

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 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 1:30 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with seven directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen. Grimes arrived at 1:36 p.m. Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Valley Voice and Minden Courier and announced on radio station KRVN, Lexington.

EXCUSE ABSENCES

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the May 9, 2023, Board of Directors meeting and May 31, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the May 9, 2023 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the May 31, 2023 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bilka presented the financial report for the month of May 2023 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$120,984.58
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$305,298.14
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$199,874.70
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$308,786.12
Bank Balance—May 31, 2023.....	\$193,547.50
Accounts Receivable – May 31, 2023.....	\$61,852.95
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – May 31, 2023.....	\$14,905.20
Building Sinking Fund – May 31, 2023.....	\$169,716.85
Vehicle Sinking Fund – May 31, 2023.....	\$71,766.53
Water Resources Fund – May 31, 2023.....	\$444,495.66
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – May 31, 2023.....	\$15,273.81
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – May 31, 2023.....	\$8,528.27
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – May 31, 2023.....	\$6,680.21
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – May 31, 2023.....	\$10,676.17
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – May 31, 2023.....	\$2,150.02
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – May 31, 2023.....	\$7,519.62
Water Jamboree – May 31, 2023.....	\$4,593.53
NR MDMA – May 31, 2023.....	\$7,637.93
Odessa IPA – May 31, 2023.....	\$20,035.84
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – May 31, 2023.....	\$7,581.81

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grams, to accept the May 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no farm plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Levi Adam reported staff has been working on CSP, FSA status reviews and EQIP. He introduced a summer intern, Ellie Norlen.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented four well decommissioning applications for approval. Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris to approve four well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented one NSWCP application for approval. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to approve one NSWCP cost-share application. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented three groundwater transfer requests for Kreutzer.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve three groundwater transfer requests for Kreutzer. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

Educational Land Leases – There were no educational land leases to approve.

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 Jefferson Delegates as the summer intern.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Spring 2023 Groundwater Levels (Little): Little reported on Spring groundwater levels and Phase II Management triggers for several townships.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Lynch reported a zero percent increase in health insurance rates for FY 2023-2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: Thorburn reviewed the minutes from the Executive Committee meeting. There was discussion about funding the deliveries and easements through the Platte River Recovery Fund. Thorburn mentioned he received an updated lease agreement from legal. Moved by Larson, seconded by Grimes to accept the Executive Committee recommendations to 1. Approve of out-of-state travel for Thorburn to go to Cheyenne Wyoming for a PRRIP Governance Committee Meeting on June 13 & 14, 2023 and 2. To send letters (including the Water Recharge Lease Agreement) to landowners rated with a “1” or “2” value on their recharge pit with a compensation of \$1,000. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

Schedule Executive Committee Budget Meeting: An Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the FY 2023-2024 Budget.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: There were no staff directives.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: The PRD board will meet July 6, 2023, at 2 p.m. in Alma. A water short designation was avoided this year.

Platte Basin: Drought Task Force meeting will be held on June 27, 2023 in Ogallala, NE. Thorburn reported on the Platte River Recovery meeting in Wyoming.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report.

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.

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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: TBNRD will be requesting to use the Platte Basin Coalition funds for the NetRecharge tool.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Nothing to report.

Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well: Supreme Court will hear appeals of the objectors on the PRD on August 29, 2023.

CNPPID Report: Steinke reported the CNPPID recently provided 9,000 acre feet of recharge recently and Lake McConaughy is at 54.8% of capacity.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorize Manager to Open a Line of Credit to Cover Operating Expenses: Thorburn explained that in July and August there could be a cash shortfall. He asked the board to allow him to open a line of credit, if needed. The rate would be two percent under prime. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to allow Thorburn to open a line of credit, up to \$200,000 for a two-year term. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

Set Date for Board Budget Session: Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs to hold a FY 2023-2024 Budget Workshop on July 19, 2023, at 9 a.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

Assign Expenditures to Water Resources Sinking Fund: Thorburn explained two bills for the PRRIP were paid this fiscal year, but PRRIP funded the bills in the previous budget year. The remaining PRRIP funds should have been put into a sinking fund to pay the remaining bills. Thorburn is asking to re-assign the PRRIP bills to the Water Resources Sinking fund to provide needed checking funding. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to allow staff to assign the Downey and J&G Dirtworks invoices billed during FY 2022-2023 to the Water Resources Sinking Fund, if necessary. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

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Platte Basin Coalition Agreement Extension: Moved by Larson, seconded by Hinrichs to approve the Platte Basin Coalition Agreement Extension. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 2:24 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris to move out of the Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 2:51 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Joe Bilka, Todd Garrelts, Joel Grams, David Grimes, Ed Harris, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson and Brad Lundeen

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nate Munter, Jefferson Delegates, Ellie Norlen, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Levi Adam, Cory Steinke and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 June 20, 2023

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2023-06-20-01	Meeting Administration		7			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the May 9, 2023 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the May 31, 2023 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2023-06-20-03	Meeting Administration		8			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grams, to accept the May 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-04	Budget		8			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-05	Meeting Administration		8			Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris to approve four well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-06	Meeting Administration		8			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to approve one NSWCP cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-07	Certification & Transfers	Kreutzer	8			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to approve three groundwater transfer requests for Kreutzer. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-08	Agreements	Water Recharge Lease Agreements	8			Moved by Larson, seconded by Grimes to accept the Executive Committee recommendations to 1. Approve of out-of-state travel for Thorburn to go to Cheyenne Wyoming for a PRRIP Governance Committee Meeting on June 13 & 14, 2023 and 2. To send letters (including the Water Recharge Lease Agreement) to landowners rated with a "1" or "2" value on their recharge pit with a compensation of \$1,000. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-09	Budget		8			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to allow Thorburn to open a line of credit, up to \$200,000 for a two-year term. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-10	Meeting Administration		8			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs to hold a FY 2023-2024 Budget Workshop on July 19, 2023, at 9 a.m. Motion carried.

	2023-06-20-11	Budget		8			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes to allow staff to assign the Downey and J&G Dirtworks invoices billed during FY 2022-2023 to the Water Resources Sinking Fund, if necessary. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-12	Agreements	Platte Basin Coalition	8			Moved by Larson, seconded by Hinrichs to approve the Platte Basin Coalition Agreement Extension. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-13	Meeting Administration		8			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 2:24 p.m. Motion carried.
	2023-06-20-14	Meeting Administration		8			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris to move out of the Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 2:51 p.m. Motion carried.