

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 10:00 a.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, Todd Garrelts at 10:02 a.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with twelve directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Garrelts, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen. Thorburn explained by-law rules relating to special board meetings. Thorburn explained this is not a public hearing or open dialog meeting.

EXCUSE ABSENCES

There were no absences to excuse.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss Proposed CNPPID/DPPD Merger: There was discussion concerning the merger between CNPPID and Dawson Public Power. Devin Brundage (CNPPID) and Gwen Kautz (DPPD) answered questions.

The public was given the opportunity to comment. The following members of the public spoke: Scott Dicke, Gary Robinson, Reed McClymont, Dave Nelson and Dudley Nelson. Scott Dicke commented on the process of forming Tri-County approximately 100 years ago and how many landowners opposed the formation of Tri-County. There was discussion about the power review board and who can present testimony.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to adopt the following resolution that Tri-Basin NRD stands willing and able to work with any and all entities to achieve the goal of protecting the quantity and quality of our groundwater aquifer to make it last forever using all authorities given the NRD by the State of Nebraska. Motion passed.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Bilka that Tri-Basin will support Citizens Opposed to the Merger with no monetary support. The merger of Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District with the Dawson County Public Power District would create a new entity that would leave the Tri-Basin NRD constituents without adequate representation. With this loss of representation, we would not be able to fulfill the mission statement of the Tri-Basin NRD. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips and Ryan

NAY: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Raffety and Reynolds

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris amend the following motion to read "To monitor the merger of Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District with the Dawson County Public Power District". Motion failed.

AYE: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: Bilka, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan and Garrelts

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

The board then voted on the original motion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review Change Orders, Closing Documents for Cottonwood Ranch Augmentation Project Pipeline Construction: Chris Miller, EA Engineering, reviewed the process for completing the Cottonwood Ranch Recharge project including change orders concerning the minimum pipe size and pressure testing. There will be a punch-list and final inspection before J&G Dirtworks is paid.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve the change orders and approve payment to J&G Dirtworks for the Cottonwood Ranch Project pending final inspection. Motion passed.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Lundeen asked for a Planning Committee meeting to discuss the funds available through NDNR for infrastructure.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

There were no personnel or legal matters.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, at 1:30 p.m. and Work Session at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Cory Steinke, John Thorburn, Nate Munter, Scott Dicke, Nolan Little, Gary Robison, Matt Wells, Jenice Bergstrom, Gwen Kautz, Dudley Nelson, Reed McClymont, Robert McCormick, Devin Brundage, Dave Nelson, Joel Grams, Pat Nott, Chris Miller, Cole Archer and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 February 8, 2022

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2023-02-08-01	Resolutions & Legislation	CNPPID Merger	12			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to adopt the following resolution that Tri-Basin NRD stands willing and able to work with any and all entities to achieve the goal of protecting the quantity and quality of our groundwater aquifer to make it last forever using all authorities given the NRD by the State of Nebraska. Motion passed.
	2023-02-08-02	Policies – By-Laws	CNPPID Merger	7	5		Moved by Ryan, seconded by Bilka that Tri-Basin will support Citizens Opposed to the Merger with no monetary support. The merger of Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District with the Dawson County Public Power District would create a new entity that would leave the Tri-Basin NRD constituents without adequate representation. With this loss of representation, we would not be able to fulfill the mission statement of the Tri-Basin NRD. Motion carried.
	2023-02-08-03	Policies – By-Laws	CNPPID Merger	4	8		Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris amend the following motion to read “To monitor the merger of Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District with the Dawson County Public Power District”. Motion failed.
	2023-02-08-04	Projects	PRRIP	12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve the change orders and approve payment to J&G Dirtworks for the Cottonwood Ranch Project pending final inspection. Motion passed.