

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 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, Bradley Lundeen, at 1:30 p.m. Lundeen noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom. Newly elected board members, Grimes, Garrelts, Ryan, Larson, Reynolds, Lundeen and Hinrichs, took their Oath of Office prior to the opening of the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with thirteen directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh (Zoom), Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Lundeen. 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

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the December 8, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety, to approve the minutes for the December 8, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom

ABSENT: None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Hinrichs presented the financial report for the month of December 2020 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$113,727.65
Cash Expenditures for Month.....	\$147,817.62
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$18,648.87
Cash Revenues for Month.....	\$11,003.21
Bank Balance–December 31, 2020.....	\$8,956.49
Accounts Receivable – December 31, 2020.....	\$14,840.02
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – December 31, 2020.....	\$164,562.68
Building Sinking Fund – December 31, 2020.....	\$185,256.87
Vehicle Sinking Fund – December 31, 2020.....	\$93,550.34
Water Resources Fund – December 31, 2020.....	\$613,973.06
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$174.48
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$4,347.04
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$13,468.20
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$8,448.94
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$4,948.57
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – December 31, 2020.....	\$8,538.32
Water Jamboree – December 31, 2020.....	\$7,914.76
NR MDMA – December 31, 2020.....	\$7,636.09
Odessa IPA – December 31, 2020.....	\$18,846.91

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

January 8, 2019

Page Two

Grimes had questions about budget revenues and expenses. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Garrelts, to approve the December 2020 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

SPECIAL BILLS

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER

Thorburn called the meeting to order as temporary chairman at 1:43 p.m. with thirteen directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh (Zoom), Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Lundeen. Thorburn asked the Directors if they would like to vote by secret ballot on each of the following officers and they declined. Thorburn explained this could be the second term for current officers.

Reynolds nominated Brad Lundeen as Chairman, Todd Garrelts as Vice Chairman, Rob Hinrichs as Treasurer and Joe Bilka as Secretary. Thorburn asked if there were further nominations. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Reynolds to cease nominations and elect Brad Lundeen as Chairman, Todd Garrelts as Vice Chairman, Rob Hinrichs as Treasurer and Joe Bilka as Secretary by acclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

NARD Representative: Raffety nominated Reynolds as NARD Representative. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Garrelts to cease nominations and elect Larry Reynolds as NARD Representative by acclamation. Motion carried unanimously.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Reynolds

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER

Lundeen called the meeting to order as newly elected Chairman at 1:46 p.m. with thirteen directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh (Zoom), Garrelts, Harris, Hinrichs, Philips, Ryan, Larson, Lundeen, Grimes, Raffety and Reynolds.

NRCS REPORT

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

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported staff is working on CSP/EQIP and gave an update on Covid-19 requirements for the office.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Abandonment – Thorburn presented nine well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve. Thorburn mentioned that Well Decommissioning funding is low due to more applications this year and will provide information at the next meeting. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Bilka, to approve nine well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds

NSWCP & NRD Applications – There were no NSWCP applications to approve.

WCIP – Thorburn presented a WCIP application for RDO, Inc. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve a WCIP application for RDO, Inc. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Garrelts

ABSENT: Reynolds

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater & Certified Acre Transfers - Thorburn presented a certified irrigated acre transfer request for Dwight Schneider. Dwight Schneider was present to answer questions. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka, to approve a certified acre transfer for Dwight Schneider. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, 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 and/or discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Soil Health Task Force Report (McDonald): Mike McDonald, Nemaha NRD Director, presented information on The Soil Health Task Force which would coordinate efforts across commercial and state governmental agencies to help landowners maintain healthy soil. McDonald would like TBNRD to provide a letter of support. The Task Force would not be asking for funding, just support and

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

January 12, 2021

Page Four

cooperation. The Task Force will also coordinate with NARD. Thorburn suggested the Planning or Projects and Construction Committees discuss the project.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson, to authorize Thorburn to send a letter of support to the Soil Health Task Force. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Thorburn explained that the Legislative conference agenda is still in question. Rooms are reserved for TBNRD directors. Raffety, Reynolds, Philips, Hinrichs and Grimes expressed interest in going.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Projects and Construction Committee: Thorburn reviewed the action items for the Projects and Construction Committee.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety to approve the Projects and Construction Committee recommendations: 1. Get estimates on boring under Hwy 44 and talk to landowners about formation of a limited IPA; 2. Allow a maximum of \$5,000 cost-share, per structure for repair of practices (for one application), within ten years, approval in February every year based on the priority score and available funds and 3. To direct staff to survey the elevation on North Dry Creek Drainage District to establish benchmark elevation for potential dirt removal and work with NDC Drainage District. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds

Augmentation Committee: Thorburn reviewed action items for the Augmentation Committee. Tim Schmidt was present and commented on the bid specs for the PRRIP.

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka to accept the Augmentation Committee recommendations: 1. Renew the Nickel Augmentation well lease for another 10 years at \$3,000/year. 2. To enter into a contract with Miller and Associates on the PRRIP Cottonwood Ranch Project for construction supervision and 3. To approve the bid specifications for the Cottonwood Ranch pipeline, electrical and wells. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

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

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: Republican Basin Caucus is in McCook on January 13, 2021.

Platte Basin: Platte Basin Caucus is in Grand Island on January 13, 2021.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Thorburn mentioned that Kyle Hauschild is the new manager at Nemaha NRD and LBNRD hasn't replaced him yet so joint meetings are on hold. Blue Basin Caucus is on January 12, 2021.

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: Nothing to report.

CNPPID: Cory Steinke reported Lake McConaughy is at elevation 3245.0 and Scott Dicke will replace Dave Ford as Irrigation manager.

NEW BUSINESS

Acreage Reserve Program Agreement with NDNR: Thorburn explained the agreement will enable TBNRD to participate in payments to landowners for not using surface water. The agreement is a thirty-year agreement for TBNRD and five-year agreements for landowners. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve the Acreage Reserve Program Agreement with NDNR. Motion carried
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Schedule Board Work Session: Lundeen asked directors about items that they want to discuss at the work session or committee meetings. Ryan, Bilka, Harris and Raffety expressed concern about

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

January 12, 2021

Page Six

Kearney County Phase II and III designations and what direction that is moving. He asked that a committee discuss the issue prior to the work session. Grimes expressed concern about new wells in relation to livestock facilities and the livestock water rules (work session). Raffety expressed concern about the nitrate levels of a dairy in the district (work session). Bilka asked for a report on the progress of the PRD Diversion and a discussion and a budget update including the J-2 CDs (work session). Lundeen asked for an allocation overview of allocations for TBNRD and other NRDs (work session), discussion about nitrogen fertilizer rate recommendations from different agencies (work session) The work session will be held on the morning of the February board meeting at 9 a.m. Grimes suggested budgeting for equipment needed for live observation water levels and Thorburn suggested picking wells at the work session. Phillips asked to be updated on the goals of the district.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

There were personnel or legal matters.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Mike Cavanaugh (Zoom), Todd Garrelts, David Grimes, Ed Harris, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson, G. Reed Philips, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, Jeff Ryan, and Brad Lundeen

OTHERS PRESENT

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Cory Steinke, Nolan Little, Amy Dutton, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Mike McDonald, Wayne Anderson, Dwight Schneider, Carie Lynch and Tim Schmidt.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 12, 2021

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	
	2021-01-01-01	Meeting Administration		12		1	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety, to approve the minutes for the December 8, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-02	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Garrelts, to approve the December 2020 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-03	Budget		13			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the VISA, attorney, Flatwater and PRD bills. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-04	Directors	Officers	13			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Reynolds to cease nominations and elect Brad Lundeen as Chairman, Todd Garrelts as Vice Chairman, Rob Hinrichs as Treasurer and Joe Bilka as Secretary by acclamation. Motion carried unanimously.
	2021-01-01-05	Directors	NARD Representative	12		1	Moved by Raffety, seconded by Garrelts to cease nominations and elect Larry Reynolds as NARD Representative by acclamation. Motion carried unanimously.
	2021-01-01-06	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Bilka, to approve nine well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-07	Meeting Administration	WCIP	12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve a WCIP application for RDO, Inc. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-08	Certification & Transfers	Schneider	12			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka, to approve a certified acre transfer for Dwight Schneider. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-09	District Plans & Programs	Soil Health Task Force	12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson, to authorize Thorburn to send a letter of support to the Soil Health Task Force. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-10	District Plans & Programs And Projects	Hwy 44 limited IPA and boring quote and NDC	12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety to approve the Projects and Construction Committee recommendations: 1. Get estimates on boring under Hwy 44 and talk to landowners about formation of a

			Drainage District Elevation				limited IPA; 2. Allow a maximum of \$5,000 cost-share, per structure for repair of practices (for one application), within ten years, approval in February every year based on the priority score and available funds and 3. To direct staff to survey the elevation on North Dry Creek Drainage District to establish benchmark elevation for potential dirt removal and work with NDC Drainage District. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-11	District Plans & Programs	Nickel Easement, PRRIP Miller contract, PRRIP bids specs	12			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka to accept the Augmentation Committee recommendations: 1. Renew the Nickel Augmentation well lease for another 10 years at \$3,000/year. 2. To enter into a contract with Miller and Associates on the PRRIP Cottonwood Ranch Project for construction supervision and 3. To approve the bid specifications for the Cottonwood Ranch pipeline, electrical and wells. Motion carried.
	2021-01-01-12	District Plans & Programs	Acreage Reserve Program	12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve the Acreage Reserve Program Agreement with NDNR. Motion carried.