

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 10, 2024, 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 ten directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, and Reynolds. Grimes, Raffety, and Ryan 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

There were no excused absences.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of November 12, 2024, Board of Directors meeting, and November 19, 2024 Executive Meeting

Moved by Larson, seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes for the November 12, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2024, Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Thorburn presented the financial report for the month of November 2024 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$100,492.15
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$15,139.22
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$131,130.72
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$47,223.58
Main Checking-November 30, 2024.....	\$307,143.01
Accounts Receivable – November 30, 2024.....	\$34,273.06
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – November 30, 2024.....	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – November 30, 2024.....	\$3,815.67
Vehicle Sinking Fund – November 30, 2024.....	\$54,643.63
Water Resources Fund – November 30, 2024.....	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$3368.52
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$11,125.84
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$9,665.82
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$10,870.10
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$2,271.00
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2024.....	\$9,960.25

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Water Jamboree – November 30, 2024-----	\$2,725.97
Odessa IPA – November 30, 2024-----	\$20,612.00
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – November 30, 2024-----	\$1,554.81

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the November 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and Attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the Visa and Attorney bills. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Cammie reported that they are working on 21 CSP renewals, just had their first cutoff for the signups for CSP and they are done taking applications for the first round of EQIP for FY2025.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips, to approve one well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

NSWCP & NRD Applications – There were no NSWCP cost-share applications to approve.

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Tammy Fahrenbruch presented four groundwater transfers for Eugene Trausch, Mary Paulsen, and Randy & Debra Reiss in the Republican and Platte Basin portions of the district to approve.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to approve four transfers. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

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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

IWMS Annual Report: Scheele reported on 2024 UNL TAPS, UNL On-Farm Research Nitrogen & Pivot Bio. He has assisted many producers with programs this past year to improve their irrigation efficiency

Nitrogen Education plot

Nott presented findings from the Grimes Nitrogen demonstration plot in Kearney County. The data was consistent with a narrow margin of variability. Pivot Bio did not seem to affect the bushels produced. The best net revenue was for the plots with 120 and 160#s of nitrogen following beans.

WCIP Commingled Contract Length: Executive Committee recommended considering a 10-year contract option. There was discussion about whether to allow enrollment of commingled fields West of 183. The Executive Committee will review the commingled WCIP ranking process at their next meeting.

Motion by Bergstrom, seconded by Larson for all new WCIP applicants to have a five or 10 year option for their contracts. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

Select Firm to develop “Net Recharge Tool”: The Executive committee recommended that the board select Olsson Associates to develop a Net Recharge Tool. Directors had concerns about whether all data needed to develop the tool are accessible to the NRD. For this reason, the board approved a motion to table a decision until the January board meeting.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve tabling the decision on selecting a contractor for the Net Recharge Tool until the January board meeting Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: NARD Annual Conference Jan. 28-29, 2025. The board voted to select Larry Reynolds as voting delegate and Ed Harris as alternate voting delegate.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Projects & Construction Committee Meeting: The Executive Committee recommended extending WCIP contract, selecting Olsson for Net Recharge Tool development, a new program to cost-share on commingled connections, and updates to the bylaws.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Nothing to report.

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: Nothing to report

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 Well: Cross Fencing done, just waiting on dozer to do some dirt work on the Southeast end

CNPPID Report: Dicke reported Excess flows. Started as trickle went from 20 cfs to 500 cfs CNPPID was able to deliver 9-10K af to Elwood, E65, Phelps, Victor Lakes, Cottonwood Ranch. Excess flows are no longer available because the hydrologic condition for the Platte Basin has changed from dry to normal. 7-8 ft in Elwood with still about 14 feet to go.

NEW BUSINESS

Cost-share Option for Commingled Connections: The Exec Comm recommended a commingled irrigation water supply connection cost-share. After discussion about details for implementing this cost-share option, the board decided to send it back to the Executive Committee to review details of the cost-share practice requirements.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris to have the Executive Committee reconsider details of implementation of commingled connection cost-share

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

NRD By-laws: Changes to the by-laws were recommended by the Exec Comm. They suggested changing the regular board meeting date and time to the third Wednesday at 1:30 pm. Legal counsel reviewed the by-laws and suggested additional revisions.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to accept the changes to the by-laws recommended by the Executive Committee and NRD legal counsel.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

Auditor Contract: The 3-year auditor contract was presented to the board for approval.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Reynolds to accept the new, proposed auditor contract.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

Assistant Secretary: Nicole Simeon was appointed Assistant Secretary.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bergstrom to accept Nicole Simeon as Assistant Secretary to the board.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Grimes

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There was a discussion about developing ground water recharge projects.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 3:28 pm. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Hinrichs, Philips, Raffety, and Ryan

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Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams to move out of the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 3:32 pm. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Hinrichs, Philips, Raffety, and Ryan

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Todd Garrelts, Joel Grams, Ed Harris, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Reed Philips, and Larry Reynolds,

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Nolan Little, Curtis Scheele, Cammie Kerner, Scott Dicke, Pat Nott, Dalton Refior, Mary Paulsen, Jayden Bauer, Carie Lynch, and Nicole Simeon.

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
December 10, 2024

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-12-10-01	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the November 12, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-02	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2024, Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2024-12-10-03	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the November 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-04	Budget		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the Visa and Attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-05	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips, to approve one well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-06	Certification & Transfers		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to approve 4 transfers. Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-07	District Plan & Programs		10			Motion made by Larry Reynolds, seconded by Brian Bergstrom to give option to extend from 5 years to 10 years for existing contracts. Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-07	District Plan & Programs		10			Motion made by Bergstrom, seconded by Larson for all new WCIP contract to have 10 years, Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-07	District Plan & Programs	NET Recharge Tool	10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve tabling the decision until the January board meeting Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-08	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris to accept the project and construction committee's recommendations:

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	2024-12-10-09	Policies-By-Laws		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to accept the change to the by-laws on board meeting date and time:
	2024-12-10-10	Budget		9			Moved by Larson, seconded by Reynolds to accept the new, proposed auditor contract.
	2024-12-10-11	Directors		9			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bergstrom to accept Nicole Simeon as Assistant Secretary to the board.
	2024-12-10-11	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 3:28 pm. Motion carried.
	2024-12-10-11	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by seconded by to move out of the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 3:32 pm. Motion carried.