

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, July 22, 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 Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to accept the meeting agenda for the July 22, 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 June 25, 2026, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the June 25, 2026 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Thorburn presented the minutes of July 14, 2026, Executive Committee meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2026 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of June 30, 2026, as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$240,394.83
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$101,541.59
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$248,268.02
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$168,756.36
Main Checking- June 30, 2026-----	\$1,028,780.55
Accounts Receivable – June 30, 2026-----	\$8360.930
Vehicle Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – June 30, 2026-----	\$81,634.58
Building Sinking Fund – June 30, 2026-----	\$89,186.64

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Water Resources Fund – June 30, 2026-----	\$136,860.65
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – June 30, 2026-----	\$11,991.35
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – June 30, 2026-----	\$15,690.51
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – June 30, 2026-----	\$13,578.14
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – June 30, 2026-----	\$10,999.15
Sacramento Creek Balance ---June 30, 2026-----	\$8,547.98
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – June 30, 2026-----	\$11,426.97
Water Jamboree – June 30, 2026-----	\$2,706.12
Odessa IPA – June 30, 2026-----	\$21,118.47

Moved by Grams, seconded by Grimes to accept the June 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and Attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Philips to accept the VISA and Attorney bills 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:

Activity and Progress Report: Adam reported that EQIP is basically wrapping up with the state and local funds. NRCS could get a few more in between now and September. For CSP, NRCS is in obligation right now. So, turning those applications into contracts. We should be done and the due date is July 31 for those to be obligated. We are working on CRP and most of them are in Gosper County. We have wrapped up with all the field work for status reviews. Correspondence and letters will go out and those will be wrapped up.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

Moved by Larson, seconded by Stade to approve the two 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 – Nothing to approve

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Nothing to approve

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Brundage with CNPPID handed out the latest flyer produced for the Kingsley Dam project and spoke to the board about it. The board of consultants has convened on the Kingsley Dam refacing project. Three members appointed and approved by FERC to review the design from RJH and work that they have done to date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Schedule Public Hearing on FY2026-27 Budget- Thorburn explained the board will be approving the budget for presentation in a public hearing and they will have one more chance to change it if you decide to.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to approve the budget for presentation in a public hearing for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

NARD 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Roth Amendment – Thorburn presented NARD 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Roth Amendment for approval.

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

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

NARD REPORT

Reynolds reminded the board that, for a second consecutive year, that there was no increase in health insurance rates in the NARD insurance pool.

IWMS Report: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Committee discussed the NSWCP cost share with the state money being tied up and the committee recommends that the NRD commits to paying these but given the uncertainty related to the lawsuit we are not going to pay these immediately. The committee recommends that we send a

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letter to landowners, explain the situation, explain that we are committing to pay approved cost-share claims but that we are going to ask them to allow us a period of time to see if the lawsuit can be resolved.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade, to approve the Executive Committees recommendation to commit to pay approved NSWCP applications with local funds, if necessary. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Nothing to report

MONTHLY REPORTS

Platte Basin:

Republican Basin: Compact Meeting August 28 in McCook

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: Dicke reported that Central is having their power plants evaluated for structural repair. Irrigation demand has been high. McConaughy is at 31%. Inflows are 116 cfs, outflows are 2,800 cfs. Central hired a construction manager at risk which is the design component was at 50%. They brought in the construction manager to look at bringing the design to final, so that constructability is figured into that design.

NEW BUSINESS

The board addressed the NSWCP funding suspension during committee reports.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Directors expressed neither comments nor concerns

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve going into executive session for legal matters at 2:08 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes, to move out of the Executive Session for legal matters at 2:30 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, August 19, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at UNK Engagement Center- Kearney NE

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Levi Adam, Dalton Refior, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Scott Dicke, Devin Brundage

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
July 22, 2026

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2026-07-22-01	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to accept the meeting agenda for the July 22, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2026-07-22-02	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the July 14, 2026 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-03	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Grams, seconded by Grimes to accept the June 2026 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-04	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Philips to accept the VISA and Attorney bills for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-05	District Plan & Programs		13			Moved by Larson, seconded by Stade to approve the two well decommissioning cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-06	Budget		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to approve the budget for presentation in a public hearing for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-07	District Plan & Programs		13			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Stade, to approve NARD 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Roth Amendment for approval. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-08	District Plan & Programs		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Stade, to approve the Executive Committees recommendation to commit to pay approved NSWCP applications with local funds, if necessary. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-09	District Plan & Programs		13			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve going into executive session for legal matters at 2:08 p.m. Motion carried.
	2026-07-22-10	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes, to move out of the Executive Session for legal matters at 2:30 p.m. Motion carried.

