

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 1:30 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 1:30 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law is available upon request.

ROLL CALL

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

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the October 10, 2023, Board of Directors meeting. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the October 10, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting and Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

AYE: Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka, Grams and Larson

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$164,516.03
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$73,703.34
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$529,135.88
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$335,133.29
First State Bank Balance–October 31, 2023.....	\$66,349.83
Accounts Receivable – October 31, 2023.....	\$28,531.81
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – October 31, 2023.....	\$14,916.48
First State Bank Building Sinking Fund – October 31, 2023.....	\$0.00
First State Bank Vehicle Sinking Fund – October 31, 2023.....	\$0.00
First State Bank Water Resources Fund – October 31, 2023.....	\$0.00
First State Bank Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – October 31, 2023---	\$0.00
First State Bank Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – October 31, 2023	\$0.00
First State Bank South Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2023--	\$0.00
First State Bank Fort Kearny IPA Balance – October 31, 2023-----	\$0.00
First State Bank Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2023	\$0.00
First State Bank North Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2023--	\$0.00
First State Bank Water Jamboree – October 31, 2023.....	\$0.00
First State Bank NRRMDA – October 31, 2023.....	\$0.00
First State Bank Odessa IPA – October 31, 2023.....	\$0.00
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – October 31, 2023-----	\$210,000.00
Bruning Building Sinking Fund – October 31, 2023.....	29,661.78
Bruning Vehicle Sinking Fund – October 31, 2023.....	\$1,437.31
Bruning Water Resources Fund – October 31, 2023.....	\$201,522.03
Bruning Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – October 31, 2023.....	\$16,743.41
Bruning Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – October 31, 2023.....	\$9,068.52
Bruning South Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2023.....	\$7,190.93
Bruning Fort Kearny IPA Balance – October 31, 2023.....	\$10,619.61
Bruning Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2023.....	\$1,642.69
Bruning North Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2023.....	\$7,923.09

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Bruning Water Jamboree – October 31, 2023-----	\$4,293.59
Bruning NRRMDA – October 31, 2023-Balance included in Main Ac	.00
Bruning Odessa IPA – October 31, 2023-----	\$19,979.64
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – October 31, 2023-----	\$5,126.94

Ryan explained the closing of the First State Bank and Home Federal accounts. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson, to accept the October 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

SPECIAL BILLS

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

NRCS REPORT

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

Activity and Progress Report: Levi Adam, Acting District Conservationist reported that Cammie Kerner is at USDA/NRCS in Lincoln, NE for four months and staff has been working on CSP and EQIP.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – There were no well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve.

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented four NSWCP cost-share applications for approval and one TBNRD tree cost-share. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Philips, to approve four NSWCP cost-share applications and one TBNRD tree-cost-share. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – There were no transfers to approve.

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

IPA Management Report - Munter: Munter reported on the work done to IPAs this past year. Bilka suggested getting bids for weed management on the IPAs in the next fiscal year.

Review Contract /NDNR for Water Resources Cash Fund: Thorburn explained that \$200,000 is available from the Water Resources Cash Fund with a match of 60/40 percent. TBNRD or landowners would need to match the 40 percent. The funding would be used for soil moisture sensors (landowner cost-share) and remote reading flowmeters (TBNRD). Funding can only be used for projects in the Republican Basin with three years to spend funds. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, approve the Water Resources Cash Fund Contract for soil moisture sensors and remote reading flowmeters in the Republican Basin. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

NARD REPORT

NARD Report - Reynolds: Reynolds handed out the NARD report, reported that raising the retirement percentage for staff is under consideration and reported on the Regenerative Ag Conference. Thorburn reported that TBNRD staff was in favor of raising the retirement percentages.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Thorburn mentioned that he would like Little to attend the NARD Washington DC Conference in March 2024. Thorburn mentioned that the February 2023 board meeting date will need to be changed.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: The Republican Basin Forecast meeting will be held at TBNRD on November 15, 2023.

Platte Basin: Nothing to report.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report.

North Dry Creek: Report was already given.

Odessa IPA: Report was already given.

Sacramento Creek: Report was already given.

Fort Kearny: Report was already given.

Fort Kearny West: Report was already given.

South Dry Creek: Report was already given.

Whiskey Slough: Report was already given.

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Middle Lost Creek: Report was already given.

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: Nick Simonson, LRNRD was present to report on the PRD and the Flag Creek Project. LRNRD is also updating their database with Longitude 103.

CNPPID Report: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Pilot Program for Certified Irrigated Acre Suspension: Thorburn explained the program that would allow landowners to enter into an agreement with a solar contractor and suspend the irrigation status for a set period. The Executive Committee recommended a one-year, self-renewing contract. The program will be introduced as a pilot program. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to establish a pilot program for the suspension of irrigated acres with a one-year, auto-renew term. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

Review Recharge Agreement with Re-Use Pit, Wetland Owners: Thorburn explained the Executive Committee recommended selecting five, tier-one reuse pits for a pilot program. Landowners would receive a \$2,000 one-time payment on a 10-year lease. Lundeen suggested publicizing the pilot program. Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan, to accept the Executive Committee recommendation to establish a pilot program on five, tier-one re-use pits and offer a one-time \$2,000 payment with a ten-year term. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Reynolds commented on the ethanol plants piping CO2 to underground storage in Wyoming for carbon credits.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

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DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nick Simonson, Nolan Little, Nate Munter, Wayne Anderson, Levi Adam and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
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ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2023-11-14-01	Meeting Administration		8		3	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the October 10, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting and Budget Hearing. Motion carried.
	2023-11-14-02	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson, to accept the October 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2023-11-14-03	Meeting Administration	Budget	11			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa, PRD and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2023-11-14-04	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Philips, to approve four NSWCP cost-share applications and one TBNRD tree-cost-share. Motion carried.
	2023-11-14-05	Projects	FM and Soil Sensor Cost-Share Grant	11			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, approve the Water Resources Cash Fund Contract for soil moisture sensors and remote reading flowmeters in the Republican Basin. Motion carried.
	2023-11-14-06	District Plans & Programs	Suspension of Irrigated Acres	11			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation to establish a pilot program for the suspension of irrigated acres with a one-year, auto-renew term. Motion carried.
	2023-11-14-07	District Plans & Programs	Re-Use Pit Program	11			Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan, to accept the Executive Committee recommendation to establish a pilot program on five, tier-one re-use pits and offer a one-time \$2,000 payment with a ten-year term. Motion carried.