

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 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 13 directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Raffety, 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 September 17, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of August 20, 2025, Work Session meeting.

Moved by Bilka seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the August 20, 2025, Work Session meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundein, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom, Harris, Larson, Philips, Raffety

ABSENT:

Thorburn presented the minutes of August 20, 2025, Board of Directors meeting and NRD FY 2025-26 budget hearing. Harris noted that he missed the meeting but was indicated as "present".

Moved by Bilka seconded by Grams, to approve the minutes for the August 20, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting as corrected. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom, Harris, Larson, Raffety

ABSENT:

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$156,313.97
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$30,488.50
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$176,879.35
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$116,514.94
Main Checking- August 31, 2025-----	\$118,890.08

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Accounts Receivable – August 31, 2025-----	\$88,316.51
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – August 31, 2025-----	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – August 31, 2025-----	\$87,475.87
Vehicle Sinking Fund – August 31, 2025-----	\$80,383.72
Water Resources Fund – August 31, 2025-----	\$135,156.52
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – August 31, 2025-----	\$7,077.77
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – August 31, 2025-----	\$12,645.68
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2025-----	\$11,245.22
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – August 31, 2025-----	\$10,829.74
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2025-----	\$9,020.58
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2025-----	\$10,027.52
Water Jamboree – August 31, 2025-----	\$3,964.29
Odessa IPA – August 31, 2025-----	\$20,815.99
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – August 31, 2025-----	\$0

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson to accept the August 2025 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

#### SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

#### NRCS REPORT

**FSA Farm Plans:** Kerner stated that NRD board approval of NRCS Conservation Plans is no longer required. The TBNRD board decided not to vote on them any longer. NRD staff review of conservation plans will continue and plans will be provided to NRD directors for their information.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to discontinue routinely voting on NRCS HEL Conservation Plans.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**Activity and Progress Report:** Kerner reported there are rule changes to EQIP for current contracts. They cannot be renewed; however, producers can reapply without a waiting period. Statement of Work document is in review by Thorburn. This describes the work done by NRCS in cooperation with the NRD. Next month the board will be asked to vote to approve it.

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**COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Decommissioning** – Nothing to approve

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Nothing to approve

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

Nothing to report

**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**

After the conclusion of the public hearing on the NRD levy Thorburn presented the FY 2025-26 Property Tax Levy for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the FY 2025-26 property tax levy for approval.  
Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**NARD REPORT**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Nothing to report.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

Nothing to report

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Rep. Basin Caucus, Tues. Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:45 a.m. at NARD Ann. Conf.

**Platte Basin:** Nothing to report

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Nothing to report.

**North Dry Creek:** Final Drone Spraying for broadleaf

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**Odessa IPA:** Refior reported that drone spray in ditch bottoms in several IPA's didn't work. Will hire someone else to spray. Finishing shredding, will spray for Canada thistle and then Phragmites.

**Sacramento Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Fort Kearny:** Nothing to report.

**Fort Kearny West:** Nothing to report.

**South Dry Creek:** Nothing to report.

**Whiskey Slough:** Nothing to report.

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

**Lake Seldom:** Nothing to report.

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

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** Rainwater Basin Conservation Day is Sept. 18. RWBJV Board Meeting is Sept. 23, at Upper Big Blue NRD in York.

**Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation:** Kuck moved cattle off Sept. 7. Refior calculated 233.5 AUM for the year, a third higher than previous years. This is the result of cross-fencing, additional water supplies and improved pasture health after the prescribed burn.

**CNPPID Report:** Dicke reported Platte excess flows diverted through E65 to Victor & Cottonwood, possibly to Linder. Water diversions can now be seen on the "Colors of Water" page on their website. McConaughy is at 41.2% capacity, 718,700 acre-feet. They are currently releasing 1000 cfs.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Thorburn reported to the board that they need to appoint three new stakeholders in the Platte Basin. The board recommended postponing until next month so they can talk to people. They will send their suggestions to John over the next month.

Thorburn suggested that with the changes with Holdrege Citizen that it is advisable to select a second newspaper of record. Thorburn suggested the Minden Courier.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Minden Courier as an additional Newspaper of Record for approval. Motion carried.

**AYE:** Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

**NAY:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ABSENT:**

Garrelts suggested moving back the October board meeting due to harvest. It was suggested to move it to October 22, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to approve the board meeting back to October 22, 2025 at 7:30 pm for approval. Motion carried.

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AYE: Bergstrom, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundein, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY: Bilka, Garrelts

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Nothing to report

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

Thorburn asked for a executive session to discuss a potential lawsuit.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at Tri-Basin Natural Resource District, Holdrege, NE.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundein, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Cammie Kerner Dalton Riefor, Nolan Little, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Nicole Simeon

Respectfully Submitted:

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Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

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

<b>ID</b>	<b>Motion #</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Motion</b>
	2025-09-17-01	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to accept the meeting agenda for the August 20, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2025-09-17-02	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.
	2025-09-17-03	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.
	2025-09-17-04	Budget		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2025-09-17-05	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grams, to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share application for approval. Motion carried.
	2025-09-17-06	District Plan & Programs		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve one NSWCP Flow Meter application for approval. Motion carried.

