

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, January 21, 2026, 2:30 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 2:30 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law was posted in the meeting room.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with ten directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds and Stade.

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 Reynolds, seconded by Harris to accept the meeting agenda for the January 21, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of December 17, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade to approve the minutes for the December 17, 2025 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$260,317.12
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$78,806.03
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$250,917.69
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$128,069.93
Main Checking- December 31, 2025-----	\$82,254.24
Accounts Receivable – December 31, 2025-----	\$1,158.06
Vehicle Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – December 31, 2025-----	\$81,271.51
Building Sinking Fund – December 31, 2025-----	\$88,286.86
Water Resources Fund – December 31, 2025-----	\$16,433.85
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – December 31, 2025-----	\$8,153.05
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – December 31, 2025-----	\$13,166.82
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – December 31, 2025-----	\$12,137.63
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – December 31, 2025-----	\$10,909.05
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – December 31, 2025-----	\$10,358.81
Water Jamboree – December 31, 2025-----	\$9,710.46
Odessa IPA – December 31, 2025-----	\$20,967.46

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Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips to accept the December 2025 Financial Report after looking into the Water Jamboree account balance, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

**SPECIAL BILLS**

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

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

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

**NRCS REPORT**

**FSA Farm Plans: Nothing to report**

**Activity and Progress Report:** Kerner reported things are slowly progressing with program updates. Dollar amounts on program funds are yet to be determined. They are going through training for program updates.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

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

Moved by Larson, seconded by Stade, to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented four NSWCP cost-share applications for approval.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to approve four NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

Nothing to approve.

**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 Report:** Scheele, gave his report from the 2025 season. He shared the enrollment in EQIP and CSP for 2025, some stats from the 2025 UNL TAPS Contest, and 2024 UNL On Farm Research results. Scheele also helps with Nitrogen Certification training, edits the weekly Tri-Basin Irrigator Newsletter to 746 subscribers and manages the TBAWMN network, does ultrasonic flowmeter tests, in addition to his usual NRCS work responsibilities.

**NARD REPORT**

Four staff and eleven directors from Tri-Basin are attending the NARD Legislative Conference this year from January 26-28. Reynolds highlighted a couple of bills to watch. NPAIT scholarships are available for public employees' children and grandchildren.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nothing to report.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

No out-of-state travel was approved at this time for Staff or Directors to attend the NARD Washington D.C. Conference from March 29-31.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Basin- IMP Public Hearing, February 4 - TBNRD

**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.

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**Lake Seldom:** Nothing to report.

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

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** – Board Meeting, January 20 - CPNRD

**Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation:** Nothing to report

**CNPPID Report:** NWRA recognized Don Kraus for many years of service. CNPPID Water data can be found on website: [Reservoir/River Data | Central Nebraska Public Power & Irrigation District \(CNPPID\)](#).

CNPPID system tours - contact Scott Dicke or Alex Linden for information.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Thorburn proposed moving the February 18, 2026 board meeting to February 25, 2026.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve moving the board meeting to February 25, 2026 for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Nothing to report

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to approve going into executive session for contractual matters. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundein, to move out of the Executive Session for contractual matters at 3:40 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Ryan

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at Tri-Basin Natural Resource District, Holdrege, NE.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:40 pm

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**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Stade

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Cammie Kerner, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Dana Christensen, Curtis Scheele, Dalton Refior

Respectfully Submitted:

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Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

**INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS**  
**TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
**January 21, 2026**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Motion #</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Motion</b>
	2026-01-21-01	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade to approve the minutes for the December 17, 2025 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2026-01-21-02	Meeting Administration		10			<u>Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips to accept the December 2025 Financial Report after looking into the Water Jamboree account balance, and submit for audit. Motion carried.</u>
	2026-01-21-03	Meeting Administration		10			<u>Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundein to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.</u>
	2026-01-21-04	Meeting Administration		10			<u>Moved by Larson, seconded by Stade, to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.</u>
	2026-01-21-05	Budget		10			<u>Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to approve four NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.</u>
	2026-01-21-06	Budget		10			<u>Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve moving the board meeting to February 25, 2026 for approval. Motion carried.</u>
	2026-01-21-07	District Plan & Programs		10			<u>Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to approve going into executive session for contractual matters. Motion carried.</u>
	2026-01-21-08	Meeting Administration		10			<u>Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundein, to move out of the Executive Session for contractual matters at 3:40 p.m. Motion carried.</u>

