MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
UNK Regional Engagement Center,
2204 University Drive, Kearney NE 68845

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman, Todd Garrelts, at 10:30 a.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law was posted on the East wall of the meeting room.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with eleven directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, 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

No absences to excuse.

MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade to accept the meeting agenda for the August 19, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of July 22, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.
Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the July 22, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of July 31, 2026, as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	$183,949.28
Accrual Revenues for Month	$27,782.74
Actual Expenditures for Month	$160,578.25
Actual Revenues for Month	$44,678.11
Main Checking- July 31, 2026	$913,851.70
Accounts Receivable – June 30, 2026	$22,832.14
Vehicle Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – July 31, 2026	$82,051.81
Building Sinking Fund – July 31, 2026	$89,186.64
Water Resources Fund – July 31, 2026	$137,560.14
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – July 31, 2026	$12,008.36
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – July 31, 2026	$15,748.49
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2026	$13,852.28
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – July 31, 2026	$11,015.68
Sacramento Creek Balance ---July 31, 2026	$9,235.82
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2026	$11,574.96

Water Jamboree – July 31, 2026----------	$7,721.47
Odessa IPA – July 31, 2026----------	$21,182.64

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Lundeen to accept the July 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and Attorney bills for approval.
Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade to accept the VISA and Attorney bills for approval. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: No farm plans needed approval.

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported that the NRCS has completed all the obligations for their EQIP funding until there was more slippage and they picked up almost another million dollars for contracting. When NRCS is all done, they will have about $7 million that they have contracted this year. Kerner said their original allocations for local funds was about $300,000 to $400,000 when they started. That total results from being willing to take slippage and from other areas that didn't have applications. They have written 55 contracts over 15,000 acres for EQIP. There were 38 contracts for $8.3 million in CSP this year. CRP, they have $1.5 million and the new contracts for this year are getting written and the status reviews are being completed.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented one well decommissioning cost-share application for approval.
Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris to approve the one well decommissioning cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

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

Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris to approve one NSWCP cost-share application for approval. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Nothing to approve

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Nothing from public

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approve FY 2026-27 Budget- Following the public hearing Thorburn presented the FY 2026-27 Budget for approval.
Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the FY 2026-27 budget as presented pending further review by the executive committee. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

Approve Rules Revisions- During the public hearing Little presented the red line of Tri-Basin's rules.
Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to approve the revisions to the rules as presented with additional language under domestic water use and changes to the NDWEE agency name. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

NARD REPORT

NRD Fall Conference Resolutions-Thorburn reported that there is a fall conference resolution and recommended that the board support the resolution. It is for the chemigation program and would result in NRD's running our own chemigation permitting programs if the proposal and resolution are accepted and go into law.
Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Stade to approve supporting the resolution for the chemigation program. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds, Ryan

Elect delegate & alternate for fall conference- The directors voted to select Larry Reynolds as delegate and Andrew Stade as the alternate at the NARD Fall Conference.
Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve Larry Reynolds as delegate and Andrew Stade as the alternate at the NARD Fall Conference . Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds, Ryan

IWMS Report: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing to report.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Out-of-state travel approval- Thorburn and Reynolds will need to travel to Sterling Colorado for a PRRIP meeting Sept 8-9, 2026.
Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve out-of-state travel for Thorburn & Reynolds. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

MONTHLY REPORTS

Platte Basin: 2025 Platte IMP in Packet

Republican Basin: Compact Meeting August 28 in McCook

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: IMP Annual Meeting Sept 22 at 1:00 pm in Minden at the Minden Exchange Bank

North Dry Creek: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Odessa IPA: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Sacramento Creek: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Fort Kearny: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Fort Kearny West: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

South Dry Creek: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Whiskey Slough: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Nothing to report

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

CNPPID Report: Dicke reported that CNPPID did something that they haven't done before, which is turn on their pumps and start pumping into Elwood to try to save every drop of rejected irrigation water possible. They turned on the pumps August 1st close to midnight, and they started trying to capture any water they could because there were a lot of producers that shut down, so they had rejected irrigation water, and they didn't want to return it. They were able to capture quite a bit of water and then again over the weekend.

NEW BUSINESS

CNPPID Water Supply- Steinke reported that he has been getting a lot of questions regarding the water and irrigation for next year. He said September is when they usually start putting an operating plan together. Steinke reported on the water supply for 2027. The drought is going to leave Lake McConaughy at near record lows. They will make a drought annual operations plan with irrigation being the priority. They hope to reduce their winter delivery requirements. Currently McConaughy water supply is not sustainable.

Schedule Public Hearing on FY 2026-27 Levy & Tax asking- Thorburn suggested the board set the Levy & tax asking hearing for September 16, 2026, during the normal board meeting.
Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to set the Levy & tax asking hearing for September 16, 2026 during the regular monthly board meeting . Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds

Set IPA Assessments for FY 2026-27- Thorburn presented the FY 2026-27 IPA Assessments for approval.
Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the IPA assessments for FY 2026-27. Motion carried.
AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Philips, Ryan, Stade
NAY:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT: Grams, Reynolds, Lundeen,

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Directors expressed neither comments nor concerns

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 1:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 am

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan, Stade

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Cammie Kerner, Scott Dicke, Cory Steinke, Wayne Anderson, Alex Linden

Respectfully Submitted:

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Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
July 22, 2026

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2026-07-22-01	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to accept the meeting agenda for the July 22, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2026-07-22-02	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2026 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-03	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Grams, seconded by Grimes to accept the June 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-04	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Philips to accept the VISA and Attorney bills for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-05	District Plan & Programs		13			Moved by Larson, seconded by Stade to approve the two well decommissioning cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-06	Budget		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to approve the budget for presentation in a public hearing for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-07	District Plan & Programs		13			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Stade, to approve NARD 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Roth Amendment for approval. Motion carried.

	2026-07-22-08	District Plan & Programs		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade, to approve the Executive Committees recommendation to commit to pay approved NSWCP applications with local funds, if necessary. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-09	District Plan & Programs		13			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve going into executive session for legal matters at 2:08 p.m. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-10	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes, to move out of the Executive Session for legal matters at 2:30 p.m. Motion carried.