

MINUTES OF THE NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

DECEMBER 7, 2000

Those in attendance were:

Richard Jiskra, Chair	Roy Stewart, Member
Clinton Johannes, Member	Don Roberts, Member
Vince Kramper, Member	Pat McGrane
Beverly Donaldson, Member	Dean Edson
Roger Korell, Member	Gabe Robertson
Wayne Madsen, Member	Milton Moravek
Jim Van Marter, Member	Dayle Williamson, Staff
Richard Mercer, Member	Jim Cook, Staff
Leroy Pieper, Member	Tom Pesek, Staff
Wayne Davis, Member	Gayle Starr, Staff
Frank Bartak, Member	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair Richard Jiskra in the conference room of the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District in Lincoln, Nebraska at approximately 10:05 a.m.

NOTICE OF THE MEETING

The notice of the meeting was placed in the LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR on November 29, 2000, notifying the public of the meeting.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIAL

The following items of informational material were distributed during the course of the meeting and a copy of each is attached to the file copy of the minutes.

1. Expenditures for October and November 2000.
2. Nebraska Resources Development Fund Present Financial Status, Dec. 5, 2000.
3. Nebraska Resources Development Fund Quarterly Report.
4. Status of Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund.
5. Minutes of the Program Committee Meeting.
6. Caucus Schedule, Jan. 8-11, 2001.
7. Soil & Water Conservation Fund Expenditures.
8. Water Well Decommissioning Cash Fund Report.
9. Natural Resources Enhancement Funds Report.
10. Land Auction Notice for Wednesday, January 10, 2001.
11. NRCS Report to the NNRC and NARD.
12. Republican Basin Water Meter Report.

MINUTES

Motion was made by Kramper and seconded by Roberts to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2000 Commission meeting as distributed. Motion carried.

Aye: Stewart, Roberts, Davis, Donaldson, Mercer, Pieper, Bartak, Van Marter, Kramper, Korell, Madsen, Johannes, Jiskra

Nay: None

Not Present: Hahn, Hergott, Larson

EXPENDITURES

Chairman Jiskra noted that the expenditures for the various Commission funds had been distributed to Commission members and would be made a part of the record.

ADVISOR'S COMMENTS

Pat McGrane distributed a report from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and discussed the Grazing Lands Coalition, the NRCS budget, locally led conservation, the new watershed rehabilitation bill just passed by Congress, EQIP funds, and the Conservation Reserve Program. Dayle Williamson also commented on the recent State Technical Committee meeting and the various environmental and water quality issues discussed at that meeting.

Dean Edson, representing NARD, briefly commented on NARD activities and discussed several items of legislation that the Association tends to pursue in the upcoming legislative session.

ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Vince Kramper and Richard Mercer briefly commented on the Environmental Trust Board noting that the Rankings Committee has completed their first review of applications and will meet again on January 9 to further discuss and review their rankings. They added that the committee would report their recommendations to the Board at their February 14th meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to be in Fremont. Mercer added that some tentative work is being done on establishing the Foundation and securing funds for that Foundation.

PLATTE RIVER COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Jerry Vandersnick presented a comprehensive briefing on the Platte River Cooperative Agreement process and the status of the Cooperative Agreement activities.

PLATTE AND REPUBLICAN RIVER ISSUES

Jim Cook noted that Roger Patterson and Ann Bleed had been spending a great amount of time on negotiating with Wyoming on the North Platte issue and it appears they are very close to settlement. He added that with regard to the Republican River lawsuit with Kansas, the Special Master has established a condensed time schedule with the trial scheduled to start in March of 2003, which was significantly sooner than Nebraska had hoped for. He added that this would require a concentrated effort and significantly more funding over the next two years.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wayne Madsen noted that all Commission members now present had also been present at the Comprehensive Planning Committee to hear the updates on Planning and Data Bank activities provided by Kris Reed, Rich Kern, and Mahendra Bansal. He added that the committee was not recommending any Commission action.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

-
Beverly Donaldson noted that the Program Committee had met on Wednesday afternoon and had five committee recommendations for Commission action. The first action was that subsurface drip irrigation systems be added to the Soil & Water Conservation Fund Irrigation Water Management practice. Motion carried.

Aye: Roberts, Davis, Donaldson, Mercer, Pieper, Bartak, Kramper, Korell, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Stewart, Jiskra

Nay: None

Not Present: Hergott, Larson, Hahn

The second recommendation was that the Commission approve the City of Wakefield's request for an increased allocation of \$36,504.05, thereby increasing the total project allocation of the Wakefield Levee Project to \$299,216.45, obligating the additional funds effective immediately making the project fully obligated and revise the project components to: Component #1 (feasibility study), \$36,504.05, and component #2 (design right-of-way acquisition and construction), \$262,712.40. Motion carried.

Aye: Davis, Donaldson, Mercer, Pieper, Bartak, Kramper, Korell, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Stewart, Roberts, Jiskra

Nay: None

Not Present: Larson, Hahn, Hergott

The third recommendation was that the Commission approve the Nemaha NRD's request that the additional \$20,000 allocated to the Upper Little Nemaha Watershed Project at the September 27, 2000 Commission meeting be transferred from Component #10 (construction, site 31) to Component number 9 (design, site 31) and that the \$20,000 be obligated effective immediately.

Motion carried.

Aye: Donaldson, Mercer, Pieper, Bartak, Kramper, Korell, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Stewart, Roberts, Davis, Jiskra

Nay: None

Not Present: Hergott, Larson, Hahn

The fourth recommendation is that the Commission approve the Central Platte NRD's request that \$600,000 be obligated to Component #3 (relocation/bridges) of the Lower Wood River/Upper Warm Slough Project effective immediately. Motion carried.

Aye: Mercer, Pieper, Bartak, Kramper, Korell, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Stewart, Roberts, Davis, Donaldson, Jiskra

Nay: None

Not Present: Larson, Hahn, Hergott

The final recommendation – the Commission approved the Lower Platte South NRD's request that \$24,000 be obligated to Component #4 (engineering services sites A 9-1 and A 9-6) and \$189,000 be obligated to Component #5 (construction sites A 9-1 and A 9-6) of the Steven's Creek Watershed Project effective immediately. Motion carried.

Aye: Pieper, Bartak, Kramper, Korell, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Stewart, Roberts, Davis, Donaldson, Mercer, Jiskra

Nay: None

Not Present: Larson, Hahn, Hergott

LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

-
Frank Bartak reported that Jim Cook had briefed the committee on a number of legislative items that the agency is considering asking to be introduced. He also noted that Gayle Starr had briefly reviewed the department's budget request and some supplemental requests that have been submitted.

2001 MEETING DATES

It was noted that the explanation paper included suggested meeting dates for the next year and that Commission action on approving the dates would be on the agenda for the January meeting.

LeRoy Pieper noted that he intends to invite the Commission to have a meeting in the North Platte NRD, perhaps the July meeting. There was some discussion on having the May and July meetings a week later. Dayle Williamson noted that he would further check schedules and see what changes could be made to accommodate Commission desires.

COMMISSION MEMBER SELECTION CAUCUSES

Gayle Starr briefly reviewed the Commission member selection caucus schedule for the six basins to be held in January. Motion was made by Davis and seconded by Van Marter to approve the Commission member selection caucus schedule and procedures for the January caucuses. Motion carried.

Aye: Bartak, Kramper, Korell, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Stewart, Roberts, Davis, Donaldson, Mercer, Pieper, Jiskra

Nay: None

Not Present: Hahn, Hergott, Larson

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be January 24 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

Chairman

Director of Natural Resources