

August 8, 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 ninetieth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:09 p.m. Thursday, August 8, 2024, at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

<b>DIRECTORS PRESENT:</b>	Todd Boellstorff	Doug Iske	Tim Schardt
	Rob Bohling	Jon Keithley	Alan Romine
	Patty Coates	Robert Lassen	Eldon Snoke
	Tracy Ensor	Tim Loseke	Mike Speece
	Randy Fox	Russel Moss	Kevin Thorne
	Dan Hodges	Bill Niedfeldt	

<b>DIRECTORS ABSENT:</b>	Kraig Coonce	Dan Stukenholtz
	Orval Gigstad	Duane Sugden

<b>STAFF PRESENT:</b>	Kyle Hauschild, Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Assistant Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Brooke Gerdes, Administrative Bookkeeper

<b>GUESTS PRESENT:</b>	Josh Malchow, NRCS, Beatrice
	Steve Woerth, Brownville
	Dennis Schardt, Table Rock
	Jessi Riggins, Brock
	Stacy Knippelmeyer, Cook
	Leigh Wakulinski, Brock
	Judy McAlexander, 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, Orval Gigstad, Dan Stukenholtz, Duane Sugden
- b. Minutes: No questions.
- c. Treasurer's Report: No changes.

**Bohling moved, seconded by Hodges, to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried.**

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

#### 4. **OPEN FORUMS**

Directors and staff introduced themselves. Chair Iske announced that due to the number of visitors wishing to provide public comment, each would be allowed four minutes to address the board and that board members would not be answering questions during this time. Den Schaardt introduced himself as a candidate for Legislative District 1. He briefly reviewed his background and interest in the NRD. Jessi Riggins addressed the board regarding their water shortage over the previous weekend. Stacy Knippelmeyer also detailed her concerns about water shortages in the same neighborhood. Leigh Wakulinski stated she was not directly impacted by the water shortage but is in the same neighborhood and shares some of the concerns of her neighbors. Judy McAlexander discussed her concerns regarding the funds spent on maintaining the Steamboat Trace south of Brownville.

#### 5. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild reported on the following items: property tax legislation, new kayak launch at Duck Creek, status of UBN 7-A access for repair work, meeting between the Governor and all NRDs, FY24 audit, budget committee meetings and process, work to open the trail, hazard mitigation planning and upcoming meetings. Gerdes alerted directors to the upcoming NARD Annual Conference and associated deadlines.

#### 6. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

##### **A. Natural Resources Conservation Service**

No report.

##### **B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts**

No report.

##### **C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission**

Fox reported that Tom Riley, the DNR Director, had announced he was leaving. They will be meeting the next week in Kearney and would select awards this month.

#### 7. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

##### **A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

1. *Well Permit Applications:* None

2. *Irrigation Agreement with Brad Kuehn to Irrigate from Wilson Creek 3-C:* Wingert explained the process and details of the agreement.

**Schaardt moved, seconded by Hodges, to approve the irrigation agreement with Brad Kuehn on Wilson Creek 3-C. Motion carried.**

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

3. ***Adjustments to Soil & Water Conservation Program Payment Schedule:*** Moss explained that the maximum payment has not been adjusted for several years, but most projects far exceed the amount available. There was discussion about raising the maximum payment. Any changes would need to be made before January 1, so more time will be spent examining the options. No action.

## **B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

1. ***Discussion/Action on NRD Logo Revision:*** Snoke reported the committee reviewed options for changing the logo colors and/or typeface. There was some discussion in committee, but no action was taken. More information will be provided next month.
2. ***Discussion/Action on Request from Wachiska Audubon Society for Financial Assistance:*** Snoke explained that this request was similar to a request that was funded three years ago at the same rate of \$2,000/year. The funds would be used as part of their match for an NETF grant for maintenance of prairies within our district.

**Snoke moved, seconded by Keithley, to pledge \$2,000/year for three years to the Wachiska Audubon Society as match for their NETF grant for prairie maintenance.** There was discussion about the goals of this organization and their tax status. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

## **C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. ***Discussion/Action on Resolution for Steamboat Trace RTP Grant Application:*** Hauschild explained that the Steamboat Trace Association's original grant request would not be eligible for this grant. However, in talking with the coordinator for this grant, we discovered it would be available for certain maintenance activities. Therefore, the staff recommended applying for a grant of approximately \$80,000 to remove overhanging trees and resurface a section of the trail.

**Moss moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve a resolution for the Steamboat Trace Recreational Trails Program grant. Motion carried.**

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

2. ***Discussion/Action on Hazard Mitigation Plan Interlocal Agreement:*** This agreement spells out the responsibilities including financial requirements from the five counties and the NRD.

**Moss moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve the Hazard Mitigation Plan Interlocal Agreement. Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Thorne

**NOT PRESENT:** Coonce, Gigstad, Stukenholtz, Sugden

3. ***Action to Approve NARD 414 (h) Contribution Resolution:*** Moss explained that the board had approved the increase in contributions to the retirement program but had not approved the actual resolution, which is required.

**Moss moved, seconded by Ensor, to approve the NARD 414 (h) Contribution Resolution. Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Thorne

**NOT PRESENT:** Coonce, Gigstad, Stukenholtz, Sugden

4. ***Delegate/Alternate for NARD Annual Conference:*** Dan Hodges agreed to serve as delegate.

**Moss moved, seconded by Lassen, to appoint Dan Hodges as delegate and Orval Gigstad as alternate for the NARD annual conference. Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Thorne

**NOT PRESENT:** Coonce, Gigstad, Stukenholtz, Sugden

5. ***Request to Allow Motorized Tours on Steamboat Trace for Seniors/Mobility Challenged:*** Moss explained that this request was submitted by Steve Woerth. Woerth added this would be held once in the spring and once in the fall. It was clarified that the dates and details would be coordinated with NRD staff in advance of each event.

**Moss moved, seconded by Niedfeldt, to approve the request to use the Steamboat Trace for senior and mobility challenged motorized tours twice a year. Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Thorne

**NOT PRESENT:** Coonce, Gigstad, Stukenholtz, Sugden

**8. REVIEW/DIRECTION ON PROPOSED FY25 BUDGET**

Moss reviewed the different tax scenarios for funding this year's budget. Hauschild and Kuhl reviewed some of the items that had been changed since last month. Direction was requested from the board regarding what tax request they wanted to use once valuations are received.

**Moss moved, seconded by Lassen, to maintain a levy of 0.02999 for the FY25 budget. Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Thorne

**NOT PRESENT:** Coonce, Gigstad, Stukenholtz, Sugden

**9. ANNOUNCEMENTS, SEPTEMBER AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the board meeting.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

**Fox moved, seconded by Thorne, to adjourn. Motion carried.**

**AYE:** Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Ensor, Fox, Hodges, Iske, Keithley, Lassen, Loseke, Moss, Niedfeldt, Romine, Schaardt, Snoke, Speece, Thorne

**NOT PRESENT:** Coonce, Gigstad, Stukenholtz, Sugden

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District