

NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES – October 2, 2024

CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

Chairman Batie called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Younes Conference Center South, Kearney, Nebraska. The roll was called following the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Commissioners		Absent	Present	Commissioners		Absent	Present
Rollie	Amsberry	X		Larry	Mohrman		X
Garry	Anderson		X	Tom	Mountford		X
Don	Batie		X	Keith	Rexroth	X	
Lawrence	Bradley	X		Mick	Reynolds		X
Devin	Brundage	X		Lyle	Schroer		X
Stan	Clouse		X	John	Shadle		X
Mark	Czaplewski		X	Scott	Smathers	X	
Dave	Deines	X		Jeff	Steffen		X
Brad	Dunbar	X		Dan	Steinkruger		X
Kevin	Fornoff		X	Dennis	Strauch		X
Randy	Fox	X		Greg	Wilke		X
Steve	Kelly		X	Vacant			
Rick	Kubat		X	Vacant			
Kennon	Meyer		X				

DNR staff in attendance:

Kent Zimmerman

Others in attendance were:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were offered.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING AND PUBLIC MEETING LAWS

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

MINUTES

Reynolds moved and Clouse seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the August 14th, 2024, Commission meeting.

Motion Passed.

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amsberry				X	Mohrman	X			
Anderson	X				Mountford	X			
Batie	X				Rexroth				X
Bradley				X	Reynolds	X			
Brundage				X	Schroer	X			
Clouse	X				Shadle	X			
Czaplewski	X				Smathers				X
Deines				X	Steffen	X			
Dunbar				X	Steinkruger	X			
Fornoff	X				Strauch	X			
Fox				X	Wilke	X			
Kelly			X		Vacant				
Kubat	X				Vacant				
Meyer	X				TOTALS	16	0	1	8

DNR UPDATE & PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Act (LB 1368) Guidance Document is nearly complete, and the program will start taking applications for the 2025 growing season in a few weeks. Incentive payments for reducing nitrogen application by the lesser of 15 pounds or 15% from baseline application rates will be made through NRDs targeting Priority Areas of elevated nitrate levels. Of the \$1 million dollars available for incentive payments, half will be evenly distributed between NRDs with the other half distributed by NRDs based upon the number of acres in wellhead protection areas and areas designated by NRDs in phase II or higher water quality

management areas. The program is designed to be flexible enough to move funding from NRDs with low participation demand to those with demand exceeding available funding.

No additional comments were offered from people in the audience.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Staff lead discussion on agenda topics pertaining to program activities. No unusual activity was reported.

Resources Development Fund

The status report showed business as usual. Reynolds mentioned the contract for the Prairie Silver Moores education building is signed, the contractual completion date is December of 2025, and the contractor has already started moving dirt.

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 status report showed business as usual.

Water Well Decommissioning Fund

The status report showed business as usual.

Water Sustainability Fund

The status report showed business as usual. Staff and Commissioners discussed the status of most projects. Chairman Batie encouraged Commissioners to keep in contact with your Senators and those that are on NRD boards to encourage your managers to apply for WSF grants. Batie noted issues surrounding aging infrastructure of dams and the nitrate issues as possibilities for projects.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Batie reported the committee met but did not have any action.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Batie thanked Mick Reynolds, Stan Clouse, Kevin Fornoff and Dave Dienes for their years of service and noted that Greg Wilke and Lyle Schroer will be up for election in January.
- NRC member Caucuses for the Middle Platte, North Platte, Republican, Elkhorn, Little Blue and Niobrara basin representatives will be held in January 2025.
- The next NRC meeting is scheduled for February 19th, 2025. One of the agenda items will be election of officers. Batie will appoint three members to the Nominating Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.
