

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES – March 6, 2019

HAMPTON INN – KEARNEY

Roll Call:

Commissioners		Absent	Present	Commissioners		Absent	Present
Amen	Karen		X	Kraus	Don		X
Anderson	Garry	X		McDonald	Mike		X
Barels	Brian		X	Miller	John		X
Batie	Donald		X	Reynolds	Michael (Mick)		X
Bradley	Lawrence		X	Schroer	Lyle		X
Clouse	Stan		X	Shields	Jim		X
Czaplewski	Mark		X	Smathers	Scott		X
Deines	Dave	X		Steffen	Jeff		X
Dunbar	Brad	X		Strauch	Walter Dennis		X
Fornoff	Kevin		X	Taylor	Loren		X
Hadenfeldt	N. Richard		X	Wilke	Greg		X
Halligan	Bill	X		Wright	Chad	X	
Heaston	John		X	(Livestock)	Vacant		
Knutson	Thomas	X					

Note: Lyle Schroer arrived at 1:50 p.m.

Introduction of New Commissioners:

Chairman Strauch introduced three newly elected Commission members, Lawrence Bradley, Michael McDonald and John Miller. Strauch also introduced Emily Rose, new legal counsel for the DNR.

DNR staff in attendance:

Kent Zimmerman, LeRoy Sievers, and Emily Rose.

Others in attendance were:

None.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Chairman Strauch called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Hampton Inn, Kearney, Nebraska, and asked Zimmerman to call the roll.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was published on the State Public Meetings Calendar and on the Natural Resources Commission web site at <https://nrc.nebraska.gov>. A copy of Nebraska's open meeting statutes was available in the room.

MINUTES

Taylor moved and Czaplewski seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2018, Commission meeting.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen	X				Kraus	X			
Anderson				X	McDonald			X	
Barels	X				Miller			X	
Batie			X		Reynolds			X	
Bradley	X				Schroer				X
Clouse	X				Shields	X			
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines				X	Steffen	X			
Dunbar				X	Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan				X	Wright				X
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson				X	TOTALS	15	0	4	7

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Strauch opened the floor for public comments; none was offered.

OVERVIEW OF COMMISSION

Staff reviewed each of the Commission's funds and the location of the NRC agenda, minutes and other items of interest on the NRC website. Staff also noted each DNR staff member whom interacts with Commissioners and highlighted each person's responsibilities regarding the Commission.

A doodle poll question was sent to the Commissioners prior to this meeting regarding interest and availability for holding an orientation session. Meetings have not been scheduled as few responded and because staff are working with state auditors to complete a Department review. It was suggested that several orientation meetings be scheduled across the state once the DNR's audit is complete.

DNR UPDATE & EXPENDITURES REPORT

DNR activities and legislative bills of interest were reviewed. NRC Fund Expenditures and Cash Funds Balance reports had been distributed prior to the meeting.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Because the Program Committee did not meet, staff led the discussion on agenda topics pertaining to program activities. No unusual activity was reported during review of status reports for the following funds.

Resources Development Fund

- The status report showed business as usual. A verbal project update was also given.

Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund

- This is currently an unfunded program.

Soil & Water Conservation Program Fund

- The status report showed business as usual.

Natural Resources Water Quality Fund

- The next semi-annual funds distribution is about ready to be paid.

Water Well Decommissioning Fund

- The status report showed business as usual.

Water Sustainability Fund

- The status report showed business as usual. The Commission discussed the potential for development of a process to adjust grants when each project is complete. Draft WSF Guideline updates reflecting the updated WSF application form was distributed prior to the Commission meeting and reviewed during the meeting. No additional changes were requested by Commissioners. Once reviewed and approved by the Director, the updated WSF Guidelines will be posted on the Commission's website.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- Strauch appointed Clouse, Fornoff and Hadenfeldt to the Nominating Committee after the past Commission meeting. On behalf of the Committee, Fornoff brought forward Scott Smathers as the committee's recommendation for 2019-2020 Chairman. Strauch asked if

there were any other nominations from the floor three times. No additional nominations were made.

Fornoff moved and Kraus seconded the motion to recommend Nominations cease and the Commission cast a unanimous ballot for Scott Smathers to Chair the Commission for 2019 & 2020.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen	X				Kraus	X			
Anderson				X	McDonald	X			
Barels	X				Miller	X			
Batie	X				Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse	X				Shields	X			
Czaplewski	X				Smathers			X	
Deines				X	Steffen	X			
Dunbar				X	Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan				X	Wright				X
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson				X	TOTALS	19	0	1	6

Chairman Strauch asked if the committee had a nominee for 2019-2020 Vice-Chairman to the Commission. Fornoff brought forward Jeff Steffen as the committee's recommendation for the 2019-2020 Vice-Chairman. Strauch asked for any other nominations from the floor three times. No additional nominations were made.

Batie moved and Clouse seconded the motion to recommend Nominations cease and the Commission cast a unanimous ballot for Jeff Steffen as Vice-Chair of the Commission for 2019 & 2020.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen	X				Kraus	X			
Anderson				X	McDonald	X			
Barels	X				Miller	X			
Batie	X				Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse	X				Shields	X			
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines				X	Steffen			X	
Dunbar				X	Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan				X	Wright				X
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson				X	TOTALS	19	0	1	6

Smathers announced that he and Strauch would send an email listing the current committee make-up asking if Commissioners wanted to remain on or Chair each committee.

SCHEDULING NRC MEETING DATES

Chair Strauch led a discussion to select the next four quarterly meeting dates. Proposed dates were emailed to Commissioners prior to the meeting and the Commissioners were asked to review their schedules and come to the meeting prepared to discuss and select the dates with Kearney as the meeting location. The following dates were selected contingent upon staff's ability to secure meeting facilities:

- May 22, 2019
- August 5, 2019
- December 5 or 11 , 2019
- February 19, 2020

Batie moved and Smathers seconded the motion to schedule the NRC meeting dates as follows: May 22, 2019; August 5, 2019; December 5 or 11, 2019; & February 19, 2020.

NOTE: Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that meeting facilities were not available on either December 5 or 11, 2019. Chairman Smathers selected December 18, 2019, of the dates available, as the meeting date for the 4th quarterly NRC meeting during 2019.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen	X				Kraus	X			
Anderson				X	McDonald	X			
Barels	X				Miller	X			
Batie	X				Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse	X				Shields	X			
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines				X	Steffen	X			
Dunbar				X	Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan				X	Wright				X
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson				X	TOTALS	20	0	0	6

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Strauch stated the Executive Committee met prior to this meeting and discussed the Policy Statement changes presented at the December 18, 2018, NRC meeting. Sievers reviewed the proposed changes including Policy Statements V, VII, IX, X, XII, XIV & XV recommended to be repealed. Sievers also discussed additional changes recently submitted by Kraus for Policy Statement I, which was circulated to Commissioners prior to the meeting.

Strauch requested Commissioners submit any additional Policy Statement I changes to Sievers by March 20, 2019. Policy Statement I will then be discussed and possibly acted upon at the next Commission meeting. Barel recommended staff send an email to those Commissioners not present advising them of the deadline to submit additional changes to Policy Statement I.

Batie moved and Fornoff seconded the motion to revoke Natural Resources Commission policies V, VII, IX, X, XII, XIV and XV.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amen	X				Kraus	X			
Anderson				X	McDonald	X			
Barels	X				Miller	X			
Batie	X				Reynolds	X			
Bradley	X				Schroer	X			
Clouse	X				Shields	X			
Czaplewski	X				Smathers	X			
Deines				X	Steffen	X			
Dunbar				X	Strauch	X			
Fornoff	X				Taylor	X			
Hadenfeldt	X				Wilke	X			
Halligan				X	Wright				X
Heaston	X				(Vacant)				
Knutson				X	TOTALS	20	0	0	6

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee Chairman Barels stated the committee has not met since the last Commission meeting. The committee is awaiting input from the Governor's Policy Research Office regarding the proposed changes to the draft rules changes.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Dunbar was unable to attend this meeting, but wanted to inform Commissioners that he, along with Smathers, Sievers and Zimmerman would be presenting on the Water Sustainability Fund at the Water Round Table on April 10, 2019.

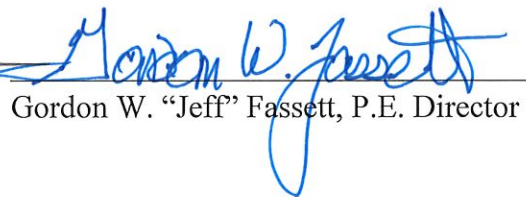
OTHER BUSINESS

- A vacancy exists for the Commission position to represent Livestock Producers.
- Chairman Strauch and Commissioners recognized Sievers with a round of applause for all he has done for the Commission and Department as well as all of the State of Nebraska.
- Smathers and Commissioners also recognized Strauch with a round of applause for his service as Chairman and all he has done as Commissioner.

ADJOURNMENT

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.


Dennis Strauch, Chairman


Gordon W. "Jeff" Fassett, P.E. Director