

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, November 19, 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 12 directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, 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 Reynolds, seconded by Harris to accept the meeting agenda for the November 19, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grimes

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of October 22, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Reynolds seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the October 22, 2025 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grams, Garrelts, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Harris, Larson

ABSENT: Grimes

Thorburn presented the minutes of November 10, 2025 Executive Committee meeting.

Moved by Larson seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY :

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grimes

Thorburn presented the minutes of November 10, 2025 Planning Committee meeting.

Moved by Lundeen seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2025 Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY :

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grimes

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$155,315.13
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$133,274.12
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$178,539.34
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$179,177.75
Main Checking- October 31, 2025-----	\$352,951.59
Accounts Receivable – October 31, 2025-----	\$77,307.55
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – October 31, 2025-----	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – October 31, 2025-----	\$87,814.47
Water Resources Fund – October 31, 2025-----	\$135,717.25
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – October 31, 2025-----	\$8,128.58
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – October 31, 2025-----	\$13,109.91
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2025-----	\$12,089.26
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – October 31, 2025-----	\$10,873.53
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2025-----	\$10,246.79
Water Jamboree – October 31, 2025-----	\$3,987.46
Odessa IPA – October 31, 2025-----	\$20,899.63
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – October 31, 2025-----	\$0

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

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

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

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: Nothing to report

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported they are back open and software has finally been updated. Now that the update has been completed, they can start making payments and working on everything we have at hand right now. With the government shutdown, they are going to change our application deadline from November 20th to January.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Nothing to approve

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Nothing to approve

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfer: Thorburn presented two groundwater transfer requests applications for Harold Smith and C.O. and S. Inc. for approval.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Larson to approve two groundwater transfer requests applications for Harold Smith and C.O. and S. Inc. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

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

Select new director for Subdistrict #6: The Executive Committee recommended Andrew Stade to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict #6. The board voted unanimously to approve their recommendation of him as the new director. We were fortunate to have three good candidates for the position.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve Andrew Stade to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict #6. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT

NARD REPORT

NARD Legislative Conference January 27-28, 2026. Managers and Directors are encouraged to attend the NARD Washington D.C. Conference, March 28 - April 1, 2026, to support funding for Kingsley Dam's needed repairs and the cost effectiveness of the conference.

Thorburn presented the Amended retirement plan resolution to the board for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes to approve the amended NARD retirement plan resolution for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive committee: Met to review candidates on 11/10 and again on 11/19 to interview for the open seat.

Planning Committee: Met and discussed potential rule changes for Large Industrial Water Users, well spacing for domestic wells and WCIP options. The Planning Committee recommended to the board to set a 300 ft setback distance for domestic wells.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Larson to approve the recommendation of the 300 ft setback for domestic wells. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Nothing to report

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: Basin-Wide Plan Annual Meeting is November 20, 2025

Platte Basin: PRRIP Advisory Meeting was October 28, 2025

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Joint IMP Annual Meeting is November 12, 2025

North Dry Creek: Cutting trees

Odessa IPA: Nothing to report

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: Ag Industry Symposium January 8, 2025, in Holdrege

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

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

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CNPPID Report: Lake McConaughy 46.6% capacity, Elevation 3226. CNPPID is performing off season maintenance on the system.

Gosper County has put a bridge at Johnson Lake out of service. Phelps County is doing work at 13,4 on the Phelps Canal this year, which will prevent excess flows from being delivered to Funk or Johnson WPA's.

NEW BUSINESS

Agreement with NEDWEE on gage cameras in Platte Basin: Thorburn mentioned that NEMA had contacted him about funds for putting stream gage cameras at Shelton and Odessa.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve the stream gage cameras maintenance agreement with NDWEE. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Agreement with LRNRD on augmentation well operation: Thorburn presented a one-year agreement with LRNRD for operation of TBNRD's existing augmentation well for their benefit as 2026 will be a water short year.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the one-year agreement with LRNRD for operation of TBNRD's existing augmentation well as revised. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Nothing to report

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 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 2:42 pm

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Cammie Kerner, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Dana Christensen, Amanda Mackin, Harold Smith, Colby Emal

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
November 19, 2025

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2025-11-19-01	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris to accept the meeting agenda for the November 19, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2025-11-19-02	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Reynolds seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the October 22, 2025 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-03	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Larson seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-04	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Lundeen seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the November 10, 2025 Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-05	Budget		12			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bergstrom to accept the October 2025 Financial Report and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-06	Budget		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-07	District Plan & Programs		12			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Larson to approve two groundwater transfer requests applications for Harold Smith and C.O. and S. Inc. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-08	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve Andrew Stade to fill the vacancy in Subdistrict #6. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-09	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes to approve the amended NARD retirement plan resolution for approval. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-10	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Larson to approve the recommendation of the 300 ft setback for domestic wells. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-11	District Plan & Programs		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve the stream gage cameras maintenance agreement with NDWEE. Motion carried.
	2025-11-19-12	District Plan & Programs		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the one-year agreement with LRNRD for operation of TBNRD's existing augmentation well as revised. Motion carried.

