

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Tri-Basin Natural Resources District**

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman, Bradley Lundeen, at 7:30 p.m. Lundeen noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with 11 directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Lundeen. Cavanaugh was absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Bertrand Herald, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier and announced on radio stations KRVN, Lexington and KUVR, Holdrege.

**EXCUSE ABSENCES**

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka, to excuse Larson from the September and October 2020 board meetings. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Larson

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of the October 13, 2020 Board of Directors Meeting, November 2, 2020 Planning Committee Meeting and November 2, 2020 Augmentation Committee. Reynolds noted that there was a correction to the of the Planning Committee. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the October 13, 2020 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom, Larson and Garrelts

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety, to approve the minutes for the November 2., 2020 Planning Committee meeting with CNPPID as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the November 2, 2020 Augmentation Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Hinrichs presented the financial report for the month of October 2020 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month .....	\$89,301.34
Cash Expenditures for Month.....	\$106,104.31
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$61,123.34
Cash Revenues for Month.....	\$86,143.79
Bank Balance–October 31, 2020.....	\$257,509.88
Accounts Receivable – October 31, 2020.....	\$5,692.34
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – October 31, 2020.....	\$164,541.72
Building Sinking Fund – October 31, 2020.....	\$185,210.19
Vehicle Sinking Fund – October 31, 2020.....	\$93,526.77
Water Resources Fund – October 31, 2020.....	\$613,814.34
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – October 31, 2020.....	\$672.42
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – October 31, 2020.....	\$4,322.47
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2020.....	\$13,425.07

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Fort Kearny IPA Balance – October 31, 2020-----	\$8,448.50
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2020-----	\$4,835.35
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2020-----	\$8,488.22
Water Jamboree – October 31, 2020-----	\$7,914.63
NRRCMDA – October 31, 2020-----	\$7,635.71
Odessa IPA – October 31, 2020-----	\$18,845.95

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the October 2020 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**SPECIAL BILLS**

Thorburn presented the VISA, attorney and PRD bills for approval. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the VISA, attorney and PRD bills. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**NRCS REPORT**

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

**Activity and Progress Report:** Kerner reported staff is working on CSP applications. Deadline is November 20, 2020. Staff is also working on EQIP.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Abandonment** – Thorburn presented eight well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Harris, seconded by Larson, to approve eight well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented two NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Thorburn explained that the application from Mike Dawson is for a grade stabilization repair that washed out in the flood. Cost-share for the grade stabilization was received in 2017. A landowner is responsible for maintaining the cost-share for 10 years. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to send the Mike Dawson Repair of Practice to the Projects and Construction Committee. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve one NSWCP cost-share application for Judy Turner. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**WCIP** – There were no WCIP applications to approve.

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

**Groundwater & Certified Acre Transfers** – Thorburn presented a groundwater transfer for BRC LLC and an irrigated acre transfer and well permit variance for George Latter. George and Griff Latter were present to answer questions. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Ryan, to approve a groundwater transfer for BRC, LLC and an irrigated acre transfer and well permit variance for George Latter. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Reynolds

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**Educational Land Leases** – There were no educational land leases to approve.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the board for comment and/or discussion.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**WCIP Sign-up and Ranking:** Thorburn explained that the Planning Committee looked at the sign-up process and ranking process. The committee made three recommendations which were to increase the points to six for parcels east of Hwy 183 and E-67, make the minimum amount for approval as six points and hold a continuous sign-up for both groundwater and commingled applications. Thorburn asked if the board wants to approve the applications monthly or if Thorburn can approve them when they come in. Lundeen suggested the board approve them monthly. Lundeen commented that the committee talked about cost-share for switching from groundwater to surface water. Ford explained that CNPPID will cost-share up to \$3000 and one year's delivery. CNPPID provides a meter and screen. A copy of the new WCIP rules would be included with CNPPID bills. Ford said the flier would be needed the last week of November. Reynolds asked why the program would cut irrigators with less than six points that want to be efficient. Reynolds commented that there should be a funding summary provided throughout the year. Thorburn commented that the minimum score of six is only for commingled acres.

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Moved by Larson, seconded Grimes accept the Planning Committee recommendations to give six points for applications to WCIP for parcels located east of Hwy 183 and E-67, a minimum of five points will be required to be approved (for commingled applications only) a continuous sign-up for WCIP groundwater and commingled applications until the funding runs out. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

Moved by Grimes, seconded Hinrichs to set the allocation to a uniform amount of 9 inches across the district for WCIP only. Motion failed.

AYE: Bilka, Grimes, Hinrichs and Ryan

NAY: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Harris, Larson, Raffety, Reynolds, and Lundeen

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**Select Director for Sub-District #1** Thorburn presented an application from G. Reed Philips for Director for Sub-District #1. Philips gave a summary of his experience. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Garrelts to appoint G. Reed Phillips as Director for Sub-District #1 to fill the remainder of Phyllis Johnson's term which expires December 31, 2022. Motion carried

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**NARD REPORT**

**NARD Report:** Reynolds reported on NARD news and the state legislature. Reynolds reported on the progress the state is making on nitrate control.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Augmentation Committee Meeting:** Thorburn explained the Augmentation Committee met and discussed bidding for the PRRIP Cottonwood Ranch project. The committee made a recommendation on the bid process. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes accept the recommendations of the Augmentation Committee to allow Thorburn to develop detailed specs for bidding the augmentation wellfield construction in three parts as discussed (pumps and wells, pipelines and outfall structures and electrical), to advertise for bids after approval of specs by the Augmentation Committee, to offer Nickel Farms, Inc. easement renewal at the same easement terms as their current easement. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**Planning Committee Meeting:** This agenda item was discussed earlier in the agenda.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

**Board Directives to Staff:** Thorburn mentioned that PPE needs are increasing in this area and estimated at least a 100,000 lbs. of supplies have been moved through the NRD armory facility. Thorburn mentioned that the hazard mitigation plan needs to have federal funds for the next update of the plan. The deadline is December 15, 2020 and help from JEO might be needed.

Recognition banquet would be in Gosper county this year. Reynolds suggested the Nautical Rose.

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Republican Basin Forecast meeting was held on November 9, 2020. It is not anticipated that 2020 will be a "Water Short Year".

**Platte Basin:** PBC Technical meeting will be held next week

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Kokes Construction submitted a bill that was lower than estimated. Garrelts would like pictures of the Sorensen Sand Creek Recharge Structure.

**North Dry Creek:** Cook Construction has been doing work on North Dry Creek Drainage District.

**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:** Nothing to report.

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

**Lake Seldom:** Nothing to report.

**CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition:** Platte Basin Coalition meeting will be held in November 16, 2020.

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** Nothing to report.

**Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well:** The objectors have until the end of November to file their objections again.

**CNPPID:** Dave Ford reported that Lake McConaughy is at 3243.3 elevation and 65% of capacity. Ford mentioned CNPPID is exploring a merger with Dawson Public Power District.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Authorize Advertising Bids on Cottonwood Ranch Augmentation Wells:** This item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Lundeen asked for an in-person meeting with Little Blue Stakeholders in Minden and hold a Joint Meeting with LBNRD in Hastings for the LB IMP.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson to donate the armory plaque to the Nebraska National Guard Armory Museum. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Garrelts to move to executive session at 9:09 p.m. for the protection of the public to discuss legal matters. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety to move out of executive session at 9:22 p.m. for the protection of the public to discuss legal matters. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT**

John Thorburn, G. Reed Philips, George Latter and Griff Latter were present in person. Sasha Hahn, Dave Ford, Nolan Little, Cammie Kerner, and Carie Lynch were present via Zoom.

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Respectfully Submitted:

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Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS  
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
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<b>ID</b>	<b>Motion #</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	
	2020-10-13-01						
	2020-10-13-02						
	2020-10-13-03						
	2020-10-13-04						
	2020-10-13-05						
	2020-10-13-06						
	2020-10-13-07						
	2020-10-13-08						
	2020-10-13-09						
	2020-10-13-10						
	2020-10-13-11						
	2020-10-13-12						
	2020-10-13-13						