring the cost of COVID tests be provided by our insurance.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

McDonald reported their next meeting would be February 23 in Kearney. They will look at some rule changes and set up tours across the state.

E. Steamboat Trace Volunteer Group

Giittinger reported on plans that Nebraska City has for trails within the city and potentially connecting to the Steamboat Trace. He also reported on the two large trees taken down at Peru and plans for cleaning up the debris and for restoring water and power to the facilities there. Woerth added that the group is working on a five-year plan which includes rebranding the trail as Nebraska’s longest history museum.

10. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

1. Well Permit Applications: Wingert reviewed the following well permits:

Permit #	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N754	Craig & Lori Behrends	NW¼SW¼ Section 21-6-12 of Johnson Co.	500	Irrigation	228
**N755	Andrew Wellensiek	SW¼NW¼ Section 3-6-11 of Johnson Co.	800	Irrigation	149
N756	Dylan Lempka	SW¼SE¼ Section 36-6-9 of Johnson Co.	800	Irrigation	201
N757	Douglas Grotrian	NE¼NE¼ Section 34-6-12 of Nemaha Co.	50	Irrigation	207
N758 & N759	Andrew & Kim Wellensiek & Scott Wellensiek	SW¼SW¼ of Section 26-6-12 of Nemaha Co.	800	Irrigation	233 & 269

Wingert added that Permit #N755 would be postponed to the next meeting since the landowner was not able to attend this meeting.

Sugden moved, seconded by Gerweck to approve well permits N754, N756, N757, N758, and N759. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Keithley, Siske, Speece

2. Action to Approve Voluntary Integrated Management Plan: Wingert explained the process for accepting comments on the plan from stakeholders. He also outlined the

next steps which would be to hold a public hearing prior to the board taking final action on the plan.

Hodges moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the Nemaha NRD's Voluntary Integrated Management Plan as presented. McDonald asked about the number of wells that are currently metered and what impact this plan might have on our budget. Wingert replied we have about 25 percent of the wells metered and that there shouldn't be an impact to our budget. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NO: McDonald

NOT PRESENT: Keithley, Siske, Speece

B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- 1. Discussion on Policy for Operation of Motorized Devices by Disabled Persons at NNRD Recreation Areas:*** Fox explained the discussion that took place in committee about the current policy. Thorne had provided a sample of the Game & Parks policy, so the committee will work on combining some of their information with the NRD's policy to come up with something workable. No action.
- 2. Review Preliminary Applications for Urban Special Project Funding:*** Fox reported the committee reviewed two applications from Palmyra and Sterling for projects. Both appeared to have qualifying projects, so staff will contact them to proceed with detailed applications. No action.
- 3. Annual Lease with Lynn Binder for Steamboat Trace Access:*** Fox stated the committee reviewed this lease which has been set at \$600 year for the past several years.

Fox moved, seconded by Giittinger, to approve the lease amount of \$600 with Lynn Binder for an overhead conveyor and winch for barge loading on the Steamboat Trace corridor at Brownville. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Keithley, Siske, Speece

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 1. Discussion on Covid Policy for Office Staff and Visitors:*** Hauschild commented on the Covid cases in the office over the past few weeks. He explained that currently CDC guidance is being used to determine how to handle situations regarding Covid in the NRD office. Visitors are limited to the board room.

11. **UPDATING DISTRICT BANK SIGNATORY AUTHORITY**

Lassen moved, seconded by Stukenholtz, to approve a resolution authorizing Doug Iske, Russel Moss, Tim Loseke, and Kyle Hauschild as authorized signers on NRD bank accounts. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Keithley, Siske, Speece

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

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the regular meeting.

13. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Keithley, Siske, Speece

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

Gerweck moved, seconded by Thorne, to adjourn. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Bohling, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Snoke, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Keithley, Siske, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Approved March 10, 2022

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District