

Nemaha NRD Board Selects Officers

The officers of the Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors will remain the same in 2012 as they were in 2011, following the annual reorganization of the board this month.

Lisa Beethe will continue as Chair, with Rob Bohling as Vice Chair, and Don Siske as Secretary-Treasurer. Orval Gigstad will serve as the NRD's representative to the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts, with Siske as the alternate representative.

Following the reorganization, the Nemaha NRD Board approved five permit applications for irrigation wells. Four of the wells are for Kalin Farms near Steinauer, and the fifth is for Ervin Gobber near Elk Creek.

No action was taken regarding the ongoing review of the District's groundwater regulations as they pertain to well permits. The Programs and Projects Committee plans to meet next month to discuss some proposed changes. The Board did vote to increase the rental rate for flow meters to \$125 per year, for all meters regardless of size.

The meters are required to measure water used when applying for a permit to irrigate from an NRD watershed structure. Nemaha NRD officials say the cost of new meters has more than doubled since the rate was set, while the rental rate has not changed for several years.

In other action, the NRD Board approved a bid of \$22,756 from Larson Motors of Nebraska City for a 2012 Dodge Ram 4-by-4 half-ton crew cab pickup. The new truck will replace the district's Chevy Tracker. The approved bid was one of seven bids received from three dealers.

The board's permission was given for the NRD to apply for recycling grants to help with the purchase of a wood chipper and for rubber tire mulch for playground areas at NRD parks.

And the board voted to allow additional expenditures, including the reinstatement of funds for promotional items, groundwater consulting services, and conservation assistance programs. The additional funds were approved after the Executive Committee reviewed areas in the budget where savings were expected.