MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 7:30 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 7:30 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law was posted in the meeting room.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with all thirteen directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Valley Voice and Minden Courier.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

There were no excused absences.

MEETING AGENDA

Garrelts presented the current meeting agenda for review.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade, to approve the agenda for the October 28, 2026, Board meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the September 16, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2026, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Bergstrom
ABSENT: None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of August 2026 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	$140,794.24
Accrual Revenues for Month	$79,557.86
Actual Expenditures for Month	$147,982.68
Actual Revenues for Month	$192,181.68
Main Checking-Sept. 30, 2026	$799,843.66
Accounts Receivable – Sept. 30, 2026	$1,795.89
Building Sinking Fund – Sept. 30, 2026	$89,647.48
Vehicle Sinking Fund – Sept. 30, 2026	$82,475.78
Water Resources Fund – Sept. 30, 2026	$138,270.93
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – Sept.30, 2026	$12,887.00
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – Sept. 30, 2026	$15,455.66
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – Sept. 30, 2026	$14,690.73
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – Sept. 30, 2026	$11,174.28
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – Sept. 30, 2026	$8,844.29

North Dry Creek IPA Balance – Sept. 30, 2026----------	$13,617.16
Water Jamboree – Sept. 30, 2026----------	$9,582.93
Odessa IPA – Sept. 30, 2026----------	$21,366.35

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the September 2026 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the KSO and Attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka, to approve the KSO and Attorney bills. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner provided a review of NRCS activities in the district over the past month. NRCS staff will be processing CSP and EQIP contracts at the same time this year, as specified by NRCS HQ. They may need to do that work without contract employees, who are currently on furlough awaiting new contracts.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – There were no well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve.

NSWCP & NRD Applications – There was one NSWCP cost-share application for a flowmeter to approve.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Grimes, to approve one NSWCP cost-share application. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Thorburn presented two Groundwater transfers for Tobias DeVries in Gosper County for consideration.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris, to approve two groundwater transfer applications. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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

Consider allocating water use on new supplemental-to-surface water well permits- Thorburn explained that this topic was on the September agenda. The board discussed it at some length but took no action on it. Therefore, it is on the agenda again.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Ryan to direct the Planning Committee to further discuss options regarding regulation of supplemental-to-surface water wells. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

Approve Agreement with KSO Accounting- Garrelts asked that this item be discussed in Executive Session, due to the need to discuss the acceptability of contract terms.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to go into Executive Session to discuss contract terms. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

The board entered Executive Session at 8:07 PM. The Board left Executive session at 8:15 PM.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to leave Executive Session to discuss contract terms. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT:

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the agreement with KSO Accounting. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Reynolds reported that long-time NARD Executive Director Dean Edson will retire at the end of the year. The NARD board are reviewing applications for his replacement. Finalists will be presented to the NARD Board during the November NARD Board meeting. NARD 55th Anniversary apparel is currently available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Thorburn reported that former TBNRD Director Greg Jorgensen has died. His funeral will be held on Monday, November 2 at 11 AM at the Methodist Church in Minden. The District will send flowers.
Thorburn also mentioned that he has a quote for re-roofing the main roof on the Armory. He has had difficulty finding reputable roofers to get a second quote. Larson suggested Springer Roofing might be an option for getting a second quote. Hinrichs expressed his desire to see a second quote.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: The Republican Basin IMP Annual meeting will be held Tuesday, November 17 at Lower Republican NRD in Alma.

Platte Basin: Thorburn was selected as a PRRIP Governance Committee representative at the NARD Fall Conference.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: The Little Blue Basin IMP Progress Report was in the packet.

North Dry Creek: Spraying thistles and shredding.

Odessa IPA: Spraying thistles and shredding.

Sacramento Creek: Spraying thistles and shredding.

Fort Kearny: Spraying thistles and shredding.

Fort Kearny West: Spraying thistles and shredding.

South Dry Creek: Spraying thistles and shredding.

Whiskey Slough: Spraying thistles and shredding.

Middle Lost Creek: Spraying thistles and shredding.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Putnam has been employed by the NRD as a Water Program Specialist in cooperation with the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture. Now that she is being promoted to Data Manager, we are advertising for a person to fill her current position.

Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well: The Holen Augmentation Well has been operating since October 15, pumping offset water for the benefit of Lower Republican NRD. They will pay $54 per acre-foot for water pumped.

CNPPID Report: Dicke reported that no water is being released from Lake McConaughy and the lake is slowly gaining storage water for next year. Johnson Lake will be drawn done this fall to allow work on J-1 hydro plant.

NEW BUSINESS

IPA Update- Refior was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

Consider designating October board meeting as "virtual option" every year- Thorburn explained that Nebraska law allows local government boards to utilize a virtual option for as many as half of their meetings, but the virtual option must be part of the public notice. Harvest time can make it difficult for enough directors to be available to provide a quorum for a board meeting. He suggested that the Board designate the October board meeting as a virtual option meeting every year.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Grams to designate a virtual attendance option for the October NRD board meeting every year. Motion carried.
AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan and Stade.
NAY: Harris, Reynolds
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

The board entered into Executive Session, as described above, to review a proposed agreement.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Nolan Little, Cammie Kerner, Scott Dicke, Sasha Hahn, Carrie Putnam.

Respectfully Submitted:

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John Thorburn, Manager

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
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ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion

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