

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 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 ten directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Stade.
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 Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to accept the meeting agenda for the February 25, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of January 21, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Stade to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Thorburn presented the financial report for the month of January 2026 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$242,079.16
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$371,612.60
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$251,691.44
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$685,533.90
Main Checking- January 31, 2026.....	\$581,587.53
Accounts Receivable – January 31, 2026.....	\$8.06
Vehicle Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – January 31, 2026.....	\$81,271.51
Building Sinking Fund – January 31, 2026.....	\$88,286.86
Water Resources Fund – January 31, 2026.....	\$16,433.85
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – January 31, 2026.....	\$10,556.91
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – January 31, 2026.....	\$13,878.35
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – January 31, 2026.....	\$13,648.22
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – January 31, 2026.....	\$10,924.92
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – January 31, 2026.....	\$11,737.14
Water Jamboree – January 31, 2026.....	\$9,827.20
Odessa IPA – January 31, 2026.....	\$20,997.78

Moved by Philips, seconded by Lundeen to accept the January 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

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

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: Kerner reported EQIP assessments are their current priority with a March 6th deadline. Regenerative ag applications that are 5-year contracts were discussed. An operation is required to engage in one or more of ten regenerative ag practices, either existing or as a new commitment. CSP will be next. Kerner will be leaving March 9th for a three-month detail as Assistant State Conservationist, Berkeypile will be acting DC in her absence.

Activity and Progress Report:

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Nothing to approve

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

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Grams, to approve four NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

Thorburn presented 48 new Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program Applications for 2026 for approval.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Stade, to approve 48 new Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program Applications for 2026 for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Lundeen, Garrelts

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Thorburn present one certified irrigated acre transfer variance request for L & V Stadler Inc for approval.

Moved by Grams, seconded by Reynolds, to approve one certified irrigated acre transfer variance request for L & V Stadler Inc for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY: Bilka

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

Thorburn presented three Certified Irrigated Acre transfer requests for Vaughn & Catherine Anderson, L&V Stadler Inc, and John J & Kathyn A Keller for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to approve three Certified Irrigated Acre transfer requests for Vaughn & Catherine Anderson, L&V Stadler Inc, and John J & Kathyn A Keller for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

Thorburn presented 6 Water Conservation Incentive Program applications for approval.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Larson, to approve 6 Water Conservation Incentive Program (3 re-enrolls, 3 new) applications for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Angie Joyce, from Hamilton County, spoke to the board about concerns she has surrounding groundwater use by ethanol plants and pipelines. She has been emailing NRDs and attending NRD meetings in hopes of raising concerns with NRD boards.

Wayne Anderson stated that he would like the meeting agenda to be posted on the website prior to the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Putnam gave an update on how the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program's first year turned out, as well as the fertilizer and cost savings that participants gained. The board approved 48 new applications for the Nitrogen Reduction Program earlier in the meeting.

NARD REPORT

Reynolds reported that there was a good attendance at NARD Legislative Conference at the end of January. Bills were addressed and positions were affected by the NRDs concerns. NARD Washington DC Conference March 29-31.

IWMS Report: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing to report.

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STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Tami Reese is retiring at the end of March. Please look forward to the retirement reception invitation we will send out. LeAnn Flint has been hired as a new Field Office Secretary in Gosper County. She will start March 9.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Platte Basin: Nothing to report.

Republican Basin: Thorburn suggested an letter of support for Perkins Co Canal to be sent by TBNRD staff to the USACOE.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Larson, to approve letter of support for Perkins Co Canal to be sent by TBNRD staff to the USACOE for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report

North Dry Creek: IPA Annual Meetings February 27 in Axtell and Holdrege

Odessa IPA: IPA Annual Meetings February 27 in Axtell and Holdrege

Sacramento Creek: IPA Annual Meetings February 27 in Axtell and Holdrege

Fort Kearny: IPA Annual Meetings February 27 in Axtell and Holdrege

Fort Kearny West: IPA Annual Meetings February 27 in Axtell and Holdrege

South Dry Creek: IPA Annual Meetings February 27 in Axtell and Holdrege

Whiskey Slough: IPA Annual Meetings February 27 in Axtell and Holdrege

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: NET funding redistribution may affect Grants they rely on.

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

CNPPID Report: Way reported McConaughey was at 32.30, 50.1% capacity. Snowpack upper North Platte Basin was at 69%. Lower North Platte was at 40% and the South Platte Basin was at 59%

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median average. As far as irrigation side, they are just continuing to work on irrigation maintenance projects to finish up prior to irrigation season coming up. Brundage is to retire at the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Nott gave update on how the TAPS team did in 2025 and what they are enrolled in for 2026. They won efficiency and most profitable operation in one of their competitions this past year.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Nothing to report

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Nothing to report.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at Tri-Basin Natural Resource District, Holdrege, NE.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 pm

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Dusty Way, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Cammie Kerner, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Dana Christensen, Angie Joyce, Carrie Putnam, Erick Erickson, Wayne Anderson, Riley Stadler, Cody Stadler, Abbigail Thorell, Pat Nott.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
 February 25, 2026

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2026-02-25-01	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to accept the meeting agenda for the February 25, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2026-02-25-02	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Stade to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-03	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Philips, seconded by Lundeen to accept the January 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-04	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-05	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Grams, to approve four NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-06	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Stade, to approve 48 new Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Applications for 2026 for approval. Motion carried
	2026-02-25-07	District Plan & Programs		9	1		Moved by Grams, seconded by Reynolds, to approve one variance request for L & V Stadler Inc for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-08	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to approve three Irrigated Acre transfer requests for Vaughn & Catherine Anderson, L&V Stadler Inc, and John J & Kathyn A Keller for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-09	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Larson, to approve 6 WCIP (3 re-enrolls, 3 new) applications for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-10	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Larson, to approve letter of support for Perkins Co Canal to be sent by TBNRD staff to the USACOE for approval. Motion carried.

