

July 9, 2020
Nemaha Natural Resources District
Regular Meeting
Tecumseh, Nebraska

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

Chair Bill Niedfeldt called the five hundred forty-first meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 8:18 p.m. Thursday, July 9, 2020, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

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

DIRECTORS	Randy Fox	Mike Speece
ABSENT:	Jon Keithley	

STAFF	Bob Hilske, Manager
PARTICIPATING:	Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager
	Jill Rogman, Administrative Assistant

GUESTS	Roger Reichmuth, NRCS, Tecumseh
PRESENT:	Andy Wellensiek, Cook

Following the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence, Niedfeldt 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 Lassen, to approve the excused absences requested by Randy Fox, Jon Keithley, and Mike Speece. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

NRD directors, staff, and NRCS personnel introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER’S REPORT**

Beethe moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve the Treasurer’s Report as submitted. Motion carried on consent agenda.

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hilske reviewed his report. Nelson reviewed his report.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Reichmuth reviewed some of his written report which was distributed to all directors.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported that due to the resignation of Jessica Jones as president, he would be filling in as the new president. However, they have not met much in the past few months.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported that a decision on how or whether to hold the annual conference will not be made until about August 1. A committee is working on a new office location. Hilske then reviewed some of the NARD budget.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

McDonald stated they still have not heard anything about the seven gubernatorial appointees needed for the Commission. They will not meet until later this summer.

9. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. Well Permit Applications: Wingert reviewed the following applications:

Permit#	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
*N733	Prazision Acres, LLC	NE¼NW¼ Section 32-2-15 Richardson County	400	Irrigation	220
*N734	Prazision Acres, LLC	SW¼NE¼ Section 32-2-15 Richardson County	400	Irrigation	221
		*N733 + N734 will be combined with total GPM of 400			
N735	Prazision Acres, LLC	NE¼NW¼ of Section 32-2-15 Richardson County	200	Irrigation	224

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve well permits N733, N734, and N735. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

2. ***Lease Renewal with Randy Agena for Sterling Recorder Well:*** Wingert briefly reviewed the agreement to provide \$1,500 for a 15-year lease of property where the well is located. This is the same as the previous lease.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the lease with Randy Agena for a 15-year lease for the property where the Sterling recorder well is located at a total cost of \$1,500. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

3. ***Agreement to Provide Assistance for Camp Catron Project:*** Nelson reviewed the project and the agreement to contribute \$12,000 toward the bank stabilization project.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Hodges, to approve the agreement with the Girl Scouts to contribute \$12,000 toward the Camp Catron bank stabilization project. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

4. ***Trail Debris Clean-up Bids:*** Nelson reviewed the project for removing and chipping larger trees. Because the low bid did not provide all required paperwork and the other two bids were substantially higher than anticipated, staff recommended rejecting all bids and rebidding the project in August. There was discussion about whether the project should be done at all. Hilske pointed out that this work must be done by September 21 to meet the terms of the funding agreement. Therefore, staff was requesting the board authorize the staff to receive bids through July 31 and approve the low bid, if it is within the budget, to allow time for the successful bidder to begin assembling all needed bonds and insurance. The board could then provide formal approval at their August meeting.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to reject all three bids received for the trail debris clean-up project. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

Hilske further explained that we already received the funds from FEMA for this work and that we would have to return the funds and perhaps all of the funds if the work is

not done. He was also unsure whether we could get an additional extension of time since we have already received two extensions. There was further discussion about whether to put any more money into the trail. However, several directors felt a responsibility to clean up what is there and use the funds already allocated from FEMA.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Beethe, to allow staff to rebid and tentatively approve the low bid if it comes in under the projected estimate of \$50,000 so work can begin immediately after the board provides formal approval at the August meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: Stukenholtz

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

5. ***Request for Assistance to Repair the Mittelberg Dam near Cook:*** Nelson explained the issue with this dam which is in failure mode. The dam has not breached but the tube has failed. It provides protection to the Village of Cook, some roads, and Highway 50. The landowner, Andy Wellensiek, is asking for 50 percent funding up to \$40,000. There was discussion about using small dam program funds for this project. Wellensiek provided information about the status of the structure. Hilske explained how this could fit into the budget. Niedfeldt expressed concern about committing to the project before the budget is final.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to commit up to \$40,000 to assist with the Mittelberg dam project. Hilske explained that the funds would not be available until after the budget is approved in September. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

ABSTAINING: Moss

NAY: McDonald

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

6. ***Adams Community Park Drainage Project Request:*** Nelson reviewed the drainage issues and the request for \$25,000 assistance for a detention cell and lift pump. The work would be done this fall. Board consensus was to wait until next month and see if this expenditure would fit in the budget. No action.
7. ***2020 Master Plan Update:*** Gerweck stated the committee did not have time at this meeting to address the plan. No action.
8. ***Appoint a Committee Representative to the New Manager Selection Committee:*** Gerweck announced that the committee selected Dan Hodges as their representative.

B. Operations & Education Committee

1. **2020 Master Plan Update:** Romine reported the committee discussed some of the plan and will continue discussions next month. The committee is also planning to tour Iron Horse Trail Lake prior to the August meeting as part of the planning process.
2. **Appoint a Committee Representative to the New Manager Selection Committee:** Romine reported that Kevin Thorne had been selected as their representative.

C. Executive Committee

1. **Sponsoring a Mesonet Weather Station in the NRD:** McDonald reviewed the history of this item and that UNL is interested in placing a station in Nemaha or Johnson County. Because some used equipment is available, the NRD would only be responsible for the \$2,600 annual maintenance fee. The committee is directing staff to determine how we would use and make the data available to the public. Agreements usually run 3-5 years. This item will be brought back for discussion in August.
2. **New Manager Selection Process:** McDonald reviewed the information provided and asked for input from the board on the job description. He encouraged directors to look closely at the master plan while considering this process. Hilske reviewed some items to consider during the selection process. Four members of the Executive Committee will serve on the search committee: Niedfeldt, McDonald, Beethe, and Lassen.
3. **2020 Master Plan Update:** McDonald asked everyone to return the questionnaires by the end of July to help in preparing a draft plan.

10. FY2021 BUDGET COMMITTEE REPORT

Hilske reviewed a summary of the proposed budget. He also highlighted some of the major revenues and expenses. Regarding the SWCP budget, Hilske explained that combined with the anticipated State funds, we would need about \$60,000 to allow approval of all the summer work. He asked the board to consider approving this amount now so summer approvals could be made yet this month.

McDonald moved, seconded by Lassen, to approve \$60,000 in the budget for SWCP to allow approval of summer work and to consider including additional funds for fall applications in the final budget. Hilske stated the total amount of funds requested for both summer and fall work throughout the District was more than last year. After further discussion, **motion carried.**

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

Hilske explained the reason for the additional one percent of restricted funds, which are basically made up of property taxes but do not increase the overall budget.

McDonald moved, seconded by Gigstad, to increase the restricted fund allowance an additional one percent. Motion carried.

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

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

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

The next meeting will be August 13, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. with committee meeting schedules to be announced.

12. CONSENT AGENDA

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

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

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

13. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

ABSENT: Fox, Keithley, Speece

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Approved August 13, 2020

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District