

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 7:30 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 7:30 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law is available upon request.

ROLL CALL

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

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the September 12, 2023, Board of Directors meeting and Budget Hearing, September 12, 2023, and September 20, 2023, Executive Committee meetings. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the September 12, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting and Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the September 12, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the September 20, 2023 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of September 2023 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$98,113.49
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$224,147.51
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$120,539.11
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$438,977.16
Bank Balance–September 30, 2023.....	\$400,969.92
Accounts Receivable – September 30, 2023.....	\$5,126.94
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – September 30, 2023.....	\$14,916.48
Building Sinking Fund – September 30, 2023.....	\$104,638.03
Vehicle Sinking Fund – September 30, 2023.....	\$51,426.00
Water Resources Fund – September 30, 2023.....	\$201,472.35
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – September 30, 2023.....	\$16,800.37
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – September 30, 2023.....	\$9,006.41
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2023.....	\$7,158.08
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – September 30, 2023.....	\$10,676.52
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2023.....	\$1,699.64
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2023.....	\$7,980.01
Water Jamboree – September 30, 2023.....	\$4,345.09
NRMDA – September 30, 2023.....	\$7,638.17
Odessa IPA – September 30, 2023.....	\$20,136.50
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – September 30, 2023.....	\$5,126.94

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Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen, to accept the September 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

SPECIAL BILLS

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

NRCS REPORT

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

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner reported on new state staff, the Inflation Reduction Act and related funding, state outreach and local staffing.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented two WCIP applications for Lois Gardels. Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Lundeen, to approve two WCIP applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

FY 2022-2023 District Audit Report: Kyle Overturf, AMGL, gave the FY 2022-2023 Audit Report. There were no significant findings. Lynch will file the audit with the State of Nebraska Auditor electronically. Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the FY 2022-2023 District Audit Report and file with the State of Nebraska. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

NARD REPORT

USDA Civil Rights Policy - Kerner: Kerner reported that she and Thorburn reviewed the MOA between USDA/NRCS and TBNRD. She also reported on Civil Rights Training for staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee Reports: Action taken by the Executive Committee was already approved by the board.

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 Republican Basin Forecast meeting will be held at TBNRD on November 15, 2023.

Platte Basin: Nothing to report.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: The basin-wide meeting was held on September 22, 2023, in Davenport.

North Dry Creek: Staff has been removing trees and phragmites.

Odessa IPA: Staff has been removing trees and phragmites.

Sacramento Creek: Staff has been removing trees and phragmites.

Fort Kearny: Staff has been removing trees and phragmites.

Fort Kearny West: Staff has been removing trees and phragmites.

South Dry Creek: Staff has been removing trees and phragmites.

Whiskey Slough: Staff has been removing trees and phragmites.

Middle Lost Creek: Staff has been removing trees and phragmites.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

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Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Meeting will be held October 17, 2023.

Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well: The Nebraska Supreme Court gave a favorable ruling for the PRD Project. A water right and easements are needed before construction can begin.

CNPPID Report: Dicke reported the Elwood Reservoir project is still underway and that the PRD Water Services Agreement should be reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS

Change Official Depository/Primary Bank: Thorburn explained that a 7-month Sinking Fund CD was purchased at Bruning Bank for \$210,000. While reviewing CD interest rates, checking/savings rates were examined. Bruning Bank has a significantly higher rate than the current bank. Reynolds commented on the importance of keeping business local. Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grams, to change the official depository/primary bank to Bruning Bank. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: Reynolds and Garrelts

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Lundeen commented that nitrogen data from demonstration plots and TAPS should be included in the Nitrogen Certification Classes. Reynolds commented on a news article about irrigation shutdown in Arizona.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Reynolds to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds to move out of the Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds to change the time of the November 14, 2023, Board Meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Garrelts, Grams, Harris, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: Bergstrom, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: Bilka and Larson

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Todd Garrelts, Joel Grams, David Grimes, Ed Harris, Rob Hinrichs, Brad Lundeen, Reed Philips, David Raffety, Larry Reynolds and Jeff Ryan.

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Kyle Overturf, Nolan Little, Nate Munter, Cammie Kerner and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
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ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2023-10-10-01	Meeting Administration		10		1	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the September 12, 2023, Regular Board of Directors meeting and Budget Hearing. Motion carried.
	2023-10-10-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the September 12, 2023, Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2023-10-10-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan to approve the minutes for the September 20, 2023 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2023-10-10-04	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen, to accept the September 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2023-10-10-05	Budget		11			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2023-10-10-06	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Grams, to approve four NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-10-10-07	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Lundeen, to approve two WCIP applications. Motion carried.
	2023-10-10-08	Budget	Approve audit	11			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the FY 2022-2023 District Audit Report and file with the State of Nebraska. Motion carried.
	2023-10-10-09	Budget	Bruning Bank	9	2		Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grams, to change the official depository/primary bank to Bruning Bank. Motion carried.
	2023-10-10-10	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Reynolds to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried.
	2023-10-10-11	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds to move out of the Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried.

	2023-10-10-12	Meeting Administration					Moved by Grimes, seconded by Reynolds to change the time of the November 14, 2023, Board Meeting from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.
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