

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, May 20, 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 eleven directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, 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 Reynolds, seconded by Stade to accept the meeting agenda for the May 20, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of April 7, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Lundeen to approve the minutes for the April 7, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

Thorburn presented the minutes of May 11, 2026, Planning Committee meeting.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Lundeen to approve the minutes for the May 11, 2026 Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of April 2026 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month .....	\$182,987.42
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$98,758.06
Actual Expenditures for Month .....	\$188,202.08
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$78,436.10
Main Checking- April 30, 2026.....	\$511,579.64
Accounts Receivable – April 30, 2026.....	\$5,170.13
Vehicle Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – April 30, 2026.....	\$81,634.58
Building Sinking Fund – April 30, 2026.....	\$88,733.13
Water Resources Fund – April 30, 2026.....	\$136,860.65
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – April 30, 2026.....	\$10,256.22

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2026

Page Two

Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – April 30, 2026-----	\$14,332.54
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – April 30, 2026-----	\$12,856.57
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – April 30, 2026-----	\$10,966.69
Sacramento Creek Balance ---April 30, 2026-----	\$8,538.45
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – April 30, 2026-----	\$11,408.56
Water Jamboree – April 30, 2026-----	\$4,215.17
Odessa IPA – April 30, 2026-----	\$21,089.00

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to accept the April 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

**SPECIAL BILLS**

Thorburn presented the VISA and Attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade to accept the VISA and Attorney bills for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

**NRCS REPORT**

**FSA Farm Plans:** Kerner reported EQIP wise, the staff is working on getting contracts done. Originally had about \$400,000 worth of local money to spend, which is where we could prioritize the local work group advised for resource concerns, and we could actually work with that and put money in that direction. Kerner stated she was very nervous going into this year that the local work group input wasn't going to be able to be used as well because of guidance coming down from headquarters and the way they set up some of our software. The NRCS office did a great job thinking outside the box and made it so that we could take the top resource concern that was named by local work group, and that's where we put the bulk of our funds, and then go down the list that way. We had the original \$400,000 and then we got another \$700,000 when Lisa was on detail, she requested additional funds. So when they are done with state fund pools and the local will probably have well over \$3 million in contracts, which is less than we've had in the past, but it's also probably the most that any NRD's got in the state. We have our previous contracts that we're just working through with the guys getting that taken care of and the data sheets to them so they can get projects completed. June 5<sup>th</sup> is our deadline to have all our contracts written for EQIP. June 1<sup>st</sup> is our deadline to have all of our CSP applications.

**Activity and Progress Report:**

**COST SHARE REPORT**

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

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Larson to approve two well decommissioning cost share applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2026

Page Three

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

**Tree Plantings & Buffer-strip-** Thorburn presented twelve tree plantings and one buffer-strip cost share applications for approval.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris to approve twelve tree planting and one buffer-strip cost share applications for approval. Motion carried

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented seven NSWCP (two sets of soil ,moisture sensors, 4 flow meters and grass seeding) cost-share applications for approval.

Moved by Stade, seconded by Ryan, to approve seven NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

**Nitrogen Use Efficiency (NUE)-** Thorburn presented thirty-one NUE program applications for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to approve thirty-one NUE program applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Grimes

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

### GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Thorburn presented one irrigated acre transfer request for 52 acres from Fort Kearny Consolidated Inc. for approval.

Moved by Grams, seconded by Stade, to approve one irrigated acre transfer request for 52 acres from Fort Kearny Consolidated Inc. for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

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

### OTHER BUSINESS

Chris Termunde introduced himself as the new Water and Cropping Systems – Extension Educator for Phelps, Gosper, Furnas, and Harlan Counties. His office is in Holdrege.

Caty Kaczmarek was introduced as our first intern of the summer. She is from Wisconsin and attends school at Texas A&M University.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**FY 2024-25 Audit Report-** Kyle Overturf with AMGL presented the auditors' report, noting key points to the board. The district accounts are now in good order. No financial discrepancies were found in the audit.

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2026

Page Four

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve the FY 2024-25 audit report. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

**Review AHMP Proposals-** The purpose of this Hazard Mitigation plan is to meet a federal FEMA requirement that we have a plan and the plan be kept current. That is a precondition for eligibility for federal disaster mitigation and disaster relief funds.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to approve the JEO's proposal for AHMP. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

Reynolds suggested making approval contingent on partners approving funding for the plan.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Stade, to approve the motion as amended to approve the proposal subject to partner financing commitments. Motion carried

**Cease & Desist Orders-** Thorburn explained that we have one crop report violator we are waiting on. He has the paperwork. They were due in December.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grams, to approve sending a cease-and-desist order to crop report violator. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

### NARD REPORT

Reynold's reported the NRD's 2026 Basin Tour on June 8-9 will tour the South Platte Basin and proposed Perkins County Canal. Larry Reynolds, Nancy Garrelts, and Nolan Little are attending.

**IWMS Report:** Nothing to report.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee met and reviewed the proposed groundwater management rule revisions and annual certified irrigated acres lease form with Attorney Don Blankenau. Revisions included: large water user rule and spacing for domestic wells

### STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Thorburn asked the board for out-of-state travel approval to go to the 2026 Q2 PRRIP GC Meeting on June 9-10 in Cheyenne, WY. Thorburn also asked for out of state travel for Little to go on the NRD's Basin Tour into Colorado, June 8-9.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Bilka, to approve out of state travel for Thorburn and Little. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Platte Basin:** NRDs 2026 Basin Tour, June 8-9, North Platte, NE

**Republican Basin:** Coordination Meeting, Zoom – May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Nott worked with UNL on Deep Vadose Zone coring looking for Nitrate loading in both irrigated and dryland fields in Kearney County.

**North Dry Creek:** Will start shredding and spraying

**Odessa IPA:** Will start shredding and spraying

**Sacramento Creek:** Will start shredding and spraying

**Fort Kearny:** Will start shredding and spraying.

**Fort Kearny West:** Will start shredding and spraying

**South Dry Creek:** Will start shredding and spraying

**Whiskey Slough:** Will start shredding and spraying

**Middle Lost Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Lake Seldom:** Nothing to report.

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

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** Board Meeting & Tour, May 19<sup>th</sup>

**Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation:** Suspended water right lasts three years, but we can re-activate the application at any time. Searching for solutions to the concerns of invasive species transferring from one basin to the other.

**CNPPID Report:** Dicke reported that they have the E65 canal cleared of debris and are working on the Phelps Canal next. Lake Mac is at 48.3% capacity. March had early excess flows that were made to wetlands. Reynolds suggested checking to see if early canal water deliveries can be credited to the TBNRD this year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Thorburn presented the planning committee recommendation of the proposed ground water management rules revisions to be distributed for the public.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the committee's recommendation of the proposed ground water management rules revisions to be distributed for the public for review. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Philips

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2026

Page Six

Thorburn recommended that the board accept the proposal from Core CPA's to do our audit and payroll for FY 2026-2027.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Larson, to approve the new auditor for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Philips

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

It was suggested to move the board meeting to Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 1:30 pm.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the meeting being moved to Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at 1:30 pm. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Philips

The motion was amended to move the board meeting to Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 1:30 pm.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the meeting being moved to Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 1:30 pm. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Philips

Since Thorburn won't be available, Garrelts directed that Little run the June board meeting.

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

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

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams, Philips

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Lundeen, to move out of the Executive Session for personnel matters at 3:05 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 Thursday, June 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 3:05 pm

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

May 20, 2026

Page Seven

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Cammie Kerner, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Scott Dicke, Chris Termunde, Carrie Putnam, Dalton Refior, Caty Kaczmarek, Kyle Overturf

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary