

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 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, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, 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 December 17, 2025

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 November 19, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Ryan seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2025 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Stade

ABSENT:

Thorburn presented the minutes of November 19, 2025, Executive Committee meeting.

Moved by Larson seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the November 19, 2025 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN: Stade

ABSENT:

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$99,703.60
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$2,238.51
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$103,405.17
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$2,168.34
Main Checking- November 30, 2025-----	\$251,714.76

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Accounts Receivable – November 30, 2025-----	\$80.25
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – November 30, 2025-----	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – November 30, 2025-----	\$87,814.47
Water Resources Fund – November 30, 2025-----	\$135,717.25
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – November 30, 2025-----	\$8,140.21
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – November 30, 2025-----	\$13,144.69
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2025-----	\$12,108.32
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – November 30, 2025-----	\$10,890.41
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – November 30, 2025-----	\$10,265.78
Water Jamboree – November 30, 2025-----	\$3,996.39
Odessa IPA – November 30, 2025-----	\$20,931.86

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson to accept the November 2025 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 Grams, seconded by Lundeen to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: Nothing to report

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported they have been trying to take care of their CSP payments. In the middle of January, they will have their programs training. February 20th is the deadline to have all the EQIP applications processed.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Ryan, to approve 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 – Thorburn presented two NSWCP cost-share applications for approval.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson, to approve two NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfer: Thorburn presented eleven certified irrigated acre transfer requests applications for approval.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Larson to approve eleven certified irrigated acre transfer requests applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Thorburn proposed two irrigation well permit variance requests for approval.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan to approve two well permit variance requests applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

Thorburn proposed five wells that owners would like to convert from irrigation to stock wells, rather than decommission.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Larson to approve five wells that owners would like to convert from irrigation to stock wells, rather than decommission, for approval. Motion carried.

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

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.

Jeff Hofaker, the new director of the Phelps County Development Corporation, introduced himself to the board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Thorburn proposed that the board schedule a Public Hearing 2/4/2025 for Revised Republican Basin IMP.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Hinrichs to approve scheduling a Public Hearing 2/4/2026 for Revised Republican Basin IMP Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT

NARD REPORT

Select delegate and alternate for NARD Legislative Conference: The board selected Larry Reynolds as the Delegate and David Grimes as the Alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to approve the selection of Larry Reynolds as the Delegate and David Grimes as the Alternate for the NARD Legislative Conference. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT

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 to help with the cost effectiveness of the conference.

Thorburn presented the Amended NARD 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, Stade

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing to report.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Nothing to report

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: Basin- Pumping the Holen augmentation well to help meet LRNRD "Compact Call Year" requirements

Platte Basin:

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:

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

CNPPID Report: The board voted to raise irrigation rates 2.5% for 2026. The new base rate will be \$44.96. Lake McConaughy is at 3227 ft. Inflows are 1000 cfs and releases are at 230 cfs. Continuing repairs and maintenance on the system.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing to report

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Nothing to report

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 2:30 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, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds, Ryan, Stade

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OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Nolan Little, Nicole Simeon, Cammie Kerner, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Dana Christensen, Brad Lundeen, Shawn Woollen, Chad Nitchie, Alex Carlson, Nick Simonson, Jeff Hofaker, Cal Dahlgren

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.

