

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, November 12, 2024, 1:30 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 1:30 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law was posted in the meeting room.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with twelve directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Ryan and Reynolds. Raffety was 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 Lundeen, seconded by Raffety, to excuse Bilka from the September and October 2024 board meetings. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka

ABSENT: Raffety

**MINUTES**

Thorburn presented the minutes of the October 8, 2024, Board of Directors meeting, and October 24, 2024, Projects and Construction Committee meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the October 8, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom, Bilka

ABSENT: Raffety

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve the minutes for the October 24, 2024, Project and Construction Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month .....	\$187,170.27
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$111,227.18
Actual Expenditures for Month .....	\$175,091.70
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$80,895.20
Main Checking-October 31, 2024.....	\$391,050.15
Accounts Receivable – October 31, 2024.....	\$34,598.32
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – October 31, 2024.....	\$161,966.21
Building Sinking Fund – October 31, 2024.....	\$3,815.67
Vehicle Sinking Fund – October 31, 2024.....	\$54,643.63
Water Resources Fund – October 31, 2024.....	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – October 31, 2024.....	\$6,023.76
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – October 31, 2024.....	\$11,095.84
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2024.....	\$9,640.38
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – October 31, 2024.....	\$10,845.56
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2024.....	\$2,190.36
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – October 31, 2024.....	\$9,937.78

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Water Jamboree – October 31, 2024-----	\$2,715.39
Odessa IPA – October 31, 2024-----	\$20,565.46
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – October 31, 2024-----	\$1,853.35

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

**SPECIAL BILLS**

Thorburn presented the VISA for approval.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Bilka, to approve the Visa. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

**NRCS REPORT**

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

**Activity and Progress Report:** Curtis Scheele, filling in for Cammie Kerner, reported CSP and EQIP signup deadline is November 15<sup>th</sup> 2024, and CSP 2024 payments are almost completed. Staff are working on assessing and ranking the CSP renewal applications.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Decommissioning** – Thorburn presented two well decommissioning cost-share application to approve.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Phillips, to approve two well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

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

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

**Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP** – Thorburn presented a stock well variance request for Marlene J Geiger Family Trust.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes, to approve a stock well variance request for Marlene J Geiger Family Trust. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

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**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. Gary Robison commented.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Renew NARD Tree Sales Agreement:** Thorburn presented the Interlocal Agreement with NARD for tree sales for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Obtaining Seedling Tree & Shrubs between Tri-Basin NRD and NARD (Effective 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2027). Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

**Select Firm to develop “Net Recharge Tool”:** Thorburn received 5 proposals but requested the board to help review the details. The Executive Committee will meet on November 12, 2024 at 11 am. Garrelts asked that Little present information on WCIP at the meeting, also.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to approve selection of a firm for the Net Recharge Tool to the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

**NARD REPORT**

**NARD Report:** Reynolds reported that January 27-29, 2025 is the Legislature Conference in Lincoln. Governor Pillen was at the Manager’s meeting and discussed combining DNR and NDEE.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Projects & Construction Committee Meeting:** Thornburn reviewed committee action. The committee discussed the three-tiered ranking system prioritization for applications, Phase II&III/Wellhead protection areas have the highest rate of priority, then Nitrogen Use Efficiency Technology, Reduction, Stabilizer, Biological Nutrition. Thorburn advised the board to approve committee recommendations under new business.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

**Board Directives to Staff:** Nothing to report.

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Republican Basin Annual meeting will be held in Imperial in November.

**Platte Basin:** Nothing to report.

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Nothing to report.

**North Dry Creek:** Staff finished spraying and will start cutting trees.

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**Odessa IPA:** Staff finished spraying and will start cutting trees.

**Sacramento Creek:** Staff finished spraying and will start cutting trees.

**Fort Kearny:** Staff finished spraying and will start cutting trees.

**Fort Kearny West:** Staff finished spraying and will start cutting trees.

**South Dry Creek:** Staff finished spraying and will start cutting trees.

**Whiskey Slough:** Staff finished spraying and will start cutting trees.

**Middle Lost Creek:** Staff finished spraying and will start cutting trees.

**Lake Seldom:** Refior reported that they have been rototilling at Lake Seldom to establish warm seasons.

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

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** Nothing to report.

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

**CNPPID Report:** Dicke mentioned the UNL Water Tour in Arizona February 3-7, mentioned a couple conferences coming up if anyone is interested.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve priorities for N Reduction Incentive:**

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris to accept the project and construction committee's recommendations:

1. To cost-share with Republican Basin WRCF Funding on Autonomous Pivot Subscriptions at a 60% cost-share rate with a maximum of \$2500/field per year.
2. To use Crop Reports to verify nitrogen application and use the CPNRD Form as a template for the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program Cost-Share Program form.
3. To revise the CPNRD form as follows: Prioritize Phase II and III Ground Water Quality Management Areas and Wellhead Protection Areas and to prioritize the practices in the following order: 1. Nitrogen Use Efficiency Technology 2. N application, 3. N Stabilizer, 4. Biological Nutrition products. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to recommend to NDNR to cost-share on Autonomous Pivot Subscriptions. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

There was discussion about developing ground water recharge projects.

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

There were no personnel or legal issues.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Thorburn, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Nolan Little, Curtis Scheele, Carolyn Schaaf, Scott Dicke, Matt Wells, Gary Robison, Dalton Refior, and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS  
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
November 12, 2024

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-11-12-01	Meeting Administration		11		1	Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Raffety, to excuse Bilka from the September and October 2024 board meetings. Motion carried.
	2024-11-12-02	Meeting Administration		10		2	Moved by Larson, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the October 8, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-11-12-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve the minutes for the October 24, 2024, Project and Construction Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2024-11-12-04	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bilka, to accept the October 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-11-12-05	Budget		12			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Bilka, to approve the Visa. Motion carried.
	2024-11-12-06	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Phillips, to approve two well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2024-11-12-07	Certification & Transfers		12			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grimes, to approve a stock well variance request for Marlene J Geiger Family Trust. Motion carried.
	2024-11-12-08	District Plan & Programs	Tree Agreement	12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the Interlocal Agreement for Obtaining Seedling Tree & Shrubs between Tri-Basin NRD and NARD (Effective 10/1/2024 to 9/30/2027). Motion carried.

	2024-11-12-09	Projects	Net Recharge	12			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to approve selection of a firm for the Net Recharge Tool to the Executive Committee. Motion carried.
	2024-11-12-10	Projects	Autonomous Pivot Subscriptions, Nitrogen Reduction, Cost Share	12			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Harris to accept the project and construction committee's recommendations: To cost-share with Republican Basin WRCF Funding on Autonomous Pivot Subscriptions at a 60% cost-share rate with a maximum of \$2500/field per year. , To use Crop Reports to verify nitrogen application and use the CPNRD Form as a template for the Nitrogen Reduction Incentive Program Cost-Share Program form, To revise the CPNRD form as follows: Prioritize Phase II and III Ground Water Quality Management Areas and Wellhead Protection Areas and to prioritize the practices in the following order: 1. Nitrogen Use Efficiency Technology 2. N application, 3. N Stabilizer, 4. Biological Nutrition products. Motion carried.
	2024-11-12-11	Projects	Cost Share, Autonomous Pivot NSWCP	12			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to recommend to NDNR to cost-share on Autonomous Pivot Subscriptions. Motion carried.