

Hitchcock County Board Minutes



Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Trenton, Nebraska
August 23rd, 2021

A meeting of the County Board of Commissioners of Hitchcock County, Nebraska was held at the Hitchcock County Courthouse Community Room, 229 East D Street, Trenton, Nebraska on Monday, the 23rd day of August, 2021 commencing at 8:00 o'clock a.m. Present were Chair Paul Nichols, Commissioners Scott McDonald and Ron Wertz, and County Clerk Margaret Pollmann. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication in the Hitchcock County News, the designated method for giving notice. Board agendas are posted on the County's website www.hitchcockcounty.ne.gov. Notice of the meeting was given to the Chair and all members of the Board. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Open Meetings Act was available for review and Chair indicated the location of such copy in the room where the meeting was being held.

Chair Nichols called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Member Nichols moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following items: Approval of the August 23rd, 2021 Agenda and approval of the August 16th, 2021 meeting minutes. Member McDonald seconded the motion and after consideration the following members voted in favor of said motion: McDonald, Nichols, and Wertz. Motion carried.

Member Wertz offered Resolution #21-16 and moved for its' adoption. Member Nichols seconded the motion and after consideration the roll was called thereupon and the following members voted in favor of the motion: McDonald, Nichols, and Wertz. Said resolution having been consented to by a majority of all members elected to said County Board, was by the Chair declared passed and adopted. A true, correct and complete copy of said resolution is as follows:

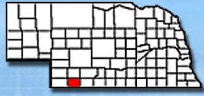
RESOLUTION #21-16

WHEREAS, the County of Hitchcock County, Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY", is a duly organized county, existing pursuant to the law of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §77-3443 (3) On or before August 1, all political subdivisions subject to county, municipal, or municipal county levy authority under this section shall submit a preliminary request for levy allocation to the county board, city council, village board, or council that is responsible for levying such taxes. The preliminary request of the political subdivision shall be in the form of a resolution adopted by a majority vote of member present of the political subdivision's governing body; and

WHEREAS, COUNTY is in receipt of the following timely filed preliminary allocation resolutions from the named subdivisions:

Culbertson Cemetery District:	General Fund	\$ 6,519.88
	Sinking Fund	\$ 5,100.00
	Total	\$ 11,619.88
Stratton Rural Cemetery District:	General Fund	\$ 12,000.00
	Total	\$ 12,000.00



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Trenton Cemetery District:	General Fund	\$ 7,000.00
	Sinking Fund	\$ 5,000.00
	Total	\$ 12,000.00
Culbertson Fire Protection District:	General Fund	\$ 31,867.65
	Total	\$ 31,867.65
Palisade Rural Fire District:	General Fund	\$ 62,945.01
	Sinking/Bond Fund	\$ 40,000.00
	Total	\$102,945.01
Stratton Ambulance & Fire Protection District:	General Fund	\$ 68,340.00
	Total	\$ 68,340.00
Trenton Rural Fire Protection District:	General Fund	\$ 15,000.00
	Sinking Fund	\$ 25,000.00
	Total	\$ 40,000.00
Hitchcock County Agricultural Society	General Fund	\$ 67,912.00
	Total	\$ 67,912.00
Hitchcock County Historical Society	General Fund	\$ 29,824.00
	Total	\$ 29,824.00

WHEREAS, COUNTY has considered each request and its' effect on the overall levy allocation as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §77-3443 (4) Each county board, city council, village board, or council shall (a) adopt a resolution by a majority vote of members present which determines a final levy allocation of levy authority to its political subdivisions and (b) forward a copy of such resolution to the chairperson of the governing body of each of its political subdivisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the preliminary levy allocation of levy authority for each of the above listed political subdivisions are approved.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 23rd day of August, 2021.

VOTING FOR THE MOTION: Scott McDonald, Ron Wertz, Paul Nichols

VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION: None

ABSTAINING: None

ABSENT: None

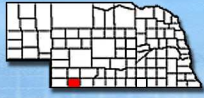
The Resolution is hereby adopted.

Paul Nichols, Chair

ATTEST:

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk

SEAL



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McDonald moved to Direct Chair to execute a service agreement with Eakes Office Solutions enter into service agreement for service and support relating to the County Attorney's copier. The motion was seconded by Nichols and after consideration, the following members voted in favor of the motion: Nichols, McDonald, and Wertz. Motion carried.

Kent Lorens, Nick Ladenburger, Hope Strong and Victoria Bauer were present for discussion on Resolution #21-17 relating to the federal government's "30x30" land preservation goal.

Member Nichols offered Resolution #21-17 and moved for its' adoption. Member Wertz seconded the motion and after consideration the roll was called thereupon and the following members voted in favor of the motion: Wertz and Nichols. Voting against the motion: McDonald. Said resolution having been consented to by a majority of all members elected to said County Board, was by the Chair declared passed and adopted. A true, correct and complete copy of said resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION #21-17 OPPOSING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S "30 X 30" LAND PRESERVATION GOAL

WHEREAS, the County of Hitchcock, State of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY", is a duly organized political subdivision, existing pursuant to the laws of the State of Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Hitchcock County contains about 460,000 acres of land situated in Southwest Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, designating lands as wilderness does not assure its preservation. Left in an undisturbed or natural state, these lands are highly susceptible to wildland wildfires, insect infestation and disease, all of which degrade the natural and human environment; and

WHEREAS, the wellbeing, health, safety, welfare, economic condition, and culture of the COUNTY, its businesses, and its citizens depend on private land ownership and the use of these resources; and

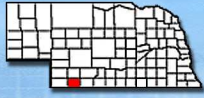
WHEREAS, many of COUNTY'S businesses and its citizens are involved in or otherwise depend on industries that utilize private lands and their resources, including farming, ranching, livestock grazing, oil and gas exploration and production, mining and mineral development, recreational industries, hunting and other outdoor recreation; and

WHEREAS, these industries are important components of the Nebraska economy, and are major contributors to the economic and social wellbeing of COUNTY and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., issued Executive Order 14008 entitled Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Aboard (86 Fed. Reg. 7,619); and

WHEREAS, in Section 216 of Executive Order 14008, President Biden directed the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and other senior officials, to develop a program to conserve at least 30 percent of the lands and waters in the United States by 2030, which is called "30 x 30" program; and

WHEREAS, under the 30 x 30 program, some 680 million acres of our Nation's lands would be set aside and permanently preserved in its natural state, preventing the productive use of these lands and their resources; and



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WHEREAS, there is no constitutional or statutory authority for the President, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, or any other federal agency to set aside and permanently preserve 30 percent of all land and water in the United States, and no such authority is referenced in Executive Order 14008; and

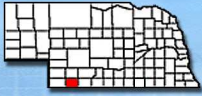
WHEREAS, placing private lands into permanent conservation status will cause dramatic and irreversible harm to the economies of many states, including Nebraska, and in particular rural counties such as COUNTY whose citizens depend on private lands for their livelihoods; and

WHEREAS, the 30 x 30 program, if implemented, will conflict with the plans, policies and programs of COUNTY as expressed in COUNTY's Comprehensive Development Plan adopted May 7, 2001 and revised May 21, 2012 which obligates the federal government to coordinate its policy development with COUNTY; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 14008 at 216(a) directs the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other relevant federal agencies to "submit a report to the Task Force within 90 days of the date of this order recommending steps that the United States should take, working with State, local, Tribal, and territorial governments, agricultural and forest landowners, fisherman, and other key stakeholders, to achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Hitchcock County, Nebraska, as follows:

1. The Board opposed the 30 x 30 program, including its objective of permanently preserving 30 percent of the Nation's lands in its natural state by 2030, or any similar program that will set aside and prevent the productive use of millions of acres of our lands.
2. The Board further opposes the designation of lands in COUNTY as wilderness, wilderness study areas, wildlife preserves, open space, or other conservation land, thereby restricting public access to such lands and preventing the development and productive use of the resources on or within such lands.
3. The Board supports the continued private ownership of land in the COUNTY, recognizing the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, energy, timber, food, and fiber.
4. The Board recognizes and supports the State of Nebraska's water rights system, and other state laws and programs governing water rights and water use, and opposes any federal designation of waters and watercourses within the COUNTY that would impair or restrict water diversions and uses authorized under Nebraska law.
5. The Board supports reasonable national, regional, and global greenhouse gas emissions policies and goals that are comprehensive, practical, cost-effective, and do not unnecessarily single out specific industries or activities, but opposes the use of global climate change as an excuse to set aside large tracts of land as preserves or open space to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives.
6. The Board also maintains that any lands or other rights that are acquired to fulfill the 30 x 30 program's objectives should be acquired only from willing landowners and for the payment of full and fair market value for all rights and interests acquired, and not through regulatory compulsion, and only after analyzing and considering the impacts of such land acquisitions on the well-being, health, safety, welfare, economy, and culture of COUNTY, its businesses, and its citizens.



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7. The Board shall send a copy of this Resolution to the Department of Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and all other relevant Federal and State agencies.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this 23rd day of August, 2021.

VOTING FOR THE MOTION: Ron Wertz and Paul Nichols

ABSTAINING: None.

VOTING AGAINST THE MOTION: McDonald

The Resolution is hereby adopted.

Paul Nichols, Chairman
Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Margaret Pollmann, County Clerk
(SEAL)

Member Wertz moved to adjourn at 8:25 a.m. and to meet for the next regular meeting on Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. Member McDonald seconded the motion and the roll was called with the following members voting in favor of said motion: McDonald, Nichols, and Wertz. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Paul Nichols, Chair
Hitchcock County Board of Commissioners

Margaret M. Pollmann, County Clerk