

March 12, 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 thirty-seventh meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 7:10 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2020, at the NRD Headquarters in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS PRESENT:	Lisa Beethe	Doug Iske	Don Siske
	Rob Bohling	Jon Keithley	Eldon Snoke
	Randy Fox	Tim Loseke	Mike Speece
	Jim Gerweck	Michael McDonald	Dan Stukenholtz
	Orval Gigstad	William Niedfeldt	Duane Sugden
	Dan Hodges	Alan Romine	Kevin Thorne

DIRECTORS ABSENT:	Jessica Donnelly	Russel Moss	Robert Lassen
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STAFF PRESENT:	Bob Hilske, Manager
	Scott Nelson, Assistant Manager
	Jane Kuhl, Administrative Assistant
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager

GUESTS PRESENT:	Tim Teten, Johnson
	Tom Teten, Brock

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**

Siske moved, seconded by Gigstad, to approve the excused absences requested by Jessica Donnelly, Robert Lassen, and Russel Moss. Motion carried on consent agenda.

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

NRD directors, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

5. **MINUTES**

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

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hilske reviewed his written report. Nelson reviewed his report.

8. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

A written report was distributed.

B. Five Rivers RC&D

Sugden reported there was no meeting last month but that they would have a conference call meeting this month.

C. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad reported they elected new officers and approved funding for advertising. Plans are underway for both the state and national Envirothon competitions.

D. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

McDonald reported they are talking about how to put more SWCP funds in the budget. They elected a new Chair and will see significant turnover in membership. They meet again in May, and McDonald is now on the scoring committee.

9. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. Programs & Projects Committee

1. *Well Permit Applications:* None.

2. *Request for Well Spacing Variance:* Wingert explained the request from Tom Teten to replace an irrigation well that is pumping sand with a well that would now be within the ½ mile setback distance from a public water supply well. He added that Teten had received a written waiver from Nemaha Rural Water District #2 to allow his well to be constructed less than the 2,640 feet minimum spacing from the RWD's well. Sugden voiced concern about whether the landowner had exhausted all other options. Hilske stressed this was a replacement well, not a new well.

After further discussion, **Gerweck moved, seconded by Keithley, to approve the request for a variance from Tom Teten to drill a replacement well within 2,640 feet of a public water supply well. Motion carried.**

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

NAY: Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Lassen, Moss

3. ***Minimum Point Requirement for Well Permit Applications in Big Nemaha & Missouri River Alluvial Aquifers in Richardson County:*** Wingert reviewed a map of the two regions in question, which have now been pretty clearly delineated. He felt they should not be included in the 300-point area.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Hodges, to set the minimum point value requirement for well permit applications in the Big Nemaha alluvial and Missouri River alluvial aquifers in Richardson County at 201 points. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Lassen, Moss

4. ***Minimum Point Requirement for Well Permit Applications in Marginal Aquifers:*** Wingert reviewed the reason for assigning a minimum score for these marginal areas now that the rules have been updated. Hilske added that we are trying to come up with the number of points required that is fair and reasonable to get a good well within those areas. Niedfeldt asked that when this item comes up for board action that it be advertised since he has been contacted by constituents with definite opinions on the score. Hilske assured him this will be clearly spelled out on the agenda when it comes up for final action.

5. ***Quote for Providing Transducers & Cabling for Monitoring Well Project:*** Wingert explained the equipment needed and the quote received from In-Situ, which is where the current equipment came from that the District uses. He explained that this new equipment would integrate with what is already being used. The quote for 18 transducers and required cabling totaled \$30,276 without shipping. The Environmental Trust grant will pay for a portion of the costs.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Bohling, to approve the quote from In-Situ for \$30,276 plus shipping for purchase of 18 transducers and cabling. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Lassen, Moss

6. ***Update on Quotes from Contractors to Perform Maintenance on NRD Dams:*** Nelson reviewed the quotes received from five contractors for cutting trees on seven dams. A detailed table showing structures involved and contractors who submitted quotes was provided and is attached to the file copy of these minutes. No action.
7. ***Potential Alternatives for Kirkman's Cove Sediment Basin Project:*** Nelson reported that they would be meeting with Game and Parks about one alternative that would convert the lake to no-wake and improve the fishery. Hilske discussed pros and cons of the various options that staff came up with. He reviewed the different funding sources that might be available depending on the alternative chosen. More information will be provided after the meeting with Game and Parks. No action.

B. Operations & Education Committee

1. ***Quotes for Sediment Debris Removal on Steamboat Trace:*** Nelson explained that four contractors were contacted but only two submitted quotes for removing large tree sloughs and hauling/placing the slough material in a large scour hole. Quotes were:

Borrenpohl Excavating, Tecumseh - \$ 9,800.00

Kuhl Trenching & Exc., Tecumseh - \$33,650.00

Romine moved, seconded by Thorne, to approve the low bid of \$9,800.00 from Borrenpohl Excavating for debris removal on the Steamboat Trace. Stukenholtz questioned why we are spending money on the trail when the levee is not fixed yet. Hilske explained that we got the funds for the debris removal from FEMA and that it is our property and we need to maintain it. There was discussion that we have a responsibility to at least clean up the property. Bohling felt we should fix it now while we have the funding. After considerable discussion, **motion carried.**

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

NAY: Stukenholtz

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Lassen, Moss

2. ***Potential Nominees for Statewide Conservation Awards:*** Romine encouraged directors to review the list of awards and provide recommendations to staff before the next meeting.
3. ***NRD Master Plan:*** Romine reported that the committee reviewed some sections of the plan and provided some suggestions. They will continue to review the plan again in the coming months.

C. Executive Committee

1. **Update on Legislation:** Hilske provided an update on legislation.
2. **Update on Quotes for South Shop Lighting Project:** Hilske reported that three quotes were received as outlined in his staff report (attached to file copy of these minutes). Wilson Electric submitted the low quote of \$1,596.75 to replace only the lights in the south section of the shop. Hilske stated the remaining lights that need to be replaced or updated will be considered in next year's budget.
3. **Healthy Soils Task Force Report:** McDonald reported that he is a member of this task force and that they have been working with various groups to address the requirements of the task force. He reviewed the different topics they are covering and stated they must produce a report by the end of December. One component, a meeting in Syracuse later in the month, would probably be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.
4. **NRD Master Plan:** McDonald stated the committee only had time to review part of the plan. He encouraged everyone to look at it before next month.
5. **Discussion on Working with Levee Districts:** Hilske explained the problems that levee districts experience in assuring their levees remain active. He recommended the board examine ways to offer assistance to the levee districts with whatever actions are necessary to update their levees or keep them active. He asked for any suggestions or input from the directors.
6. **Interlocal Agreement with Auburn Board of Public Works:** Hilske explained that a drought impact assessment for the City of Auburn was a component of the hazard mitigation plan that was requested by the City. Auburn is paying the local share, so there will be no cost to the District.

Beethe moved, seconded by Gerweck, to approve the interlocal agreement with Auburn Board of Public Works for their drought mitigation plan. Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Lassen, Moss

7. **Agreement Amendment with NRCS for Duck Creek Sediment Basin:** Hilske explained the purpose of the agreement was to spell out the responsibilities of both parties and estimated costs and cost-share arrangement.

Gerweck moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve signing a resolution to approve and execute the Buck and Duck Creeks Watershed Supplemental

Agreement No. 1 and authorize the General Manager to sign the agreement.

Motion carried.

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Lassen, Moss

8. ***Discussion on FY2021 Salary Schedule Process:*** McDonald reported the committee received the State wage survey and salary schedule from last year. They will discuss it more at the next meeting. No action.

10. **ANNOUNCEMENTS, APRIL MEETING DATE/TIME & AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS**

The next meeting will be April 9, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the regular meeting.

11. **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Lassen, Moss

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

NOT PRESENT: Donnelly, Lassen, Moss

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District