

July 8, 2021
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Mike McDonald called the five hundred fifty-third meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:03 p.m. Thursday, July 8, 2021, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS	Randy Fox
ABSENT:	Jon Keithley

STAFF	Kyle Hauschild, General Manager
PRESENT:	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Jill Rogman, Administrative Assistant
	Steve Bartels, Field Representative
	Aaron Stalder, Resources Specialist
	Charlie Pierce, Resources Specialist
	Lisa Bartels, Secretary

GUESTS	Jeremiah Schutz, NRCS, Tecumseh	Steve Woerth, Brownville
PRESENT:	R.E. Clopton, Auburn	David Swanson, Auburn Newspapers
	Deb Clopton, Auburn	Tania Diaz, Sterling
	Bill Clemente, Auburn	Don Blankenau, Lincoln
	John F. Hokke, Brownville	Tom Vacek, Brownville
	Roxanne Vacek, Brownville	

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, McDonald 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 Randy Fox and Jon Keithley. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. OPEN FORUMS

NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves. Steve Woerth explained the concerns of the merchants and other organizations of Brownville regarding the future of the Steamboat Trace. Hauschild reviewed the work that had been done to get the north half of the trail opened and the plans for the south half. Loseke added that we have gathered a lot of information about the cost of repairs and the risk of losing any work done because of the lack of a levee to protect that part of the trail. John Lokke distributed a letter to the board members outlining his interest and concerns for the trail. Rich Clopton addressed the board about the importance of the trail to Peru State College and how they use it during their classes. Stukenholtz added that as long as the levee is not repaired, it is difficult to consider spending a lot of money to fix the trail only to have it flooded again. McDonald thanked the folks for coming in and indicated that further discussion about the trail would be on the next month's agenda.

Doug Iske asked to address the board regarding issues within the board and the conduct of some board members, which he considered unprofessional and unethical. He added that he was also acting as the voice of staff who were present and would open it up to them to comment as well. He felt there needed to be a change, and he opened up the floor for any staff or other directors who wished to comment. Bohling and Sugden questioned whether this should be considered in closed session, but Iske stated he would only agree to that if staff and guests would be allowed to stay and participate. He emphasized that he preferred this be discussed in open session so any gossip or rumors could be avoided. Bohling asked if the staff could instead meet with the executive committee, but Iske stated they needed to meet with the whole board.

McDonald moved, seconded by Bohling, to go into closed session with board members only for the prevention of needless injury to an individual to discuss personnel issues. Motion failed.

AYE: Gerweck, Lassen

NAY: Beethe, Bohling, Gigstad, Giittinger, Hodges, Iske, Loseke, McDonald, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Siske, Snoke, Speece, Stukenholtz, Sugden, Thorne

NOT PRESENT: Fox, Keithley

Iske moved, seconded by Sugden, to go into closed session at 8:42 p.m. with board members, staff, and guests for the prevention of needless injury to an individual to discuss personnel issues. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Fox, Keithley

Gigstad moved, seconded by Sugden, to return to open session at 9:28 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Fox, Keithley

Bohling moved to ask for Mike McDonald's resignation as board chair. Mike McDonald stated he would resign as board chair. **Bohling withdrew his motion.**

Gigstad moved, seconded by Stukenholtz, to accept Mike McDonald's resignation as chair of the board. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Fox, Keithley

Moss asked if Bill Niedfeldt would consider stepping in as chair until the next election of officers in January. Hauschild explained that the board would have to wait until next month to vote on a new chair. Iske stated he was not interested in stepping up as chair at this time.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild briefly reviewed his written report that had been distributed. Wingert reviewed his report. Kuhl reviewed her activities for the past few months.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Schutz reviewed his written report, which had been distributed. He added that construction is starting, and they are trying to get before and after photos. In response to a question, Schutz reviewed the duties of the NRD clerks and their importance.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden deferred his report to next month.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad commented on the upcoming, virtual Envirothon and distributed a newsletter on forestry from NACD.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

No report.

9. STANDING COMMITTEES - NONE

10. WELL PERMITS – NONE

11. RESTRICTED FUND ALLOWANCE – 1% INCREASE APPROVAL FOR FY2022 BUDGET

Hauschild briefly reviewed the purpose of this action.

Sugden moved, seconded by Siske, to increase the restricted fund allowance an additional one percent for the FY2022 budget. Motion carried.

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

NAY: McDonald

NOT PRESENT: Fox, Keithley

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

The next meeting will be August 12, 2021, at 8:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the regular meeting. Election of a new board chair will be included on the agenda.

13. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Fox, Keithley

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Fox, Keithley

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Approved August 12, 2021

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District