

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 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 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 and announced on radio station KRVN, Lexington.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

No absences to excuse.

MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Larson, seconded by Reynolds to accept the meeting agenda for the April 7, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried

AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of March 18, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to approve the minutes for the March 18, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: : Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Harris

ABSENT:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Thorburn presented the financial report for the month of March 2026 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$64,158.09
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$161,723.86
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$161,755.41
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$229,107.09
Main Checking- March 31, 2026.....	\$584,947.18
Accounts Receivable – March 31, 2026.....	\$11,175.95
Vehicle Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – March 31, 2026.....	\$81,271.51
Building Sinking Fund – March 31, 2026.....	\$88,286.86
Water Resources Fund – March 31, 2026.....	\$136,433.85
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – March 31, 2026.....	\$10,227.43
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – March 31, 2026.....	\$14,071.20
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2026.....	\$12,615.96
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – March 31, 2026.....	\$10,933.79
Sacramento Creek Balance ---March 31, 2026.....	\$8,518.35
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2026.....	\$11,369.50
Water Jamboree – March 31, 2026.....	\$9,842.85
Odessa IPA – March 31, 2026.....	\$21,026.12

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 7, 2026

Page Two

Moved by Stade, seconded by Larson to accept the March 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Harris

ABSENT:

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to accept the VISA bill for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: Levi Adam reported EQIP is currently going through all the regenerative pilot program or the RPP's. Looks like at this point we have four applications which will likely be moving to contracts. Once they get everything ironed out with the RCPP's across the state, then they'll start moving into the general EQIP's and then following that they'll be working on CSP. For CSP, they're doing spring producer interviews with people who currently have contracts.

Activity and Progress Report:

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented three well decommissioning cost-share applications for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes to approve three well decommissioning cost share applications for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented six NSWCP (4 flowmeters, 2 brush Management) cost-share applications for approval.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Grams, to approve six NSWCP (4 flowmeters, 2 brush Management) cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 7, 2026

Page Three

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Thorburn presented two ground water transfers recommended for approval.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Stade, to approve two ground water transfers recommended for approval. Motion carried.

Educational Land Leases – There were no Educational Lands and Funds applications for approval.

OTHER BUSINESS

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sentinel Fertigation- John Brutti explained how his company, Sentinel Ag, uses satellite imagery to identify the fertilizer needs of corn plants during the growing season. They offer both irrigated and dryland options. Areas with high nitrates in the groundwater are a significant health concern. He mentioned the concern of increased cancer risk in areas that have high nitrates.

Turkey Creek WFPO Study- Nick Simonson of Lower Republican NRD apologized for causing unnecessary concern among the public after the announcement of the possibility of pumping several augmentation wells on Turkey Creek in Gosper Co. They do not plan to drill wells; they needed a hypothetical water source for the completion of the study that began 5 years ago with the PRD project being the original source. They did not expect the press release would be so widespread.

NRT Scenario Results- Little presented the results of a Net Recharge Tool (NRT) scenario simulating the impact of a large industrial water use in Phelps County. Scenario results showed widespread depletions that would be reaching Holdrege within 40-50 years.

Tri-Basin AHMP Renewal RFP- It is time for the All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP) renewal which happens every 5 years. The board approved the request for a proposal (RFP). The plan makes it possible to receive certain federal aid in the event of a disaster. This program helped provide monitoring cameras for several locations on the Platte that will be installed this year.

Thorburn made a request for proposals for the AHMP Renewal for approval.

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to approve the request for proposals for the AHMP Renewal.

Motion carried

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

NARD REPORT

NRD Washington D.C. Conference concluded on April 1st. Unfortunately, Congress was not in session during the conference.

IWMS Report: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee Meeting is set for May 20th at 10 AM.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Nothing to report.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Platte Basin: Nothing to report.

Republican Basin: Notice of Order Adopting Revised IMP

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Water Quality Meeting – April 14th

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: Board Meeting May 19th

Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation: In suspension status for 3 yrs – Time to investigate Asian carp mitigation.

CNPPID Report: Scott Dicke shared that excess flows were available and they were able to capture 1392 AF of water into Elwood, Victor Lakes and Cottonwood WPA's. They have opened the headgates on E65 to fill Elwood. They plan to open headgates to Phelps Canal on April 13th for early water. They are taking charge of Johnson Lake Supply Canal inlet bridge and plan to remove two others. Devin Brundage shared that One Red program could be a potential additional source for cost-share to help with in-season fertilization technology such as Sentinel and more information should be coming. He also said they are conducting a study with the US Army Corps of Engineers to add flood control to the Kingsly dam which could make them eligible for more federal funding for dam repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Certified Irrigated Acre Leases- The board voted to allow landowners to apply for annual irrigated acre leasing within the district. Certified irrigated acre leases must be for a minimum of 3 acres. They must account for differences in streamflow depletions. The board must approve each annual lease agreement and lienholders must be notified.

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 7, 2026

Page Six

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Hinrichs to approve allowing landowners to apply for annual irrigated acre leasing within the district. Motion carried

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

Thorburn presented a one-year certified irrigated acre lease for Brent and Ethan Soneson within the Platte Basin in Phelps Co. for approval.

Motion by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to approve a one-year certified irrigated acre lease for Brent and Ethan Soneson within the Platte Basin in Phelps Co. Motion carried

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to approve going into executive session for contractual matters at 2:47 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to move out of the Executive Session for contractual matters at 2:50 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 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 2:50 pm

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 7, 2026

Page Six

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Levi Adam, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Brent Soneson, Reed McClymont, Scott Dicke, Jeff VanEperen, Nick Simonson, Devin Brundage, John Brutty

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
 March 18, 2026

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2026-02-25-01	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to accept the meeting agenda for the February 25, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2026-02-25-02	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Stade to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-03	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Philips, seconded by Lundeen to accept the January 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-04	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-05	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Grams, to approve four NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-06	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Stade, to approve 48 new Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Applications for 2026 for approval. Motion carried
	2026-02-25-07	District Plan & Programs		9	1		Moved by Grams, seconded by Reynolds, to approve one variance request for L & V Stadler Inc for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-08	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to approve three Irrigated Acre transfer requests for Vaughn & Catherine Anderson, L&V Stadler Inc, and John J & Kathyn A Keller for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-09	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Larson, to approve 6 WCIP (3 re-enrolls, 3 new) applications for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-02-25-10	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Larson, to approve letter of support for Perkins Co Canal to be sent by TBNRD staff to the USACOE for approval. Motion carried.

