

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 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 nine directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Ryan, and Reynolds. 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 Bergstrom, seconded by Larson , to accept the meeting agenda for the March 19, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of February 19, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the February 19, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

Thorburn presented the minutes of February 19, 2025, Work Session meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the February 19, 2025, Work Session meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

Thorburn presented the minutes of February 25, 2025, I&L Committee meeting.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the February 25, 2025, I&L Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$112,637.23
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$146,169.29

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Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$130,757.65
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$151,106.44
Main Checking- February 28, 2025-----	\$277,864.56
Accounts Receivable – February 28, 2025-----	\$69,265.11
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – February 28, 2025-----	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – February 28, 2025-----	\$3,815.67
Vehicle Sinking Fund – February 28, 2025-----	\$54,643.63
Water Resources Fund – February 28, 2025-----	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – February 28, 2025-----	\$4,893.14
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – February 28, 2025-----	\$11,764.92
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2025-----	\$8,979.52
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – February 28, 2025-----	\$10,680.83
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2025-----	\$3,612.84
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2025-----	\$9,093.82
Water Jamboree – February 28, 2025-----	\$7,959.87
Odessa IPA – February 28, 2025-----	\$20,492.06
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – February 28, 2025-----	\$1,554.81

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

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported that they are currently working on CSP Classic contracts assessment and rankings. They want to have them completed by April 18th. All offices are in the process of having producer meetings with all their CSP contract holders to review their operations and contracts. They have also completed their 2025 EQIP General assessments and rankings. They have started pre-approving in the state fund pools and in their local fund pools. Currently they have 5 applications preapproved for \$383,000. Their list of random FSA Status Review is now available to them, and they will be sending out letters to owners and operators soon.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

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

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

NAY:

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ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

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

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve NSWCP cost-share applications, as recommended.

Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Thorburn presented one well variance request for approval.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Reynolds, to approve one well variance request for Samuel and Holly Robinson approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented 1 groundwater transfer request for David & Becky Grimes, 4 irrigated acre transfers, one for Quad J LTD, two for Sandra Johnson, and one for Samuel & Holly Robinson recommended for approval.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Reynolds, to approve one groundwater transfer requests and 4 irrigated acre transfers applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Ryan

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

Thorburn presented one WCIP application for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to approve one WCIP application for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, 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

Thorburn presented the NRIP applications for approval.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the NRIP applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Lundeen

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

Thorburn presented the FY 2025-26 IPA Assessments for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the FY 2025-26 IPA Assessments for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Reynolds mentioned several statewide agenda items. Perkins Co Canal transfer bill, the hearing was March 18th. Five were opposed to and it doesn't look like there will be enough votes to get it out of committee. Governor Pilleen is pushing to meter irrigation wells across the entire state. The merger of NDEE and NDNR has support from the Governor and Jesse Bradley, however 28 are opposed. They are looking at transferring departments between the agencies as another option. The NARD Washington DC Conference is coming up March 31st to April 2nd. We do not have anyone attending this year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Hahn highlighted the recommendations from the committee.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

March as Zoom Meeting: Thorburn asked the board if we want to make March a standard zoom option meeting.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Harris, to approve March as a standard zoom option board meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, 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, York was March 6th

Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well: Preparing for Prescribed Burn

CNPPID Report: – Dicke reported that McConaughy is at 60% capacity. Inflows are 1000 cfs and outflows are 550 cfs. Snowpack is 100% except for a small part of the N Platte Basin. The dikes around the outlet near Medo's Resort are completed. They plan to fill Elwood on April 1.

NEW BUSINESS

UNL Mesonet Weather Stations: Sponsor one station for \$3000

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve sponsoring one station for \$3000. (After approval of the amendment, the board voted on the original motion as amended.)

Amended UNL Mesonet Weather Stations: Reynolds suggested that we split cost 50/50 with CNPPID up to \$4500 with joint sponsorship of all three Mesonet stations.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Hinrichs, to amend the original motion to approve splitting cost 50/50 with CNPPID. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

Original motion as amended:

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

Groundwater Management Rule Revision : Request staff to revise the district's groundwater management rules and bring a proposal to board for vote.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to request staff to revise and bring to board to vote. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Grimes, Philips, Raffety

District Flowmeter Requirements: After discussion of the merits of metering the remaining irrigation wells, in the district, the Chairman directed the Planning, Water Issues & Property Rights Committee to meet on Friday, March 21 at 9:30 am. To develop a plan for gathering water use data.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Hinrichs commented that he is very concerned about the prescribed burn and wants all precautions taken to make sure that it is done safely.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

There were no personnel or legal issues.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Samuel & Holly Robinson, Dalton Refior and Reed McClymont

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
 March 19, 2025

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2025-02-19-01	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to accept the meeting agenda for the February 19, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2025-02-19-02	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the January 15, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-03	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the January 2025 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-04	Budget		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-05	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve one well-decommissioning cost-share application, as recommended. Motion carried
	2025-02-19-06	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Harris, seconded by Larson, to approve NSWCP cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-07	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to approve SMS cost-share applications. Motion carried
	2025-02-19-08	District Plan & Programs		7	4		Moved by Ryan, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve to help Minden Country Club cost of \$5,000. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-09	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Lundeen, to approve two transfer requests, one for Woollen & Selgren, one well variance and several WCIP applications. Motion carried
	2025-02-19-10	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve one well variance request for Lamar and Venetta Schmidt approval. Motion carried.

	2025-02-19-11	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to approve six WCIP applications for approval. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-12	Meeting Administration		10			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.
	2025-02-19-13	Meeting Administration		7	3		Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to approve the recommendation of contract with Longitude 103. Motion carried.
	2025-02-19-14	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve the 22 Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program applications recommended by staff. Motion carried.