

June 13, 2024
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Doug Iske called the five hundred eighty-eighth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:11 p.m. Thursday, June 13, 2024, at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Todd Boellstorff	Dan Hodges	Alan Romine
	Rob Bohling	Doug Iske	Tim Schardt
	Patty Coates	Robert Lassen	Eldon Snoke
	Tracy Ensor	Tim Loseke	Mike Speece
	Randy Fox	Russel Moss	Duane Sugden
	Orval Gigstad	Bill Niedfeldt	Kevin Thorne

DIRECTORS ABSENT:	Kraig Coonce	Jon Keithley	Dan Stukenholtz
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STAFF PRESENT:	Kyle Hauschild, Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Assistant Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Brooke Gerdes, Administrative Bookkeeper

GUESTS PRESENT:	Bob Hallstrom, Syracuse
	Steve Woerth, Brownville

Iske announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall in the back of the room.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of publication was presented and is on file.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Excused Absences: Kraig Coonce, Jon Keithley, Dan Stukenholtz
- b. Minutes: No questions.
- c. Treasurer's Report: No changes.

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

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

Directors and staff introduced themselves. Bob Hallstrom introduced himself to the board and offered to answer any questions.

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild's briefly reviewed some items from his report; Wingert reported on chemigation, the nozzle grant, and a recent ENWRA meeting.

6. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

No report.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reviewed the recent board meeting including new laws, tree sales, budget, and health insurance, which has no increase this year. He and Iske reported on the basin tour held earlier in the week.

C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Fox reported they will meet on August 14; they received seven small project and four large project applications for funding.

7. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

1. *Well Permit Applications:* Schaardt reviewed the following applications:

Permit #	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N820	GoodLife Agriculture	SE ¼ NE ¼ Section 32-9-14, Otoe County	1000	Aquaculture	210
N821	GoodLife Agriculture	SE ¼ NE ¼ Section 32-9-14, Otoe County	1000	Aquaculture	202
N815	E Energy Adams, LLC	NW¼ SE¼ Section 17-6-8, Gage County	170	Industrial	225
N816	E Energy Adams, LLC	NE¼ NE¼ Section 20-6-8, Gage County	239	Industrial	209
N817	E Energy Adams, LLC	NE¼ NE¼ Section 20-6-8, Gage County	309	Industrial	226
N818	E Energy Adams, LLC	SE¼ SE¼ Section 17-6-8, Gage County	331	Industrial	244
N819	E Energy Adams, LLC	NW¼ SE¼ Section 17-6-8, Gage County	321	Industrial	297

John Humphrey provided a slide show of their proposed salmon growing operation near Nebraska City for which GoodLife Agriculture had submitted well permit applications. Schaardt stated no additional information had been received for the E Energy Adams well permits.

Schaardt moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve well permit applications N820 and N821. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

2. ***Direction for UBN 7-A Repair/Rehab:*** Mike Sotak with Houston Engineering met with the committee to review the options for either repair or full rehab of the dam and lake. Hauschild answered questions and provided more information for the board on the options and their potential costs and timetables.

Sugden moved, seconded by Thorne, to proceed with the repair project for Upper Big Nemaha 7-A. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

3. ***Discussion on FY2025 Budget:*** No discussion.

B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. ***Approval of Final Applications for Urban Special Project Funding:*** Applications received were as follows:

Village of Talmage-Pond Improvements-Priority #2-Request: \$3,175.50

Village of Palmyra-Trail Improvements-Priority #4-Request: \$25,000.00

Snoke explained that the committee reviewed the two applications received and was proposing to budget a maximum of \$25,000 for the two applications combined.

Lassen moved, seconded by Hodges, to approve funding the Urban Special Projects requests as follows: Village of Talmage-\$3,175.50; Village of Palmyra-\$21,824.50. Iske asked if the applications could be considered separately. Lassen withdrew his motion; Hodges withdrew his second.

Iske moved, seconded by Boellstorff, to address each application separately. Motion carried. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

Iske moved, seconded by Ensor, to approve the Village of Talmage application for Urban Special Project funding in the amount of \$3,175.50. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

Sugden moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the Village of Palmyra application for Urban Special Project funding in the amount of \$21,824.50. Motion carried.

AYE: Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NAY: Boellstorff, Iske, Romine,
ABSTAINING: Lassen
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

2. *Discussion on FY2025 Budget:* No discussion.

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. *Discussion on FY25 Salary Adjustments:* Moss reported the committee explained both the committee's proposal for pay increases and the upcoming increase in retirement contributions by both the employee and employer. Gigstad added that NARD had reduced NRD dues to help offset the increased cost of retirement contributions.

Moss moved, seconded by Gigstad, to increase salaries 3.5 percent, allow \$6,000 for the Manager to distribute for merit increases, and approve an additional one percent contribution to employee retirement. After discussion on the impact of the increases to the budget, **motion carried.**

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

Moss then explained the committee's discussion regarding increases for the Manager and Assistant Manager to better compare with other similar positions.

Lassen moved, seconded by Gigstad, to increase the Assistant Manager's salary by 12 percent. After discussion about savings incurred by not filling a position vacated last year, **motion carried.**

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

Moss moved, seconded by Romine, to increase the General Manager's salary by 12 percent. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

- 2. Southeast Weed Management Association Membership:** Hauschild explained that this group has organized to work together on noxious and invasive species concerns. He added that they had been a part of the RC&D originally. The NRD's contribution will be administering the finances of the group.

Moss moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve the agreement to become a member of the Southeast Weed Management Association. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

- 3. Change in Director Per Diem Rate:** Moss explained that the committee discussed whether a change should be made. Currently the rate paid is \$65, but statute allows up to \$70.

Sugden moved, seconded by Bohling, to leave the per diem rate at \$65. NNRD rates over the years were discussed, which started at \$15 in 1972, \$35 in 1991, \$50 in 2002, and \$65 in 2014. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne
ABSTAINING: Speece
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

- 4. Quote for District Property, Liability, Workers Compensation Insurance for FY2025:** The quote received from FNIC, the District's current carrier, was a total of \$59,464.57, which was approximately a \$10,000 increase. Hauschild added that there are few carriers that will cover our dams. Main emphasis of the quote was an increase in replacement cost of buildings and additional premium for cyber liability.

Moss moved, seconded by Romine, to approve the quote from FNIC for property, liability, and workers compensation coverage for FY25 at a total cost of \$59,464.57. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

5. **Renewal of Janitorial Contract:** The current janitorial contract is with Kristine Gerking at a rate of \$550/month. She provided a quote of \$600/month for the next three years.

Fox moved, seconded by Gigstad, to enter into a three-year contract with Kristine Gerking for janitorial services at a rate of \$600/month. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Sugden, Thorne
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

6. **Discussion on FY2025 Budget:** No discussion.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, JULY AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the board meeting. The future plans for Prairie Owl and a grant request by the Steamboat Trace Association were requested to be on the agenda. Hauschild added that since we now have a full board, we will make plans to hold a director retreat in the future.

9. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden, Thorne
ABSTAINING: Speece
NOT PRESENT: Coonce, Keithley, Stukenholtz

The meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District