

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 12, 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 nine directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Grimes, Hinrichs, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Lundeen. Cavanaugh arrived by video at 7:42 p.m. Garrelts, Harris and Larson were absent. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Bertrand Herald, Elwood Bulletin and Minden Courier and announced on radio station KRVN, Lexington.

**EXCUSE ABSENCES**

Thorburn reported that Bilka and Philips need to be excused from the August and September board meetings. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bergstrom, to excuse Bilka and Philips from the August and September 2021 board meetings. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka and Philips

ABSENT: Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris and Larson

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of the September 14, 2021, Board of Directors Meeting and Budget Hearing and September 15, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the September 14, 2021, Board of Directors meeting and Budget Hearing. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka

ABSENT: Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris and Larson

Moved by Bilka seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the September 15, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month .....	\$225,296.22
Cash Expenditures for Month.....	\$266,944.93
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$307,097.07
Cash Revenues for Month.....	\$288,151.96
Bank Balance–September 30, 2021.....	\$364,933.24
Accounts Receivable – September 30, 2021.....	\$63,017.41
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – September 30, 2021.....	\$114,590.73
Building Sinking Fund – September 30, 2021.....	\$163,893.64
Vehicle Sinking Fund – September 30, 2021.....	\$110,840.43
Water Resources Fund – September 30, 2021.....	\$424,314.94
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – September 30, 2021.....	\$4,938.30
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – September 30, 2021.....	\$5,726.77
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2021.....	\$5,029.13
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – September 30, 2021.....	\$9,665.12

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Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2021-----	\$8,921.80
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – September 30, 2021-----	\$5,845.80
Water Jamboree – September 30, 2021-----	\$8,845.49
NRRMDA – September 30, 2021-----	\$7,636.68
Odessa IPA – September 30, 2021-----	\$20,224.58

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bilka, to accept the September 2021 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris and Larson

**SPECIAL BILLS**

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Harris and Larson

**NRCS REPORT**

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

**Activity and Progress Report:** Kerner reported staff has been working on CSP, HEL, NSWCP and EQIP, Deb Eichenberger resigned in Elwood and interns are being hired.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Abandonment** – Thorburn presented two well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve two well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Cavanaugh

ABSENT: Garrelts, Harris and Larson

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented five NSWCP cost-share applications to approve. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bilka to approve five NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Cavanaugh

ABSENT: Garrelts, Harris and Larson

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

**Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP** – Thorburn presented two WCIP applications for Meadowlark Land.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve two WCIP applications for Meadowlark Land. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Cavanaugh

ABSENT: Garrelts, Harris 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 and/or discussion.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**2021 IPA Report:** Munter gave the 2021 Improvement Project Area Annual Review. Noxious weed control, culvert installation/replacement, cleaning ditch bottoms and erosion control were the main activities.

**Consider Amendment to Blue Basin Groundwater Modeling Agreement:** Thorburn explained TBNRD has been a partner in the Blue Basin Groundwater Modeling Project for three years and it's almost complete except for calibration. TBNRD's share to complete the project is \$4400. Thorburn mentioned the model will be especially useful when it's completed and has been very cost effective.

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Reynolds, to approve an amendment to the Blue Basin Groundwater Modeling Agreement. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Ryan and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Garrelts, Harris and Larson

#### NARD REPORT

**NARD Fall Conference:** Reynolds reported on the NARD Fall Conference. The 30x30 Resolution passed and Russ Edeal accepted a conservation award.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee met to review bids for pipeline construction for the Cottonwood Ranch Project and advised rebidding. Thorburn reported the armory has been sandblasted.

#### STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

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

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

#### MONTHLY REPORTS

**Republican Basin:** Caucus was held at the NARD Fall Conference.

**Platte Basin:** Caucus was held at the NARD Fall Conference.

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Caucus was held at the NARD Fall Conference.

**North Dry Creek:** Munter reported earlier.

**Odessa IPA:** Munter reported earlier.

**Sacramento Creek:** Munter reported earlier.

**Fort Kearny:** Munter reported earlier.

**Fort Kearny West:** Munter reported earlier.

**South Dry Creek:** Munter reported earlier.

**Whiskey Slough:** Munter reported earlier.

**Middle Lost Creek:** Munter reported earlier.

**Lake Seldom:** Nothing to report.

**CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition:** Nothing to report.

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** Thorburn explained the TIF property tax credit cost-share proposal.

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

**CNPPID:** Dicke presented handouts requested at the previous board meeting. Thorburn mentioned that Garrelts should get a copy of all the information.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Consider Participation in the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Prescribed Burn Grant:** Thorburn explained that CPNRD is applying to USF&W Foundation for a grant to use an experienced burn crew for the loess canyon area which includes TBNRD. The cost to TBNRD would be \$3300/year for three years. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to participate in the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Prescribed Burn Grant. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Cavanaugh

ABSENT: Garrelts, Harris and Larson

**Schedule Special Board Meeting October 26, 2021, at 7:30 P.M.:** Thorburn explained that a special board meeting needs to be held to review pipeline construction bids for the Cottonwood Ranch Project. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to hold a special board meeting on October 26, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Cavanaugh

ABSENT: Garrelts, Harris and Larson

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

There were no comments or concerns.

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

There was no personnel or legal business to discuss.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Mike Cavanaugh (Zoom), David Grimes, Rob Hinrichs, Reed Philips, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, Jeff Ryan, and Brad Lundeen

**OTHERS PRESENT**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Scott Dicke, Nolan Little (Zoom), Nate Munter, Cammie Kerner and Carie Lynch (Zoom).

Respectfully Submitted:

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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
	2021-10-12-01	Meeting Administration		7		2	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bergstrom, to excuse Bilka and Philips from the August and September 2021 board meetings. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-02	Meeting Administration		8		1	Moved by Raffety, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the September 14, 2021, Board of Directors meeting and Budget Hearing. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the September 15, 2021, Executive Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2021-10-12-04	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bilka, to accept the September 2021 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-05	Budget		9			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Raffety, to approve the VISA, attorney and NDNR bills. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-06	Meeting Administration		9		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve two well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-07	Meeting Administration		9		1	Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bilka to approve five NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-08	Certifications & Transfers	Meadowlark Land	9		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve two WCIP applications for Meadowlark Land. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-09	Agreements	BB GW Modeling	9		1	Moved by Raffety, seconded by Reynolds, to approve an amendment to the Blue Basin Groundwater Modeling Agreement. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-10	Budget	RBJV Burn Grant	9		1	Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to participate in the Rainwater Basin Joint Venture Prescribed Burn Grant. Motion carried.
	2021-10-12-11	Meeting Administration		9		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to hold a special board meeting on October 26, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.