

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 19, 1:30 p.m.
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
1723 Burlington, Holdrege, NE

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 was posted in the meeting room.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with eleven directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Ryan, and Reynolds. Philips 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.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

No absences to excuse

MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to accept the meeting agenda for the February 19, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Philips and Raffety

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of January 15, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Philips and Raffety

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of February 2025 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$251,004.16
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$369,684.01
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$297,347.60
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$335,845.64
Main Checking-November 30, 2024.....	\$219,763.86
Accounts Receivable – November 30, 2024.....	\$323,551.49
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – November 30, 2024.....	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – November 30, 2024.....	\$3,815.67
Vehicle Sinking Fund – November 30, 2024.....	\$54,643.63
Water Resources Fund – November 30, 2024.....	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$4,635.23
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$11,636.94
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$9,749.74
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$10,770.03
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$1,373.55
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$8,205.82
Water Jamboree – November 30, 2024.....	\$7,941.49
Odessa IPA – November 30, 2024.....	\$20,550.77
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$1,554.81

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Moved by Larson, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the January 2025 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner updated the board with what is going on with their agency. They had received an email titled Fork in the Road. Employees were given the option to type one word which was resign, and if they did they in theory were going to work until the end of February and then get paid until the end of the fiscal year. This was voluntary. Then they came out and said anybody that is within the first year of their position or the supervisory position got a letter saying they were done. IRA Funding is on hold, not writing contracts. CSP deadline is April 4th

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented three well decommissioning cost-share application to approve.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve one well-decommissioning cost-share application, as recommended. Motion carried

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented NSWCP cost-share funds for approval.

Moved by Harris, seconded by Larson, to approve NSWCP cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

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SMS Cost-Share- Thorburn presented 2 applications recommended for approval.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to approve SMS cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

Thorburn presented the Minden Country Club flow meter cost share applications and requested funds for that project.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve to help Minden Country Club cost of \$5,000. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grams, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Garrelts

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented 2 transfer requests for Rhodell & Joyce Jameson, 1 transfer for Shawn Woollen & Angela Selgren recommended for approval.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Lundeen, to approve two transfer requests, one for Woollen & Selgren, one well variance and several WCIP applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

Thorburn presented one well variance request for approval.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve one well variance request for Lamar and Venetta Schmidt approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

Thorburn presented six WCIP applications for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to approve six WCIP applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

Educational Land Leases – There were no Educational Lands and Funds applications for approval.

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

Nothing to report

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Reynolds shared some reports from the NARD.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Information & Legislature Meeting is February 25, 2025, at 1:30 pm.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Bilka motioned to direct staff to send a letter to DG Fuels on a study of cone depression for their new location

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve staff to send a letter to DG Fuels on a study of the impact of groundwater pumping associated with their proposed fuel plant. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: Nothing to report.

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: Nothing to report.

Whiskey Slough: Staff started cutting trees.

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Ag Industry Symposium at the Ag Center March 12, 2025, 8am-3:30 pm

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

CNPPID Report: Dicke sent a request to help fund the Mezonet weather stations in our district. Board decided we won't take any action on this until we see what Central decides.

NEW BUSINESS

Longitude 103 for database development: Thorburn recommended a contract with Longitude 103 for database development with a cost of a maximum of \$33,800.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to approve the recommendation of contract with Longitude 103. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Reynolds

NAY: Harris, Lundeen, Ryan

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

Approve Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program applications: Approve 22 applicants.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve the 22 Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program applications recommended by staff. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Lundeen

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There was a discussion about developing ground water recharge projects.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

There were no personnel or legal issues.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Nolan Little, Camilla Kerner, Dalton Refior, Carrie Putnam
and Nicole Simeon
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Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 January 15, 2025

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2025-02-19-01	Meeting Administration					Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to excuse Raffety from the November and December 2024 board meetings. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to accept the meeting agenda for the January 15, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2025-02-19-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips, to approve the minutes for the December 10, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-04	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety, to accept the December 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-05	Budget					Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-06	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to adjourn sine die and to elect John Thorburn as interim chairman. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-07	Meeting Administration					Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to approve the re-nomination of the current officers. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-08	Certification & Transfers					Moved by Larson, seconded by Bilka, to approve one well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-09	District Plan & Programs					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve NSWCP cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-10	District Plan & Programs					Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bilka, to approve SMS cost-share applications. Motion carried

	2025-02-19-11	District Plan & Programs					Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve a transfer request for Schrock Farms Inc. and three WCIP applications for the Anderbery's. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-12	Projects					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the recommendation to select Ollson. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-13	Projects					Moved by Larson, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the two recommendations from the Executive Committee. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-14	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the the Board Work Session Meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-15	District Plan & Programs					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to approve contract for observation well transmitters. Motion carried.