

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Tri-Basin NRD

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman David Olsen, at 7:30 p.m. Olsen noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with ten directors present: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz. Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Bertrand Herald, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier and announced on radio stations KRVN, Lexington and KUVR, Holdrege.

EXCUSE ABSENCES

Moved by Johnson, seconded by Lundeen, to excuse Bilka from the August and September 2015 Board Meetings. Motion carried.

AYE: Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the September 8, 2015, Board of Directors Meeting, Groundwater Management Hearing and Budget Hearing and September 2, 2015 Executive Committee meeting. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Winz, to approve the minutes for the September 8, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting and public hearings. Motion carried.

AYE: Cavanaugh, Johnson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka and Larson

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the September 2, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bilka presented the financial report for the month of September 2015 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$58,158.42
Cash Expenditures for Month-----	\$66,565.35
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$389,253.97
-	
Cash Revenues for Month-----	\$388,723.20
Bank Balance—September 30, 2015-----	\$411,591.68
-	
Accounts Receivable – September 30, 2015-----	\$1,117.17
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – September 30, 2015-----	\$50,070.67
-	
Building Sinking Fund – September 30, 2015-----	\$70,001.00
-	
Vehicle Sinking Fund – September 30, 2015-----	\$49,938.12
Water Resources Fund – September 30, 2015-----	\$150,002.14
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – September 30, 2015-----	\$18,305.20

Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – September 30, 2015-----	\$10,397.19
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2015-----	\$12,265.81
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – September 30, 2015-----	\$11,370.73
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2015-----	\$15,719.85

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Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2015-----	\$21,961.76
-	
Water Jamboree – September 30, 2015-----	\$5,555.27
-	
NRRMDA – September 30, 2015-----	\$7,624.08
Odessa IPA – September 30, 2015-----	\$14,726.44

Moved by Larson, seconded by Lundeen, to accept the September 2015 financial reports and file for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA, CNPPID and attorney bills for approval. Moved by Johnson, seconded Reynolds to approve the visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

Moved by Lundeen, seconded Ryan to approve the CNPPID bill. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no farm plans for approval.

Activity and Progress Report: Kevin Breece reported Range Conservationist position was filled in Elwood and Program Assistant in Holdrege.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Abandonment – Thorburn presented one well decommissioning application for approval. Moved by Winz, seconded Raffety to approve one well decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn recommended six NSWCP cost-share and one TBNRD Cost-Share application for approval. Moved by Reynolds, seconded Bilka to approve six NSWCP cost-share applications and a one TBNRD cost-share. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Olsen

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater & Certified Acre Transfers – Thorburn presented a certified irrigated acre transfer request for Connie Sue Glover and a correction to certified irrigated acres for Kenton & Brass Family Partnership. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson to approve a groundwater transfer request for Connie Sue Glover and a correction to irrigated acres for Kenton & Brass Family Partnership. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

Educational Land Leases – There were no educational land leases to approve.

OTHER BUSINESS

The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the board for comment and/or discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NARD REPORT

NARD Conference: Reynolds and Raffety reported on the NARD Conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: A committee meeting for the Executive Committee will be set.

Planning Committee: Thorburn reported on the landowner steering committee meetings for May and Elk Creek Townships. Elk Creek Steering Committee would like to exclude a well that has a variable irrigation history (because it skews the data) and include dedicated observation wells. Observation well data would have to be statistically correlated to average levels of local irrigation data because the wells haven't been measured for as long of a timespan. The committee asked for a higher allocation in exchange for a longer allocation period.

The May Township Steering Committee, TBNRD Planning Committee, Thorburn, Mike Onnen and two LBNRD directors met to discuss declines in May Township. There was discussion about new development and different groundwater quantity requirements in LBNRD and the effect on May Township water levels. The May Township landowners expressed concern that trends in water levels in their township were beyond their control because of less stringent requirements in LBNRD regulations. The landowners suggested hiring a hydrologist and Thorburn suggested working with LBNRD to standardize regulations. Thorburn commented that LBNRD's saturated thickness map for Adams County differs from TBNRD's in Kearney County. Thorburn and Little are examining TBNRD's data to see if there are any issues. Reynolds mentioned that TBNRD's goal is 'sustainability of the aquifer' and wondered if LBNRD has the same goal. Thorburn will check. The board expressed the desire to work with LBNRD to make groundwater level regulations more compatible. Thorburn commented that developing the Joint Little Blue IMP would be a good place to start. Reynolds suggested an ad hoc committee for the Little Blue Basin be implemented. The following people volunteered to be on the committee: Cavanaugh, Ryan, Lundeen and Raffety.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: There was nothing to report.

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Out-of-State Travel: Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety to approve out-of-state travel for Thorburn and three others on Nov. 18-19 to Manhattan, KS. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Winz

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin (NRRMDA): A Basin-Wide Management Plan Stakeholder's meeting will be held November 17, 2015 in Cambridge. Phragmites will be sprayed along Turkey Creek near the site of the Republican Basin Augmentation Well.

Platte Basin: POAC met October 6th, 2015. A meeting will be held in North Platte on November 20, 2015 to prepare for revise the Basin-Wide IMP.

South Dry Creek: Staff has been doing some weed spraying.

Sacramento Creek: Staff has been doing some weed spraying.

Middle Lost Creek: Staff has been doing some weed spraying.

Fort Kearny West: Staff has been doing some weed spraying.

Fort Kearny: Staff has been doing some weed spraying.

North Dry Creek: Staff has been doing some weed spraying.

Whiskey Slough: Staff has been doing some weed spraying.

Odessa IPA: Staff has been doing some weed spraying.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: This item will be discussed under another agenda item...

Weed Mgmt. Areas/Riparian Veg. TF: Nothing to report.

CNPPID: Ford reported Lake McConaughay is at elevation 3257 and 86% capacity.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approve Little Blue Water Plan: Thorburn reviewed the Little Blue Basin Water Management Plan. Reynolds pointed out several typographical errors. Reynolds commented that TBNRD's goal is 'sustainability of the aquifer' and suggested that LBNRD include that goal in their plan. Thorburn will mention that in the approval letter TBNRD will send to LBNRD about the plan.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to approve Little Blue Basin Water Management Plan. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

Consider Whether to Apply to Water Sustainability Fund for Sand Creek Reservoir, Platte-Republican Diversion: Thorburn explained that most of the Water Sustainability Fund is already obligated for this year, but applying for the funding would show a need for additional funding. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Winz to apply to the Water Sustainability Fund for Sand Creek Reservoir and the Platte-Republican Basin Diversion Projects. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

Review Long-Term Agreements with CNPPID: Thorburn explained that the agreements need to be discussed in executive session.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There was discussion about a draft letter to Senator John Kuehn. Thorburn will keep directors informed about changes to the letter. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to proceed with the letter to Senator Kuehn subject to further suggestions. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

PERSONNEL & LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Winz, seconded by Bilka to move to executive session for the protection of the public and an individual to discuss legal and personnel issues at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Cavanaugh to move out of executive session for the protection of the public and individual to discuss legal and personnel issues at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Winz to direct staff and the Executive Committee to meet with NDNR staff to discuss proposed contracts with CNPPID for high flow diversions. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Garrelts and Harris
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NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Joe Bilka, Mike Cavanaugh, Phyllis Johnson, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Dave Olsen, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, Jeff Ryan and Ray Winz.

OTHERS PRESENT

Carie Lynch, John Thorburn, Nicole Salisbury, Dave Ford, Kevin Breece and Nolan Little

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 October 13, 2015

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abs	Motion
	2015-10-13-01	Meeting Administration		9		1	Moved by Johnson, seconded by Lundeen, to excuse Bilka from the August and September 2015 Board Meetings. Motion carried.
	2015-10-13-02	Meeting Administration		8		2	Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Winz, to approve the minutes for the September 8, 2015 Board of Directors Meeting and public hearings. Motion carried.
	2015-10-13-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the September 2, 2015 Executive Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2015-10-13-04	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Lundeen, to accept the September 2015 financial reports and file for audit. Motion carried.
	2015-10-13-05	Budget		10			Moved by Johnson, seconded Reynolds to approve the visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2015-10-13-06	Budget		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded Ryan to approve the CNPPID bill. Motion carried.
	2015-10-13-07	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Winz, seconded Raffety to approve one well decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2015-10-13-08	Meeting Administration		9		1	Moved by Reynolds, seconded Bilka to approve six NSWCP cost-share applications and a one TBNRD cost-share. Motion carried.
	2015-10-13-09	Certification & Transfers	Connie Glover & Brass Family	10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson to approve a groundwater transfer request for Connie Sue Glover and a correction to irrigated acres for

							Kenton & Brass Family Partnership. Motion carried.
2015-10-13-10	Meeting Administration			9		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety to approve out-of-state travel for Thorburn and three others on Nov. 18-19 to Manhattan, KS. Motion carried.
2015-10-13-11	District Plans & Programs	Little Blue Basin Mgmt Plan		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to approve Little Blue Basin Water Management Plan. Motion carried.
2015-10-13-12	Budget	Water Sustainability Fund		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Winz to apply to the Water Sustainability Fund for Sand Creek Reservoir and the Platte-Republican Basin Diversion Projects. Motion carried.
2015-10-13-13	Budget	Senator Kuehn Letter		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to proceed with the letter to Senator Kuehn subject to further suggestions. Motion carried.
2015-10-13-14	Meeting Administration			10			Moved by Winz, seconded by Bilka to move to executive session for the protection of the public and an individual to discuss legal and personnel issues at 8:40 p.m. Motion carried.
2015-10-13-15	Meeting Administration			10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Cavanaugh to move out of executive session for the protection of the public and individual to discuss legal and personnel issues at 9:03 p.m. Motion carried.
2015-10-13-16	Agreements	CNPPID Contracts		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Winz to direct staff and the Executive Committee to meet with NDNR staff to discuss proposed contracts with CNPPID for high flow diversions. Motion carried.