

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tri-Basin Natural Resources District**  
**1723 Burlington St., Holdrege, NE**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with nine directors present: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philip, Reynolds and Ryan. Garrelts, Raffety, Bilka and Cavanaugh were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier and announced on radio station KRVN, Lexington.

**EXCUSE ABSENCES**

There were no absences to excuse.

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of the March 8, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting, March 15, 2022, Joint Meeting with CNPPID and Planning Committee Meetings. Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the March 8, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Larson and Ryan

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2022, Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2022, Joint Meeting with CNPPID. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Hinrichs presented the financial report for the month of March 2022 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$182,131.58
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$69,538.79
Bank Balance—March 31, 2022-----	\$339,372.59
Accounts Receivable – March 31, 2022-----	\$131,250.77
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – March 31, 2022-----	\$114,596.93
Building Sinking Fund – March 31, 2022-----	\$169,934.51
Vehicle Sinking Fund – March 31, 2022-----	\$110,868.07
Water Resources Fund – March 31, 2022-----	\$424,420.74
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – March 31, 2022-----	\$8,502.10
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – March 31, 2022-----	\$6,675.23
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2022-----	\$6,212.07
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – March 31, 2022-----	\$10,282.02
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2022-----	\$4,515.35
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2022-----	\$6,995.83
Water Jamboree – March 31, 2022-----	\$13,084.88
NRMDA – March 31, 2022-----	\$7,637.05
Odessa IPA – March 31, 2022-----	\$20,225.59

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Lynch commented that TBNRD switched from Sage Accounting to QuickBooks to facilitate Tonniges providing payroll services July 1, 2022, and, as a result, the financial reports are in a slightly different format. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the March 2022 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

**SPECIAL BILLS**

Thorburn presented the VISA, UNL and attorney bills for approval. Moved by Larson, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa, UNL and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

**NRCS REPORT**

**FSA Farm Plans:** There were no farm plans to approve.

**Activity and Progress Report:** Tim Schaaf, Elwood Conservationist, reported on fire damage in Gosper County. The fire burned pivots, damaged flowmeters and created erosion issues.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Abandonment** – Thorburn presented ten well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to approve ten well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented sixteen TBNRD Conservation Tree Cost-share applications and thirteen NSWCP cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Reynolds to approve sixteen TBNRD Conservation Tree Cost-Share applications and thirteen NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

**Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP** – Thorburn presented six irrigated acre transfer requests for Robert Swanson (2), Swanson Farms, Rhodell Jameson, Weston Holen and Jerold Kuehn and one correction to irrigated acres for Stadler Farms, Inc. Shane Sinsel, Jerold Kuehn, Loren Kuehn, and Robert Swanson were present to answer questions. Moved by Larson, seconded by Hinrichs to approve six irrigated acre transfer requests Robert Swanson (2), Swanson Farms, Rhodell Jameson,

Weston Holen and Jerold Kuehn and a correction to irrigated acres for Stadler Farms, Inc. Motion carried.

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AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

**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 or discussion. Thorburn introduced Whitney Gappa, TBNRD's new Water Resources Technician.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Cottonwood Ranch Augmentation Well Agreement Amendment** – Thorburn presented an amendment to the Water Service Agreement with PRRIP. The amendment adds ownership and operational control for the "Cook Well." Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve an amendment to the PRRIP Water Service Agreement for the Cook Well. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

**FY 2022-2023 IPA Assessments** – Thorburn presented the proposed IPA assessments for FY 2022-2023: Ft., Kearny - \$.00, Ft. Kearny West - \$.20, North Dry Creek - \$.15, Sacramento Creek - \$.25, South Dry Creek - \$.15, Whiskey Slough - \$.20 and Odessa - \$.00.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to set the FY 2022-2023 IPA assessments as. Ft. Kearny - \$.00, Ft. Kearny West - \$.20, North Dry Creek - \$.15, Sacramento Creek - \$.25, South Dry Creek - \$.15, Whiskey Slough - \$.20 and Odessa - \$.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

### **NARD REPORT**

Reynolds reported that the Nebraska Department of Revenue is providing guidance to county assessors about irrigated acre transfers that would allow assessors to keep assessing the unirrigated acres as irrigated.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning Committee:** Reynolds presented a handout that defined sustainability and gave examples of practices that promote sustainability. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris, to approve a definition of sustainability and examples of practices that promote sustainability and to allow Reynolds to present the information to NARD (see attachment). Motion carried.

AYE: Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: Bergstrom and Grimes

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

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**Joint Meeting with CNPPID:** Thorburn commented that the committee reviewed current projects, the merger and cost-share for dual connections. The committee suggested meeting more than one time per year and having a smaller, sub-committee meet to discuss agenda items in depth. Lundeen suggested Thorburn set up the meetings.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

**Board Directives to Staff:** Thorburn and Hahn showed an old NRD photo of board members.

**Out-of-State Travel:** There was no out-of-state travel to approve.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Thorburn suggested providing replacement flowmeters for landowners in Union Township, if their flowmeter was damaged by the recent grass fire. Thorburn also suggested that water pumped for fire suppression, erosion control and to start a cover crop in fire damaged Union Township, not count towards allocation until June 1, 2022. Postcards will be sent to landowners and re-evaluation can be made after June 1, 2022. Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grimes, to allow pumping for fire suppression and dust control through June 1, 2022, and to replace flowmeters in Union Township at NRD expense. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

**Platte Basin:** Nothing to report.

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Nothing to report.

**North Dry Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Odessa IPA:** Nothing to report.

**Sacramento Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Fort Kearny:** Nothing to report.

**Fort Kearny West:** Nothing to report.

**South Dry Creek:** Staff has been cutting trees.

**Whiskey Slough:** Nothing to report.

**Middle Lost Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Lake Seldom:** Nothing to report.

**CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition:** Nothing to report.

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** Meeting will be held at TBNRD on May 17, 2022.

**Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well:** Nothing to report.

**CNPPID:** Scott Dicke reported Lake McConaughy is at 67.2% of capacity, canals are filling, and excess flows were released twice.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**USDA-NRCS WFPO Request** – Thorburn presented WFPO Accompanying Information Needed for PIFR Request Letter for North Dry and Lost Creeks. Cost-share on a watershed improvement project is 50% to 100%. TBNRD can approve or deny the proposal. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson to approve the USDA/NRCS WFPO request for North Dry Creek and Lost Creek watersheds. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, and Raffety

#### **COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Thorburn mentioned the Nebraska Department of Transportation is tentatively planning (2026) to replace the culvert on Lost Creek under Hwy 44. The culvert will be upsized.

#### **PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

There were no personnel or legal matters.

#### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

#### **DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Brian Bergstrom, David Grimes, Ed Harris, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Reed Philips, Jeff Ryan and Larry Reynolds.

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

John Thorburn, Scott Dicke, Nate Munter, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Sasha Hahn, Shane Sinsel, Loren Kuehn, Whitney Gappa, Jerold Kuehn, Robert Swanson, Nolan Little (Zoom), Tim Schaaf, and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS  
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 April 12, 2022

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2022-04-12-01	Meeting Administration		7		2	Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the March 8, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2022, Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2022-04-12-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the March 15, 2022, Joint Meeting with CNPPID. Motion carried unanimously.
	2022-04-12-04	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the March 2022 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-05	Budget		9			Moved by Larson, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa, UNL and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-06	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to approve ten well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-07	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Reynolds to approve sixteen TBNRD Conservation Tree Cost-Share applications and thirteen NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-08	Certification & Transfers		9			Moved by Larson, seconded by Hinrichs to approve six irrigated acre transfer requests Robert Swanson (2), Swanson Farms, Rhodell Jameson, Weston Holen and Jerold Kuehn and a correction to irrigated acres for Stadler Farms, Inc. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-09	Agreements	PRRIP	9			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve an amendment to the PRRIP Water Service Agreement for the Cook Well. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-10	Projects	IPA	9			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to set the FY 2022-2023 IPA assessments as. Ft. Kearny - \$.00, Ft. Kearny West - \$.20, North Dry Creek -

							\$ .15, Sacramento Creek - \$.25, South Dry Creek - \$.15, Whiskey Slough - \$.20 and Odessa - \$.00. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-11	Resolutions & Legislation	Sustainability	7		2	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris, to approve a definition of sustainability and examples of practices that promote sustainability and to allow Reynolds to present the information to NARD (see attachment). Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-12	Policies – By-Laws	Fire Control	9			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grimes, to allow pumping for fire suppression and dust control through June 1, 2022, and to replace flowmeters in Union Township at NRD expense. Motion carried.
	2022-04-12-13	Projects	NDC WFPO	9			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson to approve the USDA/NRCS WFPO request for North Dry Creek and Lost Creek watersheds. Motion carried.