

December 12, 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 ninety-fourth meeting of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors to order at 4:50 p.m. Thursday, December 12, 2024, at the NRD headquarters at Tecumseh, Nebraska.

DIRECTORS	Todd Boellstorff	Orval Gigstad	Russel Moss
PRESENT:	Rob Bohling	Dan Hodges	Tim Schardt
	Patty Coates	Doug Iske	Eldon Snoke
	Kraig Coonce	Dick James	Duane Sugden
	Tracy Ensor	Jon Keithley	
	Randy Fox	Robert Lassen	

DIRECTORS	Tim Loseke	Mike Speece	Kevin Thorne
ABSENT:	Alan Romine	Dan Stukenholtz	

STAFF	Kyle Hauschild, Manager
PRESENT:	Jane Kuhl, Assistant Manager
	Chuck Wingert, Water Resources Manager

GUESTS	Mike Burgert, NRCS, Syracuse
PRESENT:	

Iske announced that the Open Meetings Act is posted on the wall at the back of the room.

2. **PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

Proof of publication was presented and is on file.

3. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- a. Excused Absences: Tim Loseke, Alan Romine, Mike Speece, Dan Stukenholtz, Kevin Thorne
- b. Minutes: No changes.
- c. Treasurer's Report: No changes.

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

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Lassen, Moss, Schardt, Snoke, Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

4. **OPEN FORUMS**

Directors and staff introduced themselves.

5. **STAFF REPORTS**

Hauschild reviewed his report. Wingert reviewed some items in his report.

6. **AGENCY/ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. Natural Resources Conservation Service

Burgert reviewed the written report he had provided.

B. Nebraska Association of Resources Districts

Gigstad again encouraged directors to attend the upcoming Legislative Conference.

C. Nebraska Natural Resources Commission

Fox reported that they have not had a meeting since last month but that they would be visiting one of the grant applicant sites in January or February.

7. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

A. PROGRAMS & PROJECTS COMMITTEE

1. *Well Permit Applications:* Schaardt reviewed the application received:

Permit #	Landowner Name	Well Location	GPM	Purpose	Score
N838	Mike Pietzyk	NE¼ NE¼ Section 23-6-10, Johnson Co.	800	Irrigation	275

Schaardt moved, seconded by Bohling, to approve well permit N838. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

2. *Action on SWCP Policy Revisions:* Schaardt reviewed the major changes which included raising the maximum cost-share from \$8,000 to \$14,000 and including a ranking system for approving applications.

Schaardt moved, seconded by Sugden, to approve the revisions to the SWCP policy as provided. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

3. **Approval of Bids for Upper Big Nemaha 7-A Repair Project:** Hauschild reviewed the bids received adding that there was one bid that was not valid due to errors and missing documents. There was discussion about the engineer’s estimate, which was closer to \$100,000.

Bidder	Total Bid
Tim Sisco Construction	\$169,647.75
Husker Engineering	\$251,289.00

Schaardt moved, seconded by Hodges, to approve the bid of \$169,647.75 from Tim Sisco Construction for the Upper Big Nemaha 7-A repair project. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Moss, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden

NAY: Lassen

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

4. **Update on Groundwater Rules & Regulations:** Wingert reported that he continues to make notes of proposed changes with hopes of having updates for review in the spring. No action.
5. **Action to Rescind/Amend Motion on Nitrogen Reduction Act Program Guidelines:** Hauschild explained that there may not be enough applications to use all the money available. A limit of 280 acres is already set by the state guidelines. He suggested that once all applications are received, the board could determine whether any additional restrictions would be needed.

Schaardt moved, seconded by Sugden, to rescind the following motion from the November 14, 2024, meeting: Moss moved, seconded by Stukenholtz, to approve the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act Program guidelines with a maximum per applicant of either \$2,000 or 160 acres. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

6. **A Request for a Variance to Transfer Groundwater by Laurie Saathoff:** Wingert explained that there is a conflict within the current rules regarding transfers. The NRD’s legal counsel advised waiting to consider this request until the rule conflicts are resolved. No action.
7. **A Request by Ronald Rowe to Change Irrigation Method:** Wingert explained that the landowner had requested to change from gravity flood to center pivot, which would reduce his overall water use even though the number of acres irrigated would increase slightly.

Schaardt moved, seconded by Boellstorff, to approve the request from Ronald Rowe to change from gravity flood to center pivot irrigation. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

B. OPERATIONS & EDUCATION COMMITTEE-NO MEETING

C. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Selection of Voting Delegate/Alternate for NARD Legislative Conference:

Moss moved, seconded by James, to appoint Orval Gigstad as the voting delegate for the NARD Legislative Conference. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

Moss moved, seconded by Fox, to appoint Dan Hodges as the voting alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference. Motion carried.

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS, JANUARY AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

Chair Iske presented Bill Niedfeldt and Jon Keithley with engraved clocks in recognition of and appreciation for their years of service on the board.

The next regular meeting of the board of directors will be Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. with committee meetings prior to the board meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

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

AYE: Boellstorff, Bohling, Coates, Coonce, Ensor, Fox, Gigstad, Hodges, Iske, James, Keithley, Lassen, Moss, Schaardt, Snoke, Sugden

NOT PRESENT: Loseke, Romine, Speece, Stukenholtz, Thorne

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Approved December 9, 2024

Secretary, Nemaha Natural Resources District