



News Release

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NRD Board Meeting Notes:

### **Bellevue Resident selected to serve on NRD Board**

The Board of Directors of the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District has selected Gus Erickson, a Bellevue resident and former City of Bellevue Councilman, to fill a recently-vacated position on the board. Erickson will serve out the remainder of the term of John Schwope, also of Bellevue. Schwope resigned his board seat last month.

Erickson served for 8 years on the Bellevue council and has lived in Bellevue for 47 years. While on the council, Erickson was involved in numerous cooperative efforts with the NRD including flood control issues and the creation of Haworth Park North following the demolition of the Kramer Power Plant.

The board interviewed Erickson and one other candidate at their July 8<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Six individuals showed an interest in the board seat. The subdistrict 11 seat will be up for election in November, 2012.

### **Draft budget shows lower property tax levy for fourth consecutive year**

The NRD Board of Directors reviewed a second draft of the Fiscal Year 2011 general operating budget at their monthly board meeting July 8th. A Public Input Session was held during this meeting at the NRD Headquarters, Chalco Hills Recreation Area. "The draft calls for another NRD property tax rate cut this year." said John Winkler, NRD General Manager. "This may be the fourth consecutive year that the NRD reduces its property tax levy," he said.

The draft budget calls for a FY 2011 property tax levy of .032660. This levy would reduce the FY 2010 levy of .032756. The FY 2009 levy was .033753. The draft FY 2011 levy of .032660 would mean that the owner of property valued at \$100,000 would pay a total of \$32.66 in property taxes next year to support NRD projects and programs. The draft levy is based on an estimated 1% increase in valuations across the District. The Papio-Missouri River NRD area

includes all of Sarpy, Douglas, Washington and Dakota Counties plus the eastern 60% of Burt and Thurston Counties.

The draft calls for \$16.78 million in revenue from the property tax levy. The operating budget calls for total spending estimated at \$76.96 million, compared to \$97.67 million in FY 2010. Budgeted revenue includes the tax levy, bonds, federal and state cost sharing for specific projects and income from Improvement Project Areas.

“We are able to meet the needs in our area while continuing to have an efficient, financially responsible operation. Our citizens can be assured that the NRD is fulfilling our mission to protect life and property, and enhance our quality of life while keeping our property tax levy as low as possible,” said Winkler.

Further review, a formal public hearing and adoption of a budget will be take place at the board’s August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **NRD Board Chooses Officers**

Rick Kolowski of Omaha was selected by the board to serve a one-year term as chairman. Kolowski, the founding principal of Millard West High School, has served on the board since 2005. He previously served as Vice Chairman. Kolowski replaces Jim Thompson of Omaha, a 4-year chairman of the board who chose to not run for a fifth term.

David Klug was selected to serve as vice-chairman. Klug has served on the board since 2007 and represents western Sarpy County.

Richard Tesar of Waterloo was reelected as Secretary and John Conley of Omaha, Treasurer. Tesar was also selected to serve another term as the board’s representative on the Nebraska Association of Resources District’s Board.

(Photos available on request – contact Emmett Egr [eeegr@pacionrd.org](mailto:eeegr@pacionrd.org))