

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Thursday, August 20, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
Younes Conference Center- South
Kearney, NE

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman, Todd Garrelts at 10:30 a.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, Hinrichs, 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

No absences to excuse

MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to accept the meeting agenda for the August 20, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Philips, Raffety

MINUTES

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

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

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Reynolds

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Ryan

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Philips, Raffety

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Thorburn presented the financial report for the month of July 2025 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$289,022.49
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$44,972.62
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$293,587.35
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$50,682.99
Main Checking- July 31, 2025.....	\$338,223.60
Accounts Receivable – July 31, 2025.....	\$43,396.21
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – July 31, 2025.....	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – July 31, 2025.....	\$3,957.87
Vehicle Sinking Fund – July 31, 2025.....	\$56,378.62
Water Resources Fund – July 31, 2025.....	\$10,176.52
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – July 31, 2025.....	\$7,077.77
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – July 31, 2025.....	\$11,013.47
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2025.....	\$11,013.47
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – July 31, 2025.....	\$10,808.02
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2025.....	\$7,161.70
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2025.....	\$10,004.01
Water Jamboree – July 31, 2025.....	\$5,899.98

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Odessa IPA – July 31, 2025-----	\$20,774.51
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – July 31, 2025-----	\$0

Moved by Grams, seconded by Reynolds to accept the July 2025 Financial Report, subject to review of North Dry Creek IPA account and Accounts Receivables and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Cammie Kerner reported they have 240 contracts they will certify payments on and that will happen in November. They are waiting on a new farm bill to be introduced. Tami finished her last treatment. Mike and Ruth's daughter was in a car accident and is in Kansas City.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented one Well Decommissioning cost-share application for approval.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grams, to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share application for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, , Raffety

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented one NSWCP Flow Meter application for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve one NSWCP Flow Meter application for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Nothing to report

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

OTHER BUSINESS

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The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the board for comment or discussion.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Thorburn presented the FY 2025-26 Budget for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the FY 2025-26 budget for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

NARD REPORT

NARD Annual Conference is in Kearney on Sept. 29 & 30, 2025

NARD Report: The board voted Reynolds as the NARD delegate and Raffety as the Alternate.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve Reynolds as the NARD delegate and Raffety as the Alternate for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing to report.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Nothing to report

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: RRCA Annual Meeting August 28 in Concordia KS

Platte Basin: Supplemental to Surface Water Well Data presented by Thorburn & Little

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report

North Dry Creek: Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

Odessa IPA: Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

Sacramento Creek: Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

Fort Kearny: Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

Fort Kearny West: Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

South Dry Creek: Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

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Whiskey Slough: Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Conservation Outcomes Tour with legislative staff went well.

Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation: Met w/NDWEE – Need additional planning for invasive species

CNPID Report: McConaughy is at 43%, Gov Pillen declared Aug 19 as “Nebraska Hydropower Day”

NEW BUSINESS

Thorburn suggested the board set the Levy hearing for September 17, 2025 during the normal board meeting.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes, to approve **the levy hearing for September 17, 2025 at regular board meeting** for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Raffety

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, September 17, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at Tri-Basin Natural Resource District, Holdrege, NE.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Cammie Kerner Dalton Riefor, Nolan Little, Dudley Nelson, Dave Nelson, Chris Erickson, Reed McClymont Nicole Simeon

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
August 20, 2025

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2025-08-20-01	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to accept the meeting agenda for the August 20, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2025-08-20-02	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Reynolds seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes for the July 16, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-08-20-03	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Grams, seconded by Reynolds to accept the July 2025 Financial Report, subject to review of North Dry Creek IPA account and Accounts Receivables and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2025-08-20-04	Budget		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2025-08-20-05	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grams, to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share application for approval. Motion carried.
	2025-08-20-06	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve one NSWCP Flow Meter application for approval. Motion carried.

