

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 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.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with nine directors present: Bergstrom, Cavanaugh (Zoom) Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs (Zoom), Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds. Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier and announced on radio station KRVN, Lexington.

EXCUSE ABSENCES

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the February 8, 2022, Board of Directors Meeting and Special Board of Directors meeting, February 16, 2022, Information and Education Meeting, February 25, 2022, Building Committee meeting. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety, to approve the minutes for the February 8, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Lundeen and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

Moved by Harris, seconded by Grimes, to approve the minutes for the February 16, 2022, Information and Education Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Raffety, to approve the minutes for the February 25, 2022, Building Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Brian Bergstrom presented the financial report for the month of February 2022 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$148,842.73
Cash Expenditures for Month.....	\$151,663.10
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$203,274.74
Cash Revenues for Month.....	\$147,351.74
Bank Balance—February 28, 2022.....	\$451,955.38
Accounts Receivable – February 28, 2022.....	\$136,501.75
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – February 28, 2022.....	\$114,595.96
Building Sinking Fund – February 28, 2022.....	\$163,914.30
Vehicle Sinking Fund – February 28, 2022.....	\$110,854.40
Water Resources Fund – February 28, 2022.....	\$424,368.42
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – February 28, 2022.....	\$8,502.10
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – February 28, 2022.....	\$6,675.17
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2022.....	\$6,212.02
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – February 28, 2022.....	\$10,281.93
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2022.....	\$4,225.29
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2022.....	\$6,995.77
Water Jamboree – February 28, 2022.....	\$13,084.78

NRRMDA – February 28, 2022-----	\$7,636.99
Odessa IPA – February 28, 2022-----	\$20,225.42

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to accept the February 2022 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA, CNPPID, Miller & Associated, PRD and Downey bills for approval. Garrelts asked for a detailed listing of CNPPID payments when paid. CNPPID diversion costs were:

Destination	Acre Feet	Rate	Cost
Linder WPA	20.30	\$40.32	\$818.50
E65	388.30	\$47.64	\$18,498.61
Cottonwood WPA	90.10	\$40.32	\$3,632.83
Victor Lakes WPA	90.53	\$40.32	\$3,650.17
Victor Lakes WPA	113.10	\$40.32	\$5,366.59
Johnson WPA	66.30	\$27.06	\$1,794.08
Funk WPA	176.90	\$27.06	\$4,786.91
Elwood Reservoir	659.70	\$51.41	\$33,915.18
Total:	1605.23		\$72,462.87

Note – This is TBNRD’s share after NDNR pays 60%

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the VISA, CNPPID and Miller & Associates bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: Kerner presented eight farm plans for approval. Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Raffety, to approve 8 farm plans. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Lundeen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: Harris

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported 2021 CSP payments are complete, EQIP fund approval is pending before applications can be approved, the Local Work Group will meet March 31, 2021, at TBNRD, and COVID staffing is at 75%.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Abandonment – Thorburn presented one well decommissioning cost-share application to approve. Moved by Harris, seconded by Raffety, to approve one well decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented two NSWCP cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Harris to approve two NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented one irrigated acre transfer request for David Strolberg. Moved by Larson, seconded by Hinrichs to approve an irrigated acre transfer request for David Strolberg. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

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

Payroll Management Agreement with Tonniges – Thorburn presented a contract for Tonniges to provide payroll and tax reporting services for TBNRD. Garrelts asked that they provide 1099 services also. Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve a contract with Tonniges and Associates for payroll and tax reporting services. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

Review Groundwater Management Triggers and Targets – Thorburn made a presentation about the history of TBNRD's groundwater quality and quantity areas and depletion targets. Garrelts suggested the District perform vadose coring. Thorburn will talk to UNL about an estimate for next FY 2022-2023.

NARD REPORT

This agenda item will be discussed later in the meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Information & Education Committee: Hahn reported on the Information Committee Meeting held on February 16, 2022. She reviewed committee suggestions about the Water Conference, how the district uses texting to communicate with constituents. There was discussion about contact with FFA and Todd Garrelts for irrigation demonstration plots.

Building Committee: A meeting will be held on February 25, 2022, at the Armory at 10:00 a.m. with the painter (Jeremy Norton) present. There was discussion about new windows and large fans for the shop building. Thorburn will get estimates for windows and large fans.

Moved by Bergman, seconded by Raffety accept the Building Committee recommendation to fix any exterior issues and replace windows before painting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka, Ryan, Philips and Larson, Cavanaugh (Zoom), and Hinrichs (Zoom)

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Nothing to report.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: IMP Stakeholder meeting was held February 24, 2022.

Platte Basin: Thorburn reviewed survey results.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report.

North Dry Creek: IPA meeting was held.

Odessa IPA: IPA meeting was held.

Sacramento Creek: IPA meeting was held.

Fort Kearny: IPA meeting was held.

Fort Kearny West: IPA meeting was held.

South Dry Creek: Staff has been cutting trees.

Whiskey Slough: IPA meeting was held.

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: New CoHyst model is almost completed.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Meeting will be held at TBNRD sometime in May.

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

CNPPID: Dusty way reported snowpack is at 101%.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NARD REPORT

NARD: Reynolds reported that he volunteered Tri-Basin NRD to spearhead an effort (on behalf of NARD) to define sustainability of Nebraska's natural resources and define what qualifies as a sustainable practice which would include water quality and quantity best management practices. Reynolds named several practices that could qualify as sustaining practices: no till, chemigation through pivots, drip irrigation, etc. Reynolds stated that agricultural corporations offer producers a premium for practicing "sustainability", but there is no uniform definition. NARD believes it would be beneficial to provide a definition and examples. Lundeen asked that the Planning Committee to work on a draft. The Planning Committee will meet Tuesday, March 15th, 2022, at 12:00 p.m. prior to the Joint Meeting with CNPPID.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

There were no personnel or legal matters.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Mike Cavanaugh (virtual), Todd Garrelts, David Grimes, Ed Harris, Rob Hinrichs (Zoom), Brad Lundeen, Dave Raffety and Larry Reynolds.

OTHERS PRESENT

John Thorburn, Dusty Way, Nate Munter, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Cammie Kerner, and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 March 8, 2022

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2022-03-08-01	Meeting Administration		6		1	Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety, to approve the minutes for the February 8, 2022, Board of Directors meeting and Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2022-03-08-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Harris, seconded by Grimes, to approve the minutes for the February 16, 2022, Information and Education Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2022-03-08-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Grimes, seconded by Raffety, to approve the minutes for the February 25, 2022, Building Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2022-03-08-04	Meeting Administration		7			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to accept the February 2022 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2022-03-08-05	Budget		7			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the VISA, CNPPID and Miller & Associates bills. Motion carried.
	2022-03-08-06	Meeting Administration		6	1		Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Raffety, to approve 8 farm plans. Motion carried.
	2022-03-08-07	Meeting Administration		7			Moved by Harris, seconded by Raffety, to approve one well decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2022-03-08-08	Meeting Administration		7			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Harris to approve two NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2022-03-08-09	Certification & Transfers	Strolberg	7			Moved by Larson, seconded by Hinrichs to approve an irrigated acre transfer request for David Strolberg. Motion carried.
	2022-03-08-10	Personnel	Tonniges Payroll	7			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve a contract with Tonniges and Associates for payroll and tax reporting services. Motion carried.
	2022-03-08-11	Budget	Armory	7			Moved by Bergman, seconded by Raffety accept the Building Committee recommendation to fix any exterior issues and replace windows before painting. Motion carried.

