

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 21, 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 (late), Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

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 Reynolds, seconded by Bilka, to excuse Raffety from the February, March, and April 2025 board meetings. Motion carried

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson, Grimes and Ryan

MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to accept the meeting agenda for the May 21, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grimes, Larson and Ryan

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of April 16, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Bilka seconded by Reynolds, to approve the minutes for the April 16, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson and Ryan

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of April 2025 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$121,187.96
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$157,730.07
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$119,987.45
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$137,036.52
Main Checking- April 30, 2025-----	\$280,427.84
Accounts Receivable – April 30, 2025-----	\$101,432.29
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – April 30, 2025-----	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – April 30, 2025-----	\$3,924.69
Vehicle Sinking Fund – April 30, 2025-----	\$55,906.02
Water Resources Fund – April 30, 2025-----	\$10,091.21
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – April 30, 2025-----	\$4,920.68
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – April 30, 2025-----	\$11,897.60

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South Dry Creek IPA Balance – April 30, 2025-----	\$9,443.44
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – April 30, 2025-----	\$10,739.40
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – April 30, 2025-----	\$3,662.00
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – April 30, 2025-----	\$9,304.72
Water Jamboree – April 30, 2025-----	\$7,419.55
Odessa IPA – April 30, 2025-----	\$20,643.47
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – April 30, 2025-----	\$1,554.81

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

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson and Ryan

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Philips, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson and Ryan

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported they have assessed and ranked their 56 CSP Classic Applications and are in the process of writing those contracts. They will be obligating over \$6,500,000 in CSP this year. They have completed our 2025 EQIP General assessments and rankings. They have started preapproving in the state funds pools and in their local fund pool and \$137,000 in their state fund pools. Staff is also continuing to work with the producers to get conservation on the ground through current contracts. The staff has completed most of the FSA status reviews for 2025 and all reviews to this point have found producers to be in compliance with the Food Security Act provisions.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams to approve two Well Decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson, Ryan

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented three TBNRD Conservation Tree Cost-Share applications and five flowmeter cost-share application for approval.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds, to approve three TBNRD Tree Cost-Share applications and five Soil Moisture cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

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ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson, Ryan

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Thorburn proposed an annual certified irrigated land variance request form for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the annual well-variance request form for approval.

Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson, Ryan

Thorburn presented one annual certified irrigated land variance for Brent & Ethan Soneson, etal for approval. Directors discussed adding conditions to the variance.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve one annual well variance request with conditions he is allowed to apply 9 inches of ground water per acre once a flowmeter is installed for approval.

Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson, Ryan

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

Refior & Rob VanLieshout, with Pheasants Forever & G&P, reported on the successful prescribed burn at the PRD pasture. A total of 1375 acres were treated with fire to prevent the spread of invasive and undesirable vegetation. They estimate a 90% redcedar kill on the properties.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Reynolds reported that the NARD's Annual Basin Tour will be June 9 & 10th at the Niobrara Basin.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee scheduled a meeting for June 2, 2025 at 9am to go over the proposed revisions of the rules.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Thorburn explained to the board that we have two interns, Ashley and Kendra. They were out helping Curtis set up the ET stations so they will be at the June meeting to be introduced to the board.

Thorburn presented to the board that the June meeting coincides with the Platte River Recovery Program Governance Committee meeting and he is an alternate for Lyndon Vogt, who is not able to attend. Thorburn proposed setting the date for the June meeting as Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 1:30.

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Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve date for the June meeting as Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 1:30 for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson, Ryan

Out-of-State Travel: Thorburn presented he will need out- of-state travel approval to go to Cheyenne Wyoming June 20-21, 2025

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve Thorburn's out-of-state travel. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson, Ryan

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: Nothing to report.

Platte Basin: Platte River Governance Committee Meeting, WY June 18

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: LB hit a GW trigger and now has allocations of 65"/5yr for Adams & Clay counties beginning in the 2025 irrigation season.

North Dry Creek: Interns spraying

Odessa IPA: Interns spraying

Sacramento Creek: Interns spraying

Fort Kearny: Interns spraying

Fort Kearny West: Interns spraying

South Dry Creek: Interns spraying

Whiskey Slough: Interns spraying

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: RWBJV Board Meeting and Tour was held at Tri-Basin on May 13. They toured the area and visited the PRD pasture to see the fire recovery and other wetland areas. It went well and had a good response.

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Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well: NE G&P sent a letter to NeDNR regarding the management of Asian Carp.

CNPPID Report: – Dicke reported they have found a home for some of their sand at North Platte. E65 Project will be reviewed with CMAR and design engineers to create a plan. This year has had the highest irrigation demand that they have had. Lake McConaughy is at 59.2% and currently the outflows are at 2700 cfs. They will have an environmental account release toward the end of May through June of about 1500 cfs. on the Platte.

NEW BUSINESS

Thorburn asked that the board appoint Terry Sorensen as Landowner Rep. to Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Board of Directors.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds, to appoint Terry Sorensen as Landowner Rep. to Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Board of Directors for approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Larson, Ryan

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, June 18, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Cammie Kerner, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Carolyn Schaff, Dalton Refior, Rob VanLieshout, Brent Soneson and Nicole Simeon

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
May 21, 2025

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2025-05-21-01	Meeting Administration		8		1	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka, to excuse Raffety from the February, March, and April 2025 board meetings. Motion carried
	2025-05-21-02	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to accept the meeting agenda for the May 21, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2025-05-21-03	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bilka seconded by Reynolds, to approve the minutes for the April 16, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-05-21-04	Budget		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to accept the April 2025 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2025-05-21-05	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Philips, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2025-05-21-06	District Plan & Programs		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams to approve two Well Decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2025-05-21-07	District Plan & Programs		9			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds, to approve three TBNRD Tree Cost-Share applications and five Soil Moisture cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2025-05-21-08	District Plan & Programs		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the annual well-variance request form for approval. Motion carried.
	2025-05-21-09	District Plan & Programs		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve one annual well variance request with conditions he is allowed to apply 9 inches of ground water per acre once a flowmeter is installed for approval. Motion carried.
	2025-05-21-10	District Plan & Programs		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve date for the June meeting as Thursday, June 12, 2025 at 1:30 for approval. Motion carried
	2025-05-21-11	District Plan & Programs		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve Thorburn's out-of-state travel. Motion carried.
	2025-05-21-12	District Plan & Programs		9			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds, to appoint Terry Sorensen as Landowner Rep. to Rainwater Basin Joint Venture for approval. Motion carried.

