

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 16, 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 directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Valley Voice and Minden Courier and announced on radio station KRVN, Lexington.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to excuse Philips from the February and March 2025 board meetings. Motion carried

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Philips

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris to accept the meeting agenda for the April 16, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of March 19, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the March 19, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Grimes, Philips, Grams

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

Thorburn presented the minutes of March 21, 2025, Planning Committee meeting.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the March 21, 2025 Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Grimes, Philips, Grams

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

FINANCIAL REPORT: Ryan presented the financial report for the month of March 2025 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$137,623.33
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$116,067.09
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$156,029.74
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$107,644.48
Main Checking- March 31, 2025-----	\$229,896.24
Accounts Receivable – March 31, 2025-----	\$107,658.74
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – March 31, 2025-----	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – March 31, 2025-----	\$3,815.67

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 16, 2025

Page Two

Vehicle Sinking Fund – March 31, 2025-----	\$54,643.63
Water Resources Fund – March 31, 2025-----	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – March 31, 2025-----	\$19,714.59
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – March 31, 2025-----	\$11,037.13
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2025-----	\$9,614.30
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – March 31, 2025-----	\$10,815.78
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2025-----	\$3,612.84
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2025-----	\$9,861.83
Water Jamboree – March 31, 2025-----	\$4,673.85
Odessa IPA – March 31, 2025-----	\$20,508.99
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – March 31, 2025-----	\$2,095.64

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to accept the March 2025 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Larson, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Scheele reported they are currently working on their 56 CSP Classic assessments and rankings. These have to be completed by April 18th. They currently have \$1.2 million allocated to them. They have requested an additional \$6 million to help cover the applications. All offices are in the process of having producer meetings with all of their CSP contract holders to review their operations and contracts. They have completed their 2025 EQIP General assessments and rankings. They have started pre-approving in the state fund pools and also in their local fund pools. They have \$200,000 in their local fund pool and have requested an additional \$1.5 million. Their list of random FSA Status Reviews is now available for us. They will be sending out letters to owners and operators soon. They will use separation of duty protocol to complete these. Staff will be completing this in a county other than the one that they are located in on a regular basis.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds, to approve two well-decommissioning cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 16, 2025

Page Three

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented NSWCP cost-share funds for approval.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grams, to approve NSWCP cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

Thorburn presented two WCIP applications from Tye Carlson and Mark Bertrand for approval.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Lundeen, to approve two WCIP applications from Tye Carlson and Mark Bertrand for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented one groundwater transfer request for Johnson Canyon View LLC, four transfer requests for Mike Ryan, Lee Anderson, Joseph Lundeen and GSM, Inc for approval.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Lundeen, to approve one groundwater transfer request for Johnson Canyon View LLC, four transfer requests for Mike Ryan, Lee Anderson, Joseph Lundeen and GSM, Inc for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

Thorburn presented one well variance request for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Philips, to approve one well variance request for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Raffety

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

Little reported on groundwater quality. 2022 had 80% of water samples collected. 2023 was our best sampling in several year, producing a very accurate map. He also discussed a project by Dr. Jesse Korus at UNL to study groundwater geology using a ground penetrating RADAR “sled”. Korus is examining two farms in Kearney County. This investigation is expected to help improve understanding of groundwater aquifer properties.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: NARD Basin Tour will be on June 9 & 10 of the Niobrara Basin based in Valentine. NARD Arbor Day Tree Planting on the Southwest Lawn of the Nebraska State Capital on April 25 at 9:30 AM.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee Report

The committee discussed flowmeters, and they would like more water use data in the Platte Basin. Discussed options of requiring meters to request voluntary reporting to change the rules.

Executive Committee Report

The committee met with Jesse Bradley in Lincoln. They discussed how to offset water use for the proposed Aviation Fuel Plant as well as the Republican Basin offset requirements.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

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: Meeting on May 13, 2025

Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well: Burn of 1,386 acres was April 6, 2025

CNPPID Report: – Dicke reported that McConaughy is at 61% capacity. Started filling Elwood around the beginning of April. They are slowly filling the Phelps Canal, due to repairs that have been done.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for new WCIP grass option-The board discussed the idea of adding a grass option for WCIP. The LENRD has a program that pays \$100 per acre for five years. No action was taken.

Water Use Data Gathering-The Planning Committee proposed a strategic approach to gathering more water use data across the Platte Basin portion of the district. No action was taken.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Nothing to report

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

There were no personnel or legal issues.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Curtis Scheele, Mike Ryan, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Wayne Anderson and Nicole Simeon

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
April 16, 2025

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2025-04-16-01	Meeting Administration		10		1	Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to excuse Philips from the February and March 2025 board meetings. Motion carried
	2025-04-16-02	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris to accept the meeting agenda for the April 16, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2025-04-16-03	Meeting Administration		8		3	Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the March 19, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-04-16-04	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the March 21, 2025 Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-04-16-05	Budget		11			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to accept the March 2025 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2025-04-16-06	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Larson, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2025-04-16-07	District Plan & Programs		11			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds, to approve two well-decommissioning cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried
	2025-04-16-08	District Plan & Programs		11			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grams, to approve NSWCP cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried.
	2025-04-16-09	District Plan & Programs		11			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Lundeen, to approve two WCIP applications from Tye Carlson and Mark Bertrand for approval. Motion carried.
	2025-04-16-10	District Plan & Programs		11			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Lundeen, to approve one groundwater transfer request for Johnson Canyon View LLC, four transfer requests for Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Philips, to approve one well variance request for approval. Motion carried.
	2025-04-16-11	District Plan & Programs		11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Philips, to approve one well variance request for approval. Motion carried.

