

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 25, 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, 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 Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to accept the meeting agenda for the June 25, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

MINUTES

Little presented the minutes of May 20, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the May 20, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$134,260.74
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$747,636.88
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$130,718.33
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$674,023.02
Main Checking- May 31, 2026-----	\$1,062,887.03
Accounts Receivable – May 31, 2026-----	\$20,727.94
Vehicle Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – May 31, 2026-----	\$81,634.58
Building Sinking Fund – May 31, 2026-----	\$88,733.13
Water Resources Fund – May 31, 2026-----	\$136,860.65
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – May 31, 2026-----	\$11,524.48
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – May 31, 2026-----	\$15,541.86
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – May 31, 2026-----	\$12,856.57
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – May 31, 2026-----	\$10,966.69
Sacramento Creek Balance ---May 31, 2026-----	\$8,538.45
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – May 31, 2026-----	\$11,408.56
Water Jamboree – May 31, 2026-----	\$2,694.17
Odessa IPA – May 31, 2026-----	\$21,089.00

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Moved by Ryan, seconded by Stade to accept the May 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit.

Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

SPECIAL BILLS

Little presented the VISA and Attorney bills for approval.

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

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans:

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported that all of the new contracts for this year are written. Theres a couple sitting waiting for obligation. They are done ranking CSP applications, just waiting for the state deadline to come so they can start re-approving. They will be writing those contracts shortly. Tri-Basin had 43 CSP applications. There were 160 in the state. We had almost as many as the entire west area. We had twice as many as the entire east area did. The NRD, with the next highest number of contracts, had only 14 CSP applications. That tells you how hard the staff here works. We had about \$31 million worth of applications in the state with \$20 million in available funds. So, two- thirds of the applications will get approved, unless people drop out or a bunch of numbers show up in three days in the software.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Little presented one NSWCP cost-share applications for approval.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Philips, to approve one NSWCP cost-share applications for approval.

Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Nothing to approve

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Reed McClymont and Rob McCormick asked the board if we know the sustainability of our irrigation water supply. The last they had heard about water levels was 2024. Little explained that in March or April of 2024 Tri-Basin was awarded the Water Smart grant for what we call our Net Recharge Tool, it's a federal grant. The board only had to contribute about 25% and the state filled in 50% of that cost. Tri-Basin then worked with an engineering company that developed this Net Recharge Tool. It looks at the whole district using the Co-HYST model, which is a big, elaborate hydrologic model. Little explained that he can run scenarios from that model. A couple months ago, the board asked Little what would happen if no water got delivered to Kearney County. He used his model and ran some scenarios in house instead of trying to find somebody to do that type of thing. At the July board meeting, Little will give the groundwater levels presentation of what was found this spring.

Little introduced Tri-Basin's interns, Liz and Rodney.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tree Program Report—Refior reported that this year had a lot of numbers dialed back as far as handouts planted and everything across the board was down this year. Refior explained he took 28 averages and compared to the averages this year and we were down 48 trees on handout plantings and we were down 3100 trees on plantings. Refior had talked people in Gosper County out of planting and that was because they hadn't gotten any rain since September in their area. Even in Kearney and Phelps County there were some that decided not to plant due to the dry conditions. If they had all planted, it would have brought our number up to 18 and that would have been close to average.

Prescribed Fire- Refior reported that the district had one big, prescribed fire this last year that was right around 1200 acres. Rob was in charge of writing up the plan for that. It was across three different landowners Jeff Vogel, Alex Carlson and Cross Diamond Cattle. We did a little bit of black lining a month in advance and then we did about three separate black linings events that made the whole burn safer by taking out a lot of the long linear passages that people have to go through and then protect around some areas that we didn't want fire to get out of hand nearby.

Schedule Rules Revision Hearing- Garrelts suggested we hold the Rules Revision Hearing on August 19, 2026, as part of our August board meeting.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade, to schedule Rules Revision Hearing for August 19, 2026, as part of our August board meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

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NARD REPORT

Reynold's reported about the NRD's 2026 Basin Tour. Reynolds said the east part of the tour, which is primarily the diversion point for Central and then on through their supply canals and a couple of the points in the rest of the public power district, Lake Maloney and the power station at North Platte was very interesting. Perkins County Canal was a big topic for discussion as well.

NARD 457 Deferred Compensation In-Plan Roth Amendment – Little presented NARD 457 Deferred Compensation In-Plan Roth Amendment for approval.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Stade, to approve NARD 457 Deferred Compensation In-Plan Roth Amendment for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

IWMS Report: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing to report

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Nothing to report

MONTHLY REPORTS

Platte Basin: Little reported that the board had asked him to start looking for augmentation well locations in Gosper County. He called Twin Valley Public Power. We would have to build a three-phase line up to the PRD pasture. It's about \$15 per foot to get up there and we need almost 6 miles of power line. That's \$80,000 a mile to build it. In Dawson PPD territory there's a little bit of expansion we could do up there, maybe put another well in. Otherwise, we are really limited on electrical submersible well location options in that area. Thorburn and Little will do some more looking.

Republican Basin:

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:

North Dry Creek: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Odessa IPA: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Sacramento Creek: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Fort Kearny: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Fort Kearny West: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

South Dry Creek: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Whiskey Slough: Spraying weeds and cutting grass

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Nothing to report

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

CNPPID Report: No one available

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule Board Budget Work Session- Little suggested scheduling a board budget work session on July 22, 2026.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan, to schedule budget work session in the morning and regular board meeting in the afternoon. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve going into executive session for personnel matters at 2:49 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

Grimes left at 3:22 pm

Moved by Grams, seconded by Larson, to move out of the Executive Session for personnel matters at 3:31 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Lundeen

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 22, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at Tri-Basin Natural Resource District, Holdrege, NE.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:31 pm

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Cammie Kerner, Dalton Refior, Rodney Hanson, Liz Bohlken, Caty Kaczmarek, Reed McClymont, Rob McCormick

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 & Kathryn 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.

