

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tri-Basin Natural Resources District**

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman, Todd Garrelts at 7:31 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with thirteen directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Valley Voice 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 14, 2023, Board of Directors meetings, March 27, 2023, Special Board Meeting and March 13, 2023, Joint Executive Committee Meeting with CPNRD. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes for the March 14, 2023 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom, Larson and Philips

ABSENT: None

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the March 27, 2023 Special Board Meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: None

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the March 13, 2023 Joint Executive Committee Meeting with CPNRD. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of March 2023 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month .....	\$113,630.19
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$105,911.64
Actual Expenditures for Month .....	\$122,995.51
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$110,881.07
Bank Balance—March 31, 2023.....	\$137,340.95
Accounts Receivable – March 31, 2023.....	\$40,967.87
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – March 31, 2023.....	\$14,897.73
Building Sinking Fund – March 31, 2023.....	\$169,716.85
Vehicle Sinking Fund – March 31, 2023.....	\$71,766.53
Water Resources Fund – March 31, 2023.....	\$444,495.66
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – March 31, 2023.....	\$13,681.98
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – March 31, 2023.....	\$8,067.66
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2023.....	\$5,854.02

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Fort Kearny IPA Balance – March 31, 2023-----	\$10,675.99
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2023-----	\$2,073.12
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2023-----	\$6,821.67
Water Jamboree – March 31, 2023-----	\$14,413.95
NRRCMDA – March 31, 2023-----	\$7,637.80
Odessa IPA – March 31, 2023-----	\$20,035.51
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – March 31, 2023-----	\$8,336.72

Moved by Larson, seconded by Raffety, to accept the March 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**SPECIAL BILLS**

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**NRCS REPORT**

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

**Activity and Progress Report:** Kerner reported staff has been working on CSP, EQIP and FSA status reviews.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Decommissioning** – Thorburn presented seven well decommissioning applications for approval. Moved by Harris, seconded by Reynolds to approve seven well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented two NSWCP applications and seventeen Tri-Basin Cost-Share applications for approval. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grams to approve seventeen Tri-Basin cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Harris

ABSENT: None

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Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to approve two NSWCP Cost-Share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Harris

ABSENT: None

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

**Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP** – Thorburn presented one groundwater transfer, one irrigated acre transfer request (Bergstrom and Thorell) and Union Township Pooling allocations.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to approve one groundwater transfer, one irrigated acre transfer request and Union Township Pooling Agreements. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**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.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Local Agronomy Online Forum – Shawn Woollen:** Shawn Woollen explained that his website “agtalk.com” could be used as a nitrogen forum. He would monitor the site and a web service company would design the software. The cost would be approximately \$1800 to build the site with \$55/month to maintain. Moved by Grimes, seconded by Hinrichs to approve funding for the nitrogen forum on the agtalk.com website at a cost of \$3000. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**NRD Producer Connect – Heath Kuntz:** Heath Kuntz explained the NRD Producer Connect software. The software allows producers to enter water use, nitrogen application, crop report and soil samples data directly into the application online. The application is an extension to the software currently being developed for TBNRD and other NRDs. The app includes GIS maps and tools that allows producers to compare to other producers. The total cost is estimated at \$152,000, which would be divided between participating NRDs less grant funding. Estimated cost for TBNRD is \$4,000-\$5,000 initially and \$2000, starting in 2027, for maintenance. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bergstrom to support and participate in the Producer Connect project with Longitude 103. Motion carried.

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

NAY: Raffety

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**Approve FY 2023-24 IPA Assessments:** Thorburn presented proposed IPA assessments for 2023-2024. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Larson to set the IPA assessments for 2023-2024 for the following amounts: Fort Kearny - \$.00, Fort Kearny West - \$.20, North Dry Creek - \$.15, Sacramento Creek - \$.25, South Dry Creek - \$.20, Whiskey Slough - \$.20 and Odessa - \$.00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**NARD REPORT**

**NARD Report:** Reynolds reported the Basin Tour will be June 12-13, 2023, starting in Kearney. Thorburn asked that the June board meeting be changed due to a conflict. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to change the June 2023 board meeting date to June 20, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

**Board Directives to Staff:** There were no staff directives.

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Republican Basin IMP will have a stakeholder meeting this summer/fall to finish the IMP. Thorburn reported he will send a letter of request to NDNR for remote reading flowmeters and soil moisture sensors.

**Platte Basin:** Thorburn reported that several new Platte Basin stakeholders are needed. Thorburn asked that directors make suggestions. Thorburn presented a draft that prioritizes excess flows for TBNRD. The priorities will be presented to other Platte Basin NRDs and NDNR. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to accept the proposed Excess Flow Diversion Site and Priorities for submission to NDNR. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: None

**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:** Nothing to report.

**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:** Nothing to report.

**Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well:** Thorburn mentioned Jeff Cox memo on PRD management.

**CNPPID Report:** Nothing to report.

#### NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

#### COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Grimes mentioned that he is working with Pat Nott and Curtis Scheele on a nitrogen management plot. Grants are available for technology grants from NRCS.

#### PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to move out of the Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried.

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AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Ed Harris, Todd Garrelts, Joel Grams, David Grimes, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Reed Philips, Dave Raffety, Jeff Ryan and Larry Reynolds.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Curtis Scheele, John Thorburn, Nate Munter, Cammie Kerner, Wayne Anderson, Shawn Woollen, Heath Kuntz, Nolan Little, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Sasha Hahn, 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 11, 2023

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2023-04-11-01	Meeting Administration		10		3	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes for the March 14, 2023 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-02	Meeting Administration		12		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the March 27, 2023 Special Board Meeting. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the March 13, 2023 Joint Executive Committee Meeting with CPNRD. Motion carried unanimously.
	2023-04-11-04	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Larson, seconded by Raffety, to accept the March 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-05	Budget		13			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-06	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Harris, seconded by Reynolds to approve seven well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-07	Meeting Administration		12		1	Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grams to approve seventeen Tri-Basin cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-08	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to approve two NSWCP Cost-Share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-09	Certification & Transfers		12		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to approve one groundwater transfer, one irrigated acre transfer request and Union Township Pooling Agreements. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-10	Projects	Agtalk.com	13			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Hinrichs to approve funding for the nitrogen forum on the agtalk.com website at a cost of \$3000. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-11	Projects	Producer Connect	12	1		Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bergstrom to support and participate in the Producer Connect project with Longitude 103. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-12	Projects	IPA assessments	13			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Larson to set the IPA assessments for 2023-

							2024 for the following amounts: Fort Kearny - \$.00, Fort Kearny West - \$.20, North Dry Creek - \$.15, Sacramento Creek - \$.25, South Dry Creek - \$.20, Whiskey Slough - \$.20 and Odessa - \$.00. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-13	Meeting Administration		12		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to change the June 2023 board meeting date to June 20, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-14	Policies – By-Laws	Excess Flow Diversion Sites	13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to accept the proposed Excess Flow Diversion Site and Priorities for submission to NDNR. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-15	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried.
	2023-04-11-16	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to move out of the Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried.