

May 12, 2022
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Doug Iske called the five hundred sixty-third meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:10 p.m. Thursday, May 12, 2022, at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Lisa Beethe	Doug Iske	Alan Romine
	Randy Fox	Jon Keithley	Don Siske
	Jim Gerweck	Robert Lassen	Dan Stukenholtz
	Orval Gigstad	Tim Loseke	Duane Sugden
	Dan Giittinger	Michael McDonald	Kevin Thorne
	Dan Hodges	Bill Niedfeldt	

DIRECTORS ABSENT:	Rob Bohling	Eldon Snoke
	Russel Moss	Mike Speece

STAFF PRESENT:	Kyle Hauschild, General Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Mark McDonald, Field Representative

GUESTS PRESENT:	John Crook, Peru
	Dr. Robert Ottemann, Omaha
	Don Blankenau, Lincoln

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**

Beethe moved, seconded by Keithley, to approve the requests for excused absences received from Rob Bohling, Russel Moss, Eldon Snoke, and Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

Directors and staff introduced themselves. John Crook addressed the board regarding access issues associated with the Steamboat Trace.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild briefly reviewed his report. Wingert reviewed his report and updated the board on the status of the Craig Behrends permit to conduct. Mark McDonald updated the board on the tree program and trail repairs.

8. **SALARY SURVEY PRESENTATION BY ROBERT OTTEMANN, UNO**

Dr. Ottemann provided copies of the salary survey report to all directors and reviewed the results. Lassen asked questions regarding how to accommodate for senior employees and for inflation.

9. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

A written report was distributed which included a summary of contracts in the Nebraska Buffer Strip Program.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported they would be meeting next week (they did not meet last month).

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad commented that he would not be able to attend the NARD meeting or basin tour in June. He also talked about the commemorative tree planting ceremonies at the State Capitol and at Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City on Arbor Day.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Mike McDonald reported there is a subcommittee meeting to look at changing when they receive and review grant applications. During their meeting, Tom Riley talked about the Peru levy. Mike also reported on a new irrigation grant.

E. Steamboat Trace Volunteer Group

Giittinger stated they did not have a meeting this month.

10. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

1. Well Permit Applications: None received.

B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1. *Urban Special Project Final Applications:* Fox reported only one final application was received which was from the Village of Palmyra for a trail through their park. They are requesting \$25,000, and their project meets the requirements of the program.

Fox moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the Urban Special Project application from the Village of Palmyra for \$25,000. Motion carried.

AYE: Beethe, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

ABSTAINING: McDonald

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Moss, Snoke, Speece

2. *Action to Ratify Changes to Recreation Rules & Regulations Policy:* Fox reported no one attended the public hearing held prior to the board meeting tonight. Changes to the rules include specifying which types of disability vehicles are allowed in NNRD parks, which does not include UTVs, ATVs, or golf carts. A few miscellaneous housekeeping corrections were also included.

Fox moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the changes to the NNRD Recreation Area Rules and Regulations as presented. The changes will be effective immediately. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Moss, Snoke, Speece

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. *Action to Approve Changes to NRD Bylaws:* Loseke reviewed the proposed changes which included adjusting the membership on the Executive Committee and splitting the offices of secretary and treasurer.

Loseke moved, seconded by Romine, to approve the changes to the bylaws as presented. McDonald asked how this would take place and when. Beethe felt the secretary and treasurer doesn't need to be split into two positions. She also questioned removing the NNRC representative from the committee. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Loseke moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve changes to the following sections of the bylaws: Programs & Projects Committee 1.A; Operations & Education Committee 2.D(6). Motion carried.

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

Beethe moved, seconded by McDonald, to leave the Executive Committee 1.A. unchanged but adding that if the NNRC representative is not an active board member, that position would be assigned. There was some discussion about whether the Executive Committee would be comprised of six or seven members. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Beethe moved, seconded by Hodges, to leave the Executive Committee composition unchanged with the exception of 2 directors expressing interest in becoming an officer (instead of one) and, if the NNRC representative is not a member of the board, appointing another director to the committee. Hodges clarified that directors on the Executive Committee do not automatically work their way up to Chair. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Fox, Gerweck, Giittinger, Hodges, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Sugden, Thorne

NAY: Gigstad, Iske, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Moss, Snoke, Speece

2. ***Appointment of Budget Committee Members:*** Loseke, Niedfeldt, and Romine had been selected to serve. One member from each of the other two committees was requested. Stukenholtz and Fox agreed to serve.
3. ***Landowner Access on the Steamboat Trace:*** Loseke explained some of the issues experienced in one stretch of the trail. Hauschild displayed a map showing the trail and an adjacent, vacated county road.

Beethe moved, seconded by Sugden, to go into closed session at 10:05 p.m. to protect the public interest due to potential litigation regarding landowner issues with the Steamboat Trace trail. Motion carried.

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

Beethe moved, seconded by Lassen, to return to open session at 10:34 p.m. Motion carried.

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

Loeske moved, seconded by Beethe, that the District revoke any and all privileges or licenses that may have been previously granted to landowners to access and use the Steamboat Trace trail for motorized traffic, cattle crossings, or any other purposes not stated on the posted signage. Any such continued unauthorized use shall be considered a trespass. Discussion was held on the next steps should this motion pass. **Motion carried.**

AYE: Beethe, Gerweck, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

ABSTAIN: Fox

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Moss, Snoke, Speece

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS, JUNE MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

The next meeting will be Thursday, June 9, at 8:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the regular meeting. A drawing was then held to award one cooperator who is planting trees this spring with free trees as part of the Executive Travel tree promotion. Duane Sugden drew the winner, Ted Vasco, from the 16 entries. A presentation of his award will follow at a later date.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

AYE: Beethe, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Giittinger, Moss, Snoke, Speece

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

AYE: Beethe, Fox, Gerweck, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, McDonald, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Bohling, Giittinger, Moss, Snoke, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 p.m.

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District