

Nemaha NRD Board Approves Budget

(KTNC) - The Nemaha Natural Resources District Board approved a \$5 million budget after two public hearings last week. No one commented on the budget during the hearings, and the board approved the budget on a 16-3 vote.

The budget includes over \$1 million for land rights required for the Duck Creek flood control project, and \$421,000 is included for conservation cost-share measures to help protect water quality within the Buck and Duck Creek watershed.

Both Nebraska Environmental Trust and Federal EPA Section 319 funds will help pay for those improvements.

The budget also includes \$450,000 to rehabilitate a dam along Highway 2 west of Dunbar in Otoe County to high-hazard standards.

This year's tax request for the NRD is approximately \$2.4 million, about \$200,000 more than last year. This year's tax levy dropped slightly to 4.4 cents, due to a 12-percent increase in land valuations. Last year's levy was 4.5 cents.

The board also voted, 10-9, to increase the per diem rate paid to elected members for meetings and other NRD related business. The move increases the per diem rate from \$50 to \$65 and takes effect July 1, 2014.

State law allows NRD board members to receive up to \$70 per day for their services in addition to reimbursement of mileage and other expenses.

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