

# NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES – September 30, 2025

## CALL TO ORDER - NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION & ROLL CALL

Chairman Wilke called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. in the Younes South Conference Center, Kearney, Nebraska. Scott Dicke was welcomed to the Commission. Dicke was recently appointed Commissioner representing the interests of Surface Water Users. The roll was called; the Pledge of Allegiance was skipped.

### **Roll Call:**

Commissioners		Absent	Present	Commissioners		Absent	Present
Rollie	Amsberry		X	Larry	Mohrman		X
Don	Batie	X		Tom	Mountford		X
Lawrence	Bradley	X		Doug	Reeves		X
Devin	Brundage		X	Keith	Rexroth		X
Mark	Czaplewski	X		Lyle	Schroer		X
Lane	Darnall	X		John	Shadle		X
Scott	Dicke		X	Matt	Smallcomb	X	
Christopher	Dierks		X	Scott	Smathers	X	
Brad	Dunbar		X	Jeff	Steffen		X
Randy	Fox	X		Dennis	Strauch		X
Nate	Jenkins		X	Greg	Wilke		X
Steve	Kelly		X	Vacant			
Rick	Kubat		X	Vacant			
Kennon	Meyer	X					

### **DWEE staff in attendance:**

Matt Manning; Sarah Starostka; and Kent Zimmerman

### **Others in attendance were:**

Annette Sudbeck, L&CNRD; Chandler Schmidt, MNNRD; Kyle Liebig, NPPD; and Mike Murphy, MNNRD.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prior to the meeting, Czaplewski and Shadle requested staff give an update on LR 198. Staff noted, the interim study hearing scheduled for LR 198 was removed from the legislative hearing docket without explanation. Hearings on interim studies are often offered to receive public input, but a hearing is not required.

**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**

**Rexroth moved and Mountford seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, Commission meeting.**

**Motion Passed.**

<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Commissioner</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Amsberry	X				Mohrman	X			
Batie				X	Mountford	X			
Bradley				X	Reeves	X			
Brundage	X				Rexroth	X			
Czaplewski				X	Schroer	X			
Darnall				X	Shadle	X			
Dicke			X		Smallcomb				X
Dierks	X				Smathers				X
Dunbar	X				Steffen	X			
Fox				X	Strauch	X			
Jenkins	X				Wilke	X			
Kelly	X				Vacant				
Kubat	X				Vacant				
Meyer				X	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

## **DWEE UPDATE & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were offered. Chief Water Officer Manning gave an update on the progress of the agency merger, the Water Quality Quantity Task Force, the AltEn facility at Mead, and the Perkins County Canal.

## **PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

No Committee updates were given. Chairman Wilke asked staff to lead discussion on agenda topics pertaining to program activities. No unusual activity was reported.

### **Resources Development Fund**

The status report showed business as usual.

### **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 WSF Financial Status report showed business as usual. The Closed Projects Report was distributed and the individual projects Status Reports and Closed Out Reports are posted on the Commission's website (at: <https://nrc.nebraska.gov/water-sustainability-fund-reports> ). Several projects' progress was discussed.

### **WSF #5323 Update**

Chandler Schmidt, Middle Niobrara NRD (MNNRD), distributed a handout depicting five potential paths for the Bone and Long Pine Watershed Improvement project to move forward and gave an update on the status of NRCS's funding holdup for this project. The MNNRD board and staff will discuss these options at the next board meeting and determine which option to follow going forward. Each option is a component of the original application. Responding to a question regarding his preference, Schmidt preferred option "A" because it would get a couple structures on the ground. MNNRD General Manager Mike Murphy noted concern over focusing

all funding on a broader comprehensive design package without having immediate funding available for construction. Murphy reminded Commissioners of past PL-566 watershed designs plans and the length of time it took to later fund construction.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Chairman Wilke stated that due to the resignation of Vice-Chairman Steinkruger, that position is now vacant. Wilke asked for a nomination to fill the unexpired term (end of 2026) for NRC Vice-Chairman.

**Brundage moved and Mountford seconded the motion to nominate Brad Dunbar for Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the unexpired term.**

Chairman Wilke called for additional nominations from the floor, none were offered.

**Motion Passed.**

Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Commissioner	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Amsberry	X				Mohrman	X			
Batie				X	Mountford	X			
Bradley				X	Reeves	X			
Brundage	X				Rexroth	X			
Czaplewski				X	Schroer	X			
Darnall				X	Shadle	X			
Dicke	X				Smallcomb				X
Dierks	X				Smathers				X
Dunbar			X		Steffen	X			
Fox				X	Strauch	X			
Jenkins	X				Wilke	X			
Kelly	X				Vacant				
Kubat	X				Vacant				
Meyer				X	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Next meeting is on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

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Greg Wilke, Chair

  
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Matt Manning, P.E., J.D., Chief Water Officer, DWEE