

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 12, 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, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan. Bergstrom and Philips 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 November 14, 2023, Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the November 14, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Philips

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the November 14, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$106,207.65
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$11,115.08
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$171,205.11
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$88,401.83
First State Bank Balance–November 30, 2023-----	\$2,663.79
Bruning Bank – Main Checking—November 30, 2023-----	\$120681.78
Accounts Receivable – November 30, 2023-----	\$28,507.84
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – November 30, 2023-----	\$0.00
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – November 30, 2023-----	\$210,000.00
Bruning Building Sinking Fund – November 30, 2023-----	29,661.78
Bruning Vehicle Sinking Fund – November 30, 2023-----	\$1,437.31
Bruning Water Resources Fund – November 30, 2023-----	\$201,522.03
Bruning Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – November 30, 2023-----	\$16,786.79
Bruning Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – November 30, 2023-----	\$9,092.03
Bruning South Dry Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2023-----	\$7,209.58
Bruning Fort Kearny IPA Balance – November 30, 2023-----	\$10,647.13
Bruning Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2023-----	\$1,782.04
Bruning North Dry Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2023-----	\$7,943.63
Bruning Water Jamboree – November 30, 2023-----	\$4,304.74
Bruning Odessa IPA – November 30, 2023-----	\$20,031.40
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – November 30, 2023-----	\$5,126.94

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Philips

SPECIAL BILLS

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Philips

NRCS REPORT

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

Activity and Progress Report: Levi Adam, Acting District Conservationist reported staff has been working on CSP and EQIP. There was a crop consultants meeting on November 29, 2023.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Philips

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented five NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve five NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Philips

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. Gary Robison explained that “Citizens Against the Merger” will be changing their name and that he’s concerned with nitrates in the area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NDNR Robust Review for Platte Basin IMP: This agenda item was rescheduled for February 2024.

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IWMS Progress Report - Scheele: Scheele gave the IWMS annual report which included TAPs, UNL on-line research and NAWMN.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report – Legislative Conference Delegates: Reynolds mentioned that the NARD Legislative Conference will be held January 23-24, 2024, in Lincoln at the Embassy Suites. If directors are interested in attending they should contact Lynch or Thorburn. Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to designate Larry Reynolds as Delegate and Ed Harris as Alternate Delegate for the NARD Legislative Conference. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Harris

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Philips

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Schedule Projects & Construction Committee Meeting: The Projects and Construction Committee will meet tomorrow, Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss soil moisture sensor cost-share and PRD pasture improvements.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Thorburn mentioned CPNRD and TBNRD are hiring a water programs specialist to work with area producers to improve irrigation and nitrogen application. The three-year position is funded by a grant from the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. Thorburn reported Carolyn Schaaf was hired as the Elwood Field Office Secretary.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

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

Platte Basin: Thorburn explained that CNPPID has asked TBNRD to write a letter to Adrian Smith in support of a bill funding irrigation maintenance facilities. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to approve a letter to Adrian Smith supporting funding for CNPPID irrigation maintenance facilities. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Hinrichs, Bergstrom and Philips

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report.

North Dry Creek: Staff has been cutting trees.

Odessa IPA: Staff has been cutting trees.

Sacramento Creek: Staff has been cutting trees.

Fort Kearny: Staff has been cutting trees.

Fort Kearny West: Staff has been cutting trees.

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South Dry Creek: Staff has been cutting trees.

Whiskey Slough: Staff has been cutting trees.

Middle Lost Creek: Staff has been cutting trees.

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: NDNR will hold another hearing in February/March at a location near Holdrege.

CNPPID Report: Cory Steinke reported on the repairs to Kingsley Dam and the Elwood Reservoir project.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Reynolds requested that Gary Robinson to attend the board work session in January/February to talk about nitrates. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to change the January 9, 2024, board meeting time to 1 pm and change the February 13, 2024, board meeting to Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 1 pm.
Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Hinrichs, Bergstrom and Philips

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 1:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nate Munter, Curtis Scheele, Gary Robison, Ed Schrock, Reed McClymont, Levi Adam and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 12, 2023

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2023-12-12-01	Meeting Administration		9		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the November 14, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2023-12-12-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the November 14, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2023-12-12-03	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety, to accept the November 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2023-12-12-04	Budget		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2023-12-12-05	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Harris, to approve five well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-12-12-06	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve five NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-12-12-07	Directors	NARD Delegates	9		1	Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to designate Larry Reynolds as Delegate and Ed Harris as Alternate Delegate for the NARD Legislative Conference. Motion carried.
	2023-12-12-08	Resolutions & Legislation	Smith Letter	10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to approve a letter to Adrian Smith supporting funding for CNPPID irrigation maintenance facilities. Motion carried.
	2023-12-12-09	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to change the January 9, 2024, board meeting time to 1 pm and change the February 13, 2024, board meeting to Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 1 pm. Motion carried.