

# MINUTES OF THE NEBRASKA NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 9, 2003

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Those in attendance were:

Roger Korell, Chair	Arlond Garratt, Member
Wayne Madsen, Member	Clinton Johannes, Member
Jim Van Marter, Member	Mike Murren
Don Roberts, Member	Mike Sotak
Joe Hergott, Member	Glenn Johnson
Richard Jiskra, Member	Robin Faulk
Vince Kramper, Member	Dean Edson
Beverly Donaldson, Member	Lyndon Vogt
Garry Anderson, Member	Len Schropfer
Wayne Davis, Member	Lynn Webster
LeRoy Pieper, Member	Tom Pesek, Staff
Robert Hahn, Member	Gayle Starr, Staff
Richard Hadenfeldt, Member	

## CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Commission Chair, Roger Korell in the conference room of the Best Western Motel in Chadron, Nebraska, at approximately 8:00 a.m. MDT.

## NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Notice of the meeting was placed in the LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR and the CHADRON RECORD on June 29, 2003, 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. Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund – Inventory of Fee Title Lands.
2. Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund – Projected Funding Requests.
3. Status of Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund.
4. Nebraska Resources Development Fund Present Financial Status.
5. Nebraska Resources Development Fund Quarterly Report.
6. Water Well Decommissioning Fund Status Report.
7. Natural Resources Water Quality Fund.
8. Budget Comparisons
9. Petition from landowners opposed to Little Sandy Creek Watershed Project.
10. NRCS Report to the NNRC and NARD.
- 11.

## MINUTES

Motion was made by Kramper and seconded by Van Marter to approve the minutes of the May 21 and 22, 2003, Commission meetings. Motion carried.

Aye: Hahn, Roberts, Davis, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

### EXPENDITURES

Gayle Starr noted the expenditure report for May and June covering the funds administered by the Commission had been distributed for Commission members.

### ADVISOR'S COMMENTS

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Robin Foulk, District Conservationist of the Upper Niobrara-White NRD welcomed the Commission members to the Upper Niobrara-White NRD and distributed a report covering NRCS activities in the state. She particularly mentioned the Grassland Reserve Program for the sign-up currently underway and the progress being made on the competitive sourcing process that NRCS is undergoing.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Gayle Starr mentioned that Director Roger Patterson was at a Missouri River Basin Association meeting in Billings, Montana, and unable to attend. He noted that the staff was gearing up to implement the Republican River settlement and that two additional employees are being added for that purpose at this time. He also briefly noted the water supply situation in the Republican and North Platte River Basins.

### ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST

Vince Kramper noted that the next meeting of the Environmental Trust Board would be at the end of July at Ponca State Park. He added that the Board is still looking at changes that might be made in the application evaluation process. He added that applications for the new grants are due in September.

### WATER POLICY TASK FORCE

Clint Johannes and LeRoy Pieper noted that the Task Force is making progress on some issues and that they anticipate that the group will reach consensus on some recommendations to be presented in their final report by the end of this calendar year.

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Committee Chair, Robert Hahn, called on Tom Pesek who briefly reviewed the Resources Development Fund Status Report and quarterly report. Pesek distributed copies of the Director's recommendation on the Lower Turkey Creek Project proposal and Lake Wanahoo Project proposal. Motion was made by Kramper and seconded by Jiskra to advise the Lower Big Blue NRD that it may proceed with an application and feasibility report for the Lower Turkey Creek Watershed Project and that it is to address the comments and questions contained in the letter from the Director of Natural Resources. Motion carried.

Aye: Roberts, Davis, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

Motion was made by Johannes and seconded by Roberts to advise the Lower Platte North NRD that it may proceed with an application and feasibility report for the Lake Wanahoo Project and that it is to address the comments and questions contained in the letter from the Director of Natural Resources. Motion carried.

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Aye: Davis, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

Pesek explained that the Resources Development Fund appropriation for the current fiscal year has now been finalized and that the Commission could proceed to modify components as appropriate and to obligate funds. He explained that requests for funds totaled \$3,935,968.87 but that only a little more than \$3.6 million dollars was available for obligation at this time. Pesek explained that the staff recommendation was that reductions be made in the Little Sandy Creek and Western Sarpy/Clear Creek requests and that he had visited with both sponsors and they were agreeable to these reductions. Motion was made by Roberts and seconded by Hergott to modify project components as necessary for obligation of fiscal year 2004 funds. Motion carried.

Aye: Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen,

Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Davis, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

Motion was made by Hahn and seconded by Pieper to establish the following components and obligate fiscal year 2004 funds as follows:

NEBRASKA RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT FUND			
Project Components and Request for FY 2004 Funds			
Project	#	Project Component	Request for FY 2004
Antelope Creek	4	R-O-W Acquisitions & Relocations	\$1,505,160.00
			<b>Subtotal: \$ 1,505,160.00</b>
Lake Ericson	2	Final Design	7,941.78
	4	Construction, Structural	131,251.68
	5	Construction, Recreation	43,915.41
			<b>Subtotal: \$ 183,108.87</b>
Western Sarpy/Clear Creek	3	Right-Of-Way (Partial)	1,332,000.00
			<b>Subtotal: \$ 1,332,000.00</b>
Little Sandy Creek	4a	Construction & Inspection, Sites 30 and 61	604,800.00
			<b>Subtotal: \$ 604,800.00</b>
			<b>TOTAL: \$ 3,625,068.87</b>

Motion carried.

Aye: Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen, Van Marter,

Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Davis, Jiskra, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

Pesek reviewed the status of the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund and explained the process for establishing a revolving fund base for FY 2004 and to adopt a sale schedule for FY 2005. Motion was made by Jiskra and seconded by Hergott to establish a revolving fund base of \$900,000 for the Small Watersheds Flood Control Fund for FY 2004. Motion carried.

Aye: Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Davis, Jiskra, Donaldson, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

Motion was made by Kramper and seconded by Garratt to schedule the following fee title tracts for disposal in fiscal year 2005:

Middle Big Nemaha, Site 88 (149.8 acres)

Big Papio Channel, Tract 24 (0.39 acres)

Big Papio Channel, Tract 26 (1.50 acres)

Big Papio Channel, Tract 34 (4.12 acres)

Big Papio Channel, Tract 38 (0.87 acres)

Big Papio Channel, Tract 42 (0.86 acres)

Big Papio Channel, Tract 43 (2.60 acres)

Big Papio Channel, Tract 51A (1.21 acres)

Motion carried.

Aye: Hergott, Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Davis, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

Gayle Starr distributed status reports for the Soil & Water Conservation Fund, the Republican Basin Water Meter Fund, the Natural Resources Water Quality Fund, and the Water Well Decommissioning Fund. He further explained that the staff was recommending a distribution of the Soil & Water Conservation Funds for FY 2004 as provided to the Commission members.

Motion was made by Pieper and seconded by Van Marter to accept the staff recommendations for the distribution of Soil & Water Conservation Funds for the current fiscal year.

Aye: Anderson, Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Davis, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

#### LEGISLATIVE & BUDGET COMMITTEE

Gayle Starr distributed a summary of the Department's budget for the current fiscal year with comparisons to the previous fiscal year and reviewed those changes and responded to several questions.

#### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PLANNING & REVIEW PROCESS

Gayle Starr explained that the draft of the annual report of the Planning and Review Process had been provided to Commission members and if they had any questions or comments about the contents of the report, they should contact Steve Gaul to answer their questions and respond to their comments.

#### UPPER NIOBRARA-WHITE NRD

Motion was made by Van Marter and seconded by Anderson to express the Commission's appreciation and gratitude for the NRD's hospitality and the tour that was provided for Commission members on July 8.

Aye: Garratt, Kramper, Pieper, Madsen, Van Marter, Johannes, Hahn, Roberts, Davis, Jiskra, Donaldson, Hadenfeldt, Hergott, Anderson, Korell

Nay: None

Not Present: Watermeier

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Commission will be in on September 23, 2003, in Kearney in connection with the NARD annual conference with the Commission meeting scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 AM.

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Chairman

Director of Natural Resources