

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 21, 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 Vice Chairman, Joe Bilka at 1:31 p.m. Bilka noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with nine directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Ryan and Reynolds. 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 January 10, 2023, Board of Directors meetings, February 8, 2023, Special Board Meeting, February 17, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting and January 18, 2023, Projects & Construction Committee Meeting. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the minutes for the January 10, 2023 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

Moved by Larson, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the February 8, 2023, Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

Moved by Harris, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the January 18, 2023 Projects and Construction Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2023 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$114,774.54
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$5,108.96
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$273,124.48
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$254,943.41
Bank Balance—January 31, 2023.....	\$81,922.58
Accounts Receivable – January 31, 2023.....	\$66,230.55
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – January 31, 2023.....	\$114,814.36
Building Sinking Fund – January 31, 2023.....	\$169,562.62
Vehicle Sinking Fund – January 31, 2023.....	\$71,701.31
Water Resources Fund – January 31, 2023.....	\$444,091.72

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Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – January 31, 2023-----	\$13,455.43
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – January 31, 2023-----	\$7,423.69
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – January 31, 2023-----	\$5,368.44
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – January 31, 2023-----	\$10,675.82
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – January 31, 2023-----	\$3,294.48
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – January 31, 2023-----	\$6,617.36
Water Jamboree – January 31, 2023-----	\$14,250.22
NRRCMDA – January 31, 2023-----	\$7,637.61
Odessa IPA – January 31, 2023-----	\$20,035.19

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

SPECIAL BILLS

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

NRCS REPORT

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

Activity and Progress Report: Curtis Scheele gave the report for Kerner. Staff has been working on EQIP and CSP.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented seven well decommissioning applications for approval. Moved by Grimes, seconded by Harris to a seven well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented eight NSWCP applications for approval. Moved by Larson, seconded by Bergstrom to approve eight NSWCP Cost-Share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented six irrigated acre transfer requests (Lundeen-3 and Carlson - 3) and three WCIP applications (Lundeen -1 and Wohlgemuth – 2). Gene Lundeen was present to answer questions. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Larson to approve six irrigated acre transfers and three WCIP applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Lundeen

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

CNPPID Report: Scott Dicke reported that Lake McConaughy is at 48% capacity and eagle viewing ending this weekend.

OTHER BUSINESS

The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the board for comment or discussion. Phil High asked the board to consider a water conveyance exchange from E67 to E65 canals. The Planning Committee will discuss the proposal and the issue will also be discussed with CNPPID.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

IWMS Report: Scheele presented information on IWMS activities from 2022.

TAPS Update (Scheele/Nott): Scheele presented information on TAPS activity for 2022. Pat Nott also answered questions about the program. The TBNRD TAPS Team won the Highest Input Use Efficiency Award.

Groundwater Supply Update - Little: Little updated the board with groundwater supply data.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: There was no NARD report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

January 18, 2023, Projects & Construction Committee Meeting: Thorburn reviewed action from the meeting.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes to amend the following motion by adding “and/or recharge contracts” after dual connection wording. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes approve the Projects & Construction Committee recommendations as amended: to work with CNPPID to make a portion of the Water Resources Cash Fund available for WCIP dual connection contracts and to use \$40,000 of district funds to match \$60,000 of state funding for soil moisture sensor cost-share (\$20,000) and remote reading flowmeter sensors for TBNRD (\$20,000). Motion carried.

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AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

February 17, 2023, Executive Committee Meeting: Thorburn reported that the Executive Committee interviewed two candidates for Sub-District #5: Wayne Anderson and Joel Grams.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation appoint Joel Grams to a two-year term for Tri-Basin NRD Sub-District #5. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan
NAY: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

Joe Grams took his Oath of Office during the break and took his seat at the table.

Schedule Planning Committee Meeting: The Planning Committee will meet March 8, 2023, at 1:30 p.m. Thorburn reviewed the new Committee Structure. There was board discussion about committee attendance, board meeting advertising and quorum requirements.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: There were no directives to staff.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Platte Basin: TBNRD Executive Committee will meet with CPNRD at the Platte River Recovery Office in Kearney on March 13, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report.

North Dry Creek: Nothing to report.

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: Board meeting will be held February 21, 2023.

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

CNPPID Report: Scott Dicke will report on costs of repairing Kingsley Dam at the March board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Overton Remote Gage Camera Demo - USGS: Jason Lambrecht and Steve Petersen, USGS, presented information on the stream gage camera located at the Overton bridge, which TBNRD partially funded.

Proposal for Dual Connection Grant Application: Thorburn explained RCPP funds are available for landowner cost-share on soil moisture sensors or remote flowmeter reading. There is \$100,000-\$150,000 available. It was suggested that a firm be hired to prepare the grant application. LRE Water has submitted a bid for \$28,000 which would be split between TPNRD, TBNRD and CNPPID.

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson to approve the participation in preparing a grant for RCPP funds (dual connection funding) with LRE Water, with cost for TBNRD not to exceed a cost of \$10,000 for 1/3 of the cost of the project. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

Thorburn presented copies of a letter sent to Brundage at CNPPID. Garrelts will be asked to decide which committee will attend the meeting in the following motion. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Hinrichs that TBNRD, NDNR, CPNRD and CNPPID meet within the next 30 days from February 21, 2023 to develop a comprehensive plan to fully utilize the \$19.1 million allocated for intentional recharge for the next fifteen years. The plan must identify a variety of options to achieve the most effective intentional recharge in the right locations for the best interests of TBNRD constituents. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes to request the following data from CNPPID, outlined in a letter to CNPPID: 1. Total Diversions by CNPPID and destinations of diverted water (Phelps Canal, E-65, return to river, etc., 2. Losses to seepage and evaporation en-route, 3. Amounts of water delivered to irrigation contract acres by parcel and by year and 4. Surface water rights that are unused, unassigned or subject to cancellation. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 4:05 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grimes to move out of the Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 4:28 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Philips and Raffety

NEXT BOARD MEETING

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Ed Harris, Joel Grams, David Grimes, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Jeff Ryan and Larry Reynolds.

OTHERS PRESENT: Curtis Scheele, Gene Lundeen Wayne Anderson, Jeff Carlson, Phil High, Steve Petersen, Jason Lambrecht, John Thorburn, Scott Dicke, Nolan Little, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Sasha Hahn, 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
	2023-02-21-01	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the minutes for the January 10, 2023 Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-02	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Larson, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the February 8, 2023, Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Harris, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the January 18, 2023 Projects and Construction Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2023-02-21-04	Meeting Administration					Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the February 17, 2023 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2023-02-21-05	Budget		9			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grimes, to accept the January 2023 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-06	Budget		9			Moved by Larson, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the Visa bills. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-07	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Harris to a seven well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-08	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Larson, seconded by Bergstrom to approve eight NSWCP Cost-Share applications. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-09	Certification & Transfers		8		1	Moved by Ryan, seconded by Larson to approve six irrigated acre transfers and three WCIP applications. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-10			9			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes to amend the following motion by adding "and/or recharge contracts" after dual connection wording. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-11			9			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes approve the Projects & Construction Committee recommendations as amended: to work with CNPPID to make a portion of the

							Water Resources Cash Fund available for WCIP dual connection contracts and to use \$40,000 of district funds to match \$60,000 of state funding for soil moisture sensor cost-share (\$20,000) and remote reading flowmeter sensors for TBNRD (\$20,000). Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-12	Director	Grams	9			Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan to accept the Executive Committee's recommendation appoint Joel Grams to a two-year term for Tri-Basin NRD Sub-District #5. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-13	Budget	LRE Grant application	10			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson to approve the participation in preparing a grant for RCPP funds (dual connection funding) with LRE Water, with cost for TBNRD not to exceed a cost of \$10,000 for 1/3 of the cost of the project. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-14	Projects	\$19.1 million meeting with DNR, CNPPID	10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Hinrichs that TBNRD, NDNR, CPNRD and CNPPID meet within the next 30 days from February 21, 2023 to develop a comprehensive plan to fully utilize the \$19.1 million allocated for intentional recharge for the next fifteen years, The plan must identify a variety of options to achieve the most effective intentional recharge in the right locations for the best interests of TBNRD constituents. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-15	Projects	CNPPID Formal data request	10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes to request the following data from CNPPID, outlined in a letter to CNPPID: 1. Total Diversions by CNPPID and destinations of diverted water (Phelps Canal, E-65, return to river, etc., 2. Losses to seepage and evaporation en-route, 3. Amounts of water delivered to irrigation contract acres by parcel and by year and 4. Surface water rights that are unused, unassigned or subject to cancellation. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-16	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to move to Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 4:05 p.m. Motion carried.
	2023-02-21-17	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grimes to move out of the Executive Session to discuss legal matters for the protection of the public at 4:28 p.m. Motion carried.