

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 7:30 p.m.
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
1723 Burlington, Holdrege, NE

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 was posted in the meeting room. Thorburn opened the public hearing for the budget and Eaton Township prior to this meeting.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with nine directors present: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Ryan and Raffety. Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris were 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

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Raffety, to excuse Raffety from the July and August 2024 board meetings. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the August 13, 2024, Board of Directors meeting and hearing, August 21, 2024, Special Board Meeting and September 3, 2024, Information and Education Committee meeting. Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the August 13, 2024 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting and hearing. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson and Lundeen

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety and Ryan

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grimes, to approve the minutes for the August 21, 2024, Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom, Raffety and Ryan

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

Moved by Grams, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the minutes for the September 3, 2024, Information and Education Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$151,946.53
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$35,837.21
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$151,357.26
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$80,399.51
Main Checking-August 31, 2024.....	\$339,684.80
Accounts Receivable – August 31, 2024.....	\$13,113.25
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – August 31, 2024.....	\$158,480.00
Building Sinking Fund – August 31, 2024.....	\$3,815.67
Vehicle Sinking Fund – August 31, 2024.....	\$54,643.63

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Water Resources Fund – August 31, 2024-----	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – August 31, 2024-----	\$21,467.94
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – August 31, 2024-----	\$10,669.05
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2024-----	\$8,906.41
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – August 31, 2024-----	\$10,786.82
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2024-----	\$1,418.93
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – August 31, 2024-----	\$9,609.35
Water Jamboree – August 31, 2024-----	\$4,648.54
Odessa IPA – August 31, 2024-----	\$20,454.07
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – August 31, 2024-----	\$1,379.73

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

Lynch explained that the Bruning Bank CD might come due before the next board meeting. Lynch will put CD renewal date and rate in footnote on the financials. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Raffety, to allow staff to decide where to re-invest CD after it matures. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

SPECIAL BILLS

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Cammie Kerner reported on CSP and EQIP program funding. Ryan asked for a copy of the contract statistics. Thorburn commended NRCS employees for assistance resolving a drainage dispute.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented two well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Lundeen, to approve two well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

NSWCP & NRD Applications – There were no NSWCP cost-share applications to approve.

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approve FY 2024-25 Property Tax Levy (After Hearing): This item cannot be addressed until after the hearing is closed.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: No report.

NARD Resolutions: Thorburn presented two resolutions for the NARD Fall Conference. Directors will let NARD delegate and alternate delegate decide how to vote on the resolutions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building Committee Meeting: Thorburn explained that the building committee met and discussed short and long-term options for the shop building. There was discussion about an addition to the building and updating the current facilities to house more employees. Ryan suggested approaching the Phelps County Fair Board about funding for updating armory bathrooms for use during fair.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to accept the Building Committee recommendation to have staff develop a plan to remodel the south and west portions of the armory to include updated bathrooms and additional office space and find an architect after a basic floor plan is developed. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

Information & Education: The committee discussed a social media strategy, collecting cell phone and email from producers and landowners and getting a bid from Unanimous for a marketing strategy. Grady Johnson was invited to be the public representative.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grams to accept the Information and Education Committee's recommendation to add places for email and cell phone on nitrogen management forms and collect at nitrogen management classes. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Thorburn mentioned the Recognition Banquet is in January and natural resources nominees for soil, trees, range and water are needed. Garrelts asked that an email be sent to remind directors.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: River Basin Caucuses will be held at the NARD Fall Conference on Sept. 23-24, 2024 and Governance Committee met September 10, 2024.

Platte Basin: Nothing to report.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Basin Annual meeting in Minden at the Minden Exchange Bank on September 18, 2024, at 2 p.m. a reminder will be sent.

North Dry Creek: Staff has been shredding and spraying weeds.

Odessa IPA: Staff has been shredding and spraying weeds.

Sacramento Creek: Staff has been shredding and spraying weeds.

Fort Kearny: Staff has been shredding and spraying weeds.

Fort Kearny West: Staff has been shredding and spraying weeds.

South Dry Creek: Staff has been shredding and spraying weeds.

Whiskey Slough: Staff has been shredding and spraying weeds.

Middle Lost Creek: Staff has been shredding and spraying weeds.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Board meeting in David City, NE on September 17, 2024, and RBJV Conservation Day is September 19, 2024, at Sacramento Game WMA.

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

CNPPID Report: Dicke mentioned the headgates are shut and fall maintenance is being performed. There was discussion about dual connections and commingled reuse pits. Little is contacting landowners about their options. Several landowners have expressed interest.

NEW BUSINESS

Authorize Participation in NE Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program: Thorburn explained the program allows landowners to receive cost-share for reducing fertilizer application. Landowners would have to provide documentation to receive the cost-share. The sentinel fertigation application is a focus. TBNRD would receive approximately \$49,000. Thorburn will ask the Projects & Construction Committee to discuss the program specifics. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to accept funding and participate in the NE Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

Designate Eaton Township (T7N, R13W) as Phase 2 for Groundwater Quantity Management: Moved by Grams, seconded by Bergstrom, to designate Eaton Township (T7N, R13W) in Kearney County as Phase II Groundwater Quantity Management area. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approve FY 2024-25 Property Levy (After Hearing): Hinrichs commented that he is voting yes conditional upon bringing more water into TBNRD and helping CNPPID. Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Larson, to approve the FY 2024-2025 TBNRD levy. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Reynolds, Philips, Bilka and Harris

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Todd Garrelts, Joel Grams, David Grimes, Rob Hinrichs, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Dave Raffety and Jeff Ryan

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Sasha Hahn, Nate Munter, 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
September 10, 2024

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-09-10-01	Meeting Administration		8		1	Moved by Ryan, seconded by Raffety, to excuse Raffety from the July and August 2024 board meetings. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-02	Meeting Administration		7		2	Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the August 13, 2024 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting and hearing. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-03	Meeting Administration		6		3	Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Grimes, to approve the minutes for the August 21, 2024, Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-04	Meeting Administration					Moved by Grams, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the minutes for the September 3, 2024, Information and Education Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
	2024-09-10-05	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to accept the August 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-06	Budget		9			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Raffety, to allow staff to decide where to re-invest CD after it matures. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-07	Budget		9			Moved by Larson, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-08	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Lundeen, to approve two well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-09	Budget	Armory Plan	9			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to accept the Building Committee recommendation to have staff develop a plan to remodel the south and west portions of the armory to include updated bathrooms and additional office space and find an architect after a basic floor plan is developed. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-10	District Plans & Programs	Nitrogen form change	9			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grams to accept the Information and Education Committee's recommendation to add places for email and cell phone on nitrogen management forms and collect at nitrogen management classes. Motion carried.

	2024-09-10-11	District Plans & Programs	Nitrogen Reduction Incentive	9			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to accept funding and participate in the NE Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-12	District Plans & Programs	Eaton Township Phase II	9			Moved by Grams, seconded by Bergstrom, to designate Eaton Township (T7N, R13W) in Kearney County as Phase II Groundwater Quantity Management area. Motion carried.
	2024-09-10-13	Budget		9			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Larson, to approve the FY 2024-2025 TBNRD levy. Motion carried.