MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING

**Thursday, August 20, 2025, 10:30 a.m.**

**Younes Conference Center- South**

**Kearney, NE**

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 in the meeting room.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, and Ryan.

Cavanaugh joined by video at 7:42 p.m. Garrelts, Harris and Larson were absent. 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 Grimes to accept the meeting agenda for the August 20, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Philips, Raffety

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of July 16, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Reynolds seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes for the July 16, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Ryan

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Philips, Raffety

**FINANCIAL REPORT**:

Thorburn presented the financial report for the month of July 2025 as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Accrual Expenditures for Month ------------------------------------------------- | $289,022.49 |
| Accrual Revenues for Month------------------------------------------------------- | $44,972.62 |
| Actual Expenditures for Month -------------------------------------------------- | $293,587.35 |
| Actual Revenues for Month--------------------------------------------------------- | $50,682.99 |
| Main Checking- July 31, 2025---------------------------------------------------- | $338,223.60 |
| Accounts Receivable – July 31, 2025------------------------------------------- | $43,396.21 |
| CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – July 31, 2025---------------------- | $161,966.21 |
| Building Sinking Fund – July 31, 2025---------------------------------------- |  $3,957.87 |
| Vehicle Sinking Fund – July 31, 2025----------------------------------------- |  $56,378.62 |
| Water Resources Fund – July 31, 2025---------------------------------------- |  $10,176.52 |
| Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – July 31, 2025------------------------------- | $7,077.77 |
| Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – July 31, 2025---------------------------- | $11,013.47 |
| South Dry Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2025---------------------- |  $11,013.47 |
| Fort Kearny IPA Balance – July 31, 2025---------------------------- | $10,808.02 |
| Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2025-------------------- | $7,161.70 |
| North Dry Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2025----------------------- |  $10,004.01 |
| Water Jamboree – July 31, 2025----------------------------------------- |  $5,899.98 |
| TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTESAugust 20, 2025Page TwoOdessa IPA – July 31, 2025------------------------------------------------ |  $20,774.51 |
| Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – July 31, 2025------------ |  $0 |

Moved by Grams, seconded by Reynolds to accept the July 2025 Financial Report, subject to review of North Dry Creek IPA account and Accounts Receivables and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

**SPECIAL BILLS**

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

**NRCS REPORT**

**FSA Farm Plans:** There were no plans to approve.

**Activity and Progress Report:** Cammie Kerner reported they have 240 contracts they will certify payments on and that will happen in November. They are waiting on a new farm bill to be introduced. Tami finished her last treatment. Mike and Ruth’s daughter was in a car accident and is in Kansas City.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

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

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grams, to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share application for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, , Raffety

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented one NSWCP Flow Meter application for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve one NSWCP Flow Meter application for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

Nothing to report

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

**OTHER BUSINESS**

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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 FY 2025-26 Budget for approval.

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

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

**NARD REPORT**

NARD Annual Conference is in Kearney on Sept. 29 & 30, 2025

**NARD Report:** The board voted Reynolds as the NARD delegate and Raffety as the Alternate.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve Reynolds as the NARD delegate and Raffety as the Alternate for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nothing to report.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

Nothing to report

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** RRCA Annual Meeting August 28 in Concordia KS

**Platte Basin**: Supplemental to Surface Water Well Data presented by Thorburn & Little

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Nothing to report

**North Dry Creek:** Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

**Odessa IPA:** Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

**Sacramento Creek:** Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

**Fort Kearny:** Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

**Fort Kearny West:** Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

**South Dry Creek:** Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

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**Whiskey Slough:** Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

**Middle** **Lost Creek**: Nothing to report.

**Lake Seldom:** Nothing to report.

**CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition:** Nothing to report.

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** Conservation Outcomes Tour with legislative staff went well.

**Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation:** Met w/NDWEE – Need additional planning for invasive species

**CNPPID Report****:** McConaughy is at 43%, Gov Pillen declared Aug 19 as “Nebraska Hydropower Day”

**NEW BUSINESS**

Thorburn suggested the board set the Levy hearing for September 17, 2025 during the normal board meeting.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes, to approve **the levy hearing for September 17, 2025 at regular board meeting** for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Nothing to report

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

There were no personnel or legal issues.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 17,2025, at 1:30 p.m. at Tri-Basin Natural Resource District, Holdrege, NE.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

**OTHERS PRESE****NT:**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Cammie Kerner Dalton Riefor, Nolan Little, Dudley Nelson, Dave Nelson, Chris Erickson, Reed McClymont Nicole Simeon

Respectfully Submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS

TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING

August 20, 2025

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ID** | **Motion #** | **Category** | **Subject** | **Aye** | **Nay** | **Abstain** | **Motion** |
|  | 2025-08-20-01 | Meeting Administration |  | 9 |  |  | Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to accept the meeting agenda for the August 20, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried |
|  | 2025-08-20-02 | Meeting Administration |  | 9 |  |  | Moved by Reynolds seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes for the July 16, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried. |
|  | 2025-08-20-03 | Meeting Administration |  | 10 |  |  | Moved by Grams, seconded by Reynolds to accept the July 2025 Financial Report, subject to review of North Dry Creek IPA account and Accounts Receivables and submit for audit. Motion carried. |
|  | 2025-08-20-04 | Budget |  | 10 |  |  | Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried. |
|  | 2025-08-20-05 | Meeting Administration |  | 10 |  |  | Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grams, to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share application for approval. Motion carried. |
|  | 2025-08-20-06 | District Plan & Programs |  | 10 |  |  | Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve one NSWCP Flow Meter application for approval. Motion carried. |