

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, March 18, 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 twelve directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan 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**

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to excuse Bergstrom and Ryan from the January and February 2026 board meetings. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom, Ryan

ABSENT: Harris

**MEETING AGENDA**

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to accept the meeting agenda for the March 18, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Ryan

ABSENT: Harris

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of February 25, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Philips to approve the minutes for the February 25, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom, Hinrichs, Ryan

ABSENT: Harris

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month .....	\$453,703.96
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$617,707.96
Actual Expenditures for Month .....	\$595,340.59
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$510,635.24
Main Checking- February 28, 2026.....	\$517,595.50
Accounts Receivable – February 28, 2026.....	\$5,102.85
Vehicle Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – February 28, 2026.....	\$81,271.51
Building Sinking Fund – February 28, 2026.....	\$88,286.86
Water Resources Fund – February 28, 2026.....	\$136,433.85
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – February 28, 2026.....	\$10,226.31
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – February 28, 2026.....	\$14,002.07
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2026.....	\$12,592.79

Fort Kearny IPA Balance – February 28, 2026-----	\$10,933.79
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2026-----	\$11,133.38
Water Jamboree – February 28, 2026-----	\$8,257.05
Odessa IPA – February 28, 2026-----	\$21,026.12

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

#### **SPECIAL BILLS**

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to accept the VISA and attorney bills for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

#### **NRCS REPORT**

**FSA Farm Plans:** Berkeypile reported that the NRCS came out with a new pilot program this year and Nebraska was part of it. She is excited to see where the new Regenerative Ag program will lead.

#### **Activity and Progress Report:**

#### **COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Decommissioning** – Thorburn presented one well decommissioning cost-share application for approval.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes to approve one well decommissioning cost share application for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

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

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

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NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

Thorburn present one well permit variance request for Dallas Christensen for approval.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Philips, to approve one well permit variance request for Dallas Christensen for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

Thorburn presented one well permit for Dallas Christensen for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson, to approve one well permit request for Dallas Christensen for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

Thorburn presented one Water Conservation Incentive Program application for Bradley S. Lundeen for approval.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve one Water Conservation Incentive Program applications for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

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

**OTHER BUSINESS**

CNPPID Director Gary Robison shared his perspective about the future of the CNPPID system. He would like to see the NRD and CNPPID work together to improve district water supplies through groundwater recharge and to help CNPPID improve their bottom line.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Thorburn presented the revised Republican Basin IMP for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to approve the revised version of the joint Republican Integrated Water Management Plan. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

**NARD REPORT**

NARD Washington DC Conference March 28-31 – no one is attending from TBNRD

**IWMS Report:** Nothing to report.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The board had a work session in the morning with reports from NRD staff, CNPPID staff and Republican Basin IMP review with NDWEE staff.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Grams to direct staff to start the process of acquiring an easement for another augmentation well in the Republican Basin.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Platte Basin:** Nothing to report.

**Republican Basin:** Nothing to report.

**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:** Steinke reported they are doing everything they possibly can to not allocate their customers.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2026 Nebraska Water Tour Sponsorship request-** No motion was made to consider sponsoring.

Suggestion was made to change to April board meeting from April 15<sup>th</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Hinrichs, to move board meeting to April 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm for approval.

Motion carried

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to approve going into executive session for contractual matters at 2:36 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

Moved by Grams, seconded by Stade, to move out of the Executive Session for contractual matters at 3:10 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Harris

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 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 3:10 pm

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

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**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Lisa Berkeypile, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Dana Christensen, Pat Nott, Gary Robison, Brad Lundeen, Dallas Christensen, Ethan Soneson.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS  
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING  
 March 18, 2026

<b>ID</b>	<b>Motion #</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Motion</b>
	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 & Kathryn 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.

