

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 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, Bradley Lundeen, at 7:30 p.m. Lundeen noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with eleven directors present: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Lundeen. Bilka and Cavanaugh were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Bertrand Herald, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier and announced on radio stations KRVN, Lexington and KUVR, Holdrege.

**EXCUSE ABSENCES**

There were no absences to excuse.

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of the March 9, 2021 Board of Directors Meeting and March 9, 2021 Planning Committee Committees. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the March 9, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Garrelts

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips, to approve the minutes for the March 9, 2021 Planning Committee. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Hinrichs presented the financial report for the month of March 2021 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month .....	\$134,868.42
Cash Expenditures for Month.....	\$133,100.60
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$113,209.57
Cash Revenues for Month.....	\$131,577.01
Bank Balance—March 31, 2021.....	\$97,590.79
Accounts Receivable – March 31, 2021.....	\$80,873.68
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – March 31, 2021.....	\$114,562.01
Building Sinking Fund – March 31, 2021.....	\$185,280.98
Vehicle Sinking Fund – March 31, 2021.....	\$93,562.51
Water Resources Fund – March 31, 2021.....	\$614,052.96
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – March 31, 2021.....	\$2,030.40
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – March 31, 2021.....	\$5,042.36
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2021.....	\$14,427.08
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – March 31, 2021.....	\$8,960.22
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2021.....	\$6,737.74
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2021.....	\$8,012.23
Water Jamboree – March 31, 2021.....	\$12,577.68
NR MDMA – March 31, 2021.....	\$7,636.30
Odessa IPA – March 31, 2021.....	\$19,306.43

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the March 2021 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

#### SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA, attorney and PRD bills for approval. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety, to approve the VISA, attorney and PRD bills. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

#### NRCS REPORT

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

**Activity and Progress Report:** Kerner reported 50% of staff can work in the office and producers can make office appointments. Staff has been working on CSP and EQIP.

#### COST SHARE REPORT

**Well Abandonment** – Thorburn presented five well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Garrelts, to approve five well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented two NSWCP and sixteen TBNRD cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson, to approve two NSWCP and sixteen TBNRD cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

#### GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

**Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP** - Thorburn presented seven irrigated acre transfers to approve (Ebmeier, Garrett, Charity Fields (5)), one groundwater transfer request for James Morse, a pooling request for Brad Schutz and six WCIP applications (David Dahlgren (2), Brad Lundeen, Connie Stadler, Eleanor Etzelmiller, MRD Farms). Drake Johnson, Kim Carlson, Patrick Ebmeier, Roger Cain, and Brian Carlson were present to answer questions. Garrelts asked for the updated total of WCIP acres.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to approve an irrigated acre transfers for Charity Field Farms (5), Ebmeier, and Garrett and a groundwater transfer request for James Morse. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Lundeen

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes to approve a pooling request for Brad Schutz. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

**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 and/or discussion.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Little Blue Basin Water User Survey Results:** Thorburn reviewed the results from the Little Blue Basin Water User Survey and thanked Hagan, Smith, and Hahn for their work on the survey. Thorburn said 156 responses were received with a few more expected. The return rate was nearly 30%. The Planning Committee will review the responses in-depth and make a recommendation to the board.

#### **NARD REPORT**

**NARD Report:** Reynolds reported that the Benefits Committee will meet April 21, 2021 in Lincoln and the Pappio-Missouri Basin Tour will be held in June on the same day as the TBNRD board meeting and asked that the board meeting be moved to another day.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Schedule Planning Committee:** The Planning Committee will meet Friday, April 16, 2021 at 9 a.m. to discuss the survey results and changes to the groundwater management plan.

#### **STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

**Board Directives to Staff:** Thorburn handed out a list of missing crop reports and asked directors to assist in contacting producers.

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

#### **MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Republican Basin NRD's will be holding a meeting to update their integrated management plans on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to account for in-state accounting of water savings.

**Platte Basin:** Nothing to report.

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Joint meeting between TBNRD and LBNRD will be held in August.

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**North Dry Creek:** Culverts will be installed.

**Odessa IPA:** IPA meetings were held.

**Sacramento Creek:** IPA meetings were held.

**Fort Kearny:** IPA meetings were held.

**Fort Kearny West:** IPA meetings were held.

**South Dry Creek:** Culverts will be installed.

**Whiskey Slough:** IPA meetings were held.

**Middle Lost Creek:** Nothing to report.

**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:** The response to objectors was due March 22, 2021 and a hearing will be held July 19, 2021 in Lincoln.

**CNPPID:** Scott Dicke reported Lake McConaughy is at 75% capacity and talks continue about the merger with Dawson Public Power District.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve FY 2021-2022 IPA Assessments:** Thorburn recommended increasing assessments on Whiskey Slough and Sacramento Creek IPAs and decreasing the assessment on Odessa IPA.

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bergstrom to approve the IPA Assessments for FY 2021-2022: Ft Kearny - \$.20, Ft. Kearny West - \$.20, North Dry Creek - \$.10, Sacramento Creek - \$.25, South Dry Creek - \$.15, Whiskey Slough - \$.25, Odessa - \$.00. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

**Review Federal Executive Order #10048:** There was discussion about the Presidential Executive Order #10048. Reynolds suggested coordinating a state-wide effort against federalization of public lands. Grimes suggested that NRDs highlight their conservation and preservation activities in a letter and provided a sample letter from the Farm Bureau. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes to have Thorburn draft a resolution for the Planning Committee to review stating the position of TBNRD concerning Executive Order #10048. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bilka and Cavanaugh

**Review Colorado Animal Rights Initiative:** Reynolds presented a handout concerning a Colorado Animal Rights Initiative. Reynolds commented that the initiative could cripple the livestock industry in Colorado.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

Reynolds expressed his concerned about implementation of solar panels and loss of certified irrigated acres status. There was discussion about whether the property would retain the certified acres. Thorburn commented that the issue should be handled under the conversion of irrigated acres but if a landowner wants to rezone the property, that might need to be addressed in the rules and regulations. Reynolds asked that solar panel zoning should be added to the Planning Committee agenda.

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

There were no personnel or legal matters.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Brian Bergstrom, Todd Garrelts, David Grimes, Ed Harris, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson, G. Reed Philips, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, Jeff Ryan, and Brad Lundeen

**OTHERS PRESENT**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Nate Munter (Zoom), Nolan Little (Zoom) , Tammy Fahrenbruch (Zoom) , Carie Lynch, Cammie Kerner, Drake Johnson, Roger Cain, Brian Carlson, Pat Ebmeier and Kim Carlson.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS  
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
 April 13, 2021

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	
	2021-03-09-01	Meeting Administration		10		1	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris, to approve the minutes for the March 9, 2021 Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2021-03-09-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips, to approve the minutes for the March 9, 2021 Planning Committee. Motion carried unanimously.
	2021-03-09-03	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the March 2021 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2021-03-09-04	Budget		11			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety, to approve the VISA, attorney and PRD bills. Motion carried.
	2021-03-09-05	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Garrelts, to approve five well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2021-03-09-06	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Larson, to approve two NSWCP and sixteen TBNRD cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2021-03-09-07	Certification & Transfers	Charity Field Farms, Ebmeier, Garret and Morse	10		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to approve an irrigated acre transfers for Charity Field Farms (5), Ebmeier, and Garrett and a groundwater transfer request for James Morse. Motion carried.
	2021-03-09-08	Certification & Transfers	Schutz	11			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes to approve a pooling request for Brad Schutz. Motion carried.
	2021-03-09-09	Projects	IPA Assessments	11			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bergstrom to approve the IPA Assessments for FY 2021-2022: Ft Kearny - \$.20, Ft. Kearny West - \$.20, North Dry Creek - \$.10, Sacramento Creek - \$.25, South Dry Creek - \$.15, Whiskey Slough - \$.25, Odessa - \$.00. Motion carried.

	2021-03-09-10	Resolutions & Legislation	Resolution Executive Order #10048	11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes to have Thorburn draft a resolution for the Planning Committee to review stating the position of TBNRD concerning Executive Order #10048. Motion carried.
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