

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 13, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman, Todd Garrelts at 1:32 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law is available upon request.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with twelve directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan. Bergstrom was absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Valley Voice and Minden Courier and announced on radio station KRVN, Lexington.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the May 14, 2024, Board of Directors meeting. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the minutes for the May 14, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Harris, Larson and Philips

ABSENT: Bergstrom

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of May 2024 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$113,335.96
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$429,572.01
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$116,035.44
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$429,361.92
Main Checking-May 31, 2024.....	\$390,139.76
Accounts Receivable – May 31, 2024.....	\$79,013.25
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – May 31, 2024.....	\$158,500.00
Building Sinking Fund – May 31, 2024.....	\$30,044.65
Vehicle Sinking Fund – May 31, 2024.....	\$59,266.81
Water Resources Fund – May 31, 2024.....	\$204,152.62
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – May 31, 2024.....	\$20,658.22
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – May 31, 2024.....	\$10,503.50
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – May 31, 2024.....	\$8,586.99
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – May 31, 2024.....	\$10,693.24
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – May 31, 2024.....	\$2,681.79
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – May 31, 2024.....	\$9,390.98
Water Jamboree – May 31, 2024.....	\$4,422.58
Odessa IPA – May 31, 2024.....	\$20,276.62
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – May 31, 2024.....	\$2,891.73

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to accept the May 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom

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SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA bill for approval. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Larson, to approve the Visa bill. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Cammie Kerner reported staff is working on CSP, raking/assessing EQIP and introduced Kiley Rico, Juan Garza and Jenny Eigenberger as the summer interns.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – There were no well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve.

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented two NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to approve two NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – There were no transfers to approve.

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. Thorburn introduced Megan TenBensel and Hailey Fuqua (Summer Interns), Jane Crofton (Summer Chemigation Technician) and Carolyn Schaaf (Elwood Field Office Secretary).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Spring Groundwater Levels Update - Little: Nolan Little presented data on spring groundwater levels which were generally lower across the district particularly in eastern Kearney County. Little mentioned Eaton Township crossed the groundwater management threshold for Phase II. Grimes asked that the presentation be uploaded to Dropbox.

2024 Tree Planting Season Report - Munter: Munter reported on the 2024 tree planting season which was up from the previous year in tree volume. Munter said the new tree cooler worked well.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Reynolds reported on the Basin tour, no increase in health and dental insurance and proposed retirement increase effective January 1, 2025.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Schedule Projects & Construction Committee Meeting: Thorburn mentioned that the Projects & Construction Committee would approve the cost-share percentages for FY 2024-2025, but the board could set the percentages. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to set the NSWCP cost-share application category percentages at 10% for Erosion, 70% for Water and 20% for Range. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom

Schedule Executive Committee Meeting: The Executive Committee will meet on July 9, 2024, at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the budget. The meeting will be advertised so more directors can attend.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Thorburn explained that state statutes require directors to fill out an accountability and disclosure form. The form was handed out to directors. Signed forms will be kept on file at TBNRD.

Out-of-State Travel: There was no out-of-state travel to approve.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: Discussed in previous agenda item.

Platte Basin: Annual Platte Basin Coalition meeting is August 1, 2024.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: TBNRD July agenda will include scheduling a public hearing in September 2024 for phase II groundwater management designation in Eaton Township.

North Dry Creek: Staff has been shredding and spraying.

Odessa IPA: Staff has been shredding and spraying.

Sacramento Creek: Staff has been shredding and spraying.

Fort Kearny: Staff has been shredding and spraying.

Fort Kearny West: Staff has been shredding and spraying.

South Dry Creek: Staff has been shredding and spraying.

Whiskey Slough: Staff has been shredding and spraying.

Middle Lost Creek: Staff has been shredding and spraying.

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 Well: Nothing new to report.

CNPPID Report: Dicke reported Elwood Reservoir repairs are on-going. Dicke invited TBNRD on the CNPPID tour and offered accommodations.

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss TBNRD August Tour: There was discussion about incorporating the CNPPID tour into the August Board of Director's Tour.

Schedule Budget Workshop: Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to schedule a Budget workshop for July 18, 2024, at 10:30 am. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom

ZOOM Option for July Board Meeting: No Zoom meeting for July 2024.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Larson, seconded by Grams to move to Executive Session to discuss contractual issues for the protection of the public at 2:26 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs to move out of the Executive Session to discuss contractual issues for the protection of the public at 2:45 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

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DIRECTORS PRESENT

Joe Bilka, Todd Garrelts, Joel Grams, Ed Harris, David Grimes, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Reed Philips, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds and Jeff Ryan.

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nate Munter, Kiley Rico, Jenny Eichenberger, Juan Garza, Jane Crofton, Megan TenBensel, Hailey Fuqua, Terry Sorensen, Carolyn Schaaf, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Cammie Kerner, Scott Dicke, and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 June 13, 2024

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-06-13-01	Meeting Administration		9		3	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the minutes for the May 14, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-06-13-02	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to accept the May 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-06-13-03	Budget		12			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Larson, to approve the Visa bill. Motion carried.
	2024-06-13-04	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to approve two NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2024-06-13-05	District Plans & Programs	Cost-Share %	12			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to set the NSWCP cost-share application category percentages at 10% for Erosion, 70% for Water and 20% for Range. Motion carried.
	2024-06-13-06	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to schedule a Budget workshop for July 18, 2024, at 10:30 am. Motion carried.
	2024-06-13-07	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Larson, seconded by Grams to move to Executive Session to discuss contractual issues for the protection of the public at 2:26 p.m. Motion carried.
	2024-06-13-08	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs to move out of the Executive Session to discuss contractual issues for the protection of the public at 2:45 p.m. Motion carried.