

Nemaha NRD Board Discusses Budget

(KTNC) - The Nemaha Natural Resources District Board of Directors discussed the fiscal year 2014 budget during the meeting last week.

A committee of board members met with NRD staff earlier this month to iron out some of the details in the budget.

The major component of the budget is continued work on the Buck and Duck Creek Watershed project. With construction completed on the Buck Creek flood control dam near Peru, work will begin now on the nearby Duck Creek structure, which includes a public recreation component.

The timeline calls for construction to begin in the fall of 2014, with completion a little over one year later. The recreation components would be added after the dam is finished.

The project budget for this year includes appraisals, land rights, road and utility expenses, and mitigation requirements.

Another major project in the budget is renovation of a structure on Wilson Creek along Highway 2 west of Dunbar. The NRD will provide about \$170,000 towards the project cost, with federal funds helping with part of the cost. The dam needs to be upgraded due to a change in hazard classification that resulted when Highway 2 was relocated.

The budget currently totals about \$4.8 million. The NRD Board's budget committee will continue to fine-tune the budget over the next month, though property tax valuations won't be available until after the August meeting. The NRD Board will hold a public hearing in September before adopting the final budget.

In budget related action this month, the NRD Board approved a motion to increase the restricted fund allowance for the budget by an additional one-percent. The move does not increase tax collections for this year's budget, but allows the board to increase collections in the future if needed.

The NRD Board also approved four well permits. Two were approved for Dennis Meyer in Richardson County, one for Adam Noa in Nemaha County, and one for Jolene Bartels in Johnson County.