

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 9, 2024, 1:30 p.m.
Tri-Basin Natural Resources District
1723 Burlington St., Holdrege, NE 68949

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman, Todd Garrelts at 1:32 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, Reynolds and Ryan. 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

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the June 13, 2024, Board of Directors meeting. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the minutes for the June 13, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$242,713.37
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$229,483.44
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$246,657.44
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$417,260.64
Main Checking-June 30, 2024-----	\$560,742.96
Accounts Receivable – June 30, 2024-----	\$130,634.92
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – June 30, 2024-----	\$158,480.00
Building Sinking Fund – June 30, 2024-----	\$3,815.67
Vehicle Sinking Fund – June 30, 2024-----	\$54,643.63
Water Resources Fund – June 30, 2024-----	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – June 30, 2024-----	\$21,338.46
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – June 30, 2024-----	\$10,575.00
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – June 30, 2024-----	\$8,853.01
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – June 30, 2024-----	\$10,721.95
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – June 30, 2024-----	\$1,005.26
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – June 30, 2024-----	\$9,551.66
Water Jamboree – June 30, 2024-----	\$4,396.50
Odessa IPA – June 30, 2024-----	\$20,331.06
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – June 30, 2024-----	\$1,081.19

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Larson, to accept the June 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA bill for approval. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve the Visa bill. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Cammie Kerner reported additional CSP & EQIP funds and new CSP applications were received.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented one well decommissioning cost-share application for approval. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to approve one well decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented two NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve two NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

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

Kingsley Dam Repairs: Devin Brundage gave a presentation on damage to the Kingsley Dam and options for making repairs.

Discuss TBNRD August Tour: There was discussion about the August board meeting and tour. It was decided to hold the tour on Monday and the board meeting on Tuesday at the North Platte Research and Extension Center at 9:30 a.m. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to change the August board meeting time from 1:30 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Nothing to report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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: Thorburn reported that the Bureau of Reclamation declared a non-water short year.

Platte Basin: Annual Platte Basin Coalition meeting is August 1, 2024 at CPNRD.

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: Nothing to report.

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

CNPPID Report: Dicke reported excess flows became available (approximately 5,000 a.f.), rain slowed work on Elwood Reservoir and Elwood Reservoir contract was renewed with Game and Parks.

NEW BUSINESS

Schedule Phase 2 Groundwater Quantity Management Hearing for August Board Meeting:

Thorburn suggested holding an informational hearing in August. Ryan suggested the community building in Heartwell. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to hold an informational meeting about Groundwater Quantity Management Phase II/Eaton Township in August in Heartwell, NE at the Community Center . Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to hold a Groundwater Quantity Phase II Management hearing for Eaton Township at the September 2024 board meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

NARD 414(h) Retirement Plan Resolution: Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to approve the following NARD Resolution concerning the 414(h) retirement plan:

NARD 414 (h) Contribution Resolution

WHEREAS, the contribution levels for the NARD 414(h) have not been changed since July I, 2006; and **WHEREAS**, the NRD managers and Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Board representatives have been talking to local boards and local employees since August of 2023 about a possible change in contribution levels to assist with recruitment and retention of employees; and **WHEREAS**, based on feedback from those conversations, on May 20, 2024, the NRD Employee Benefits Committee voted unanimously to recommend the NRD Managers and NARD Board approve an increase on employee contribution from 5.5% to 6.5% and employer contribution from 6.0% to 7.0% effective January I, 2025; and **WHEREAS**, on June 5, 2024, the NRD Managers voted 21-1-1 to request the NARD Board approve an increase on employee contribution from 5.5% to 6.5% and employer contribution from 6.0% to 7.0% effective January I, 2025; and **THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the following Mandatory Employee Contributions Section 30.c. of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 414(h) Plan is to be amended as follows: 30.c. [X] An Eligible Employee must contribute to the Plan 6.5% (not to exceed 25% of Compensation. Effective January I, 2025. **THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the following Employer Matching Conditions Section 26.B.e.1 and 27.A.c of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 414(h) Plan is to be amended as follows: 26.B.e.1 [X] Fixed - uniform rate/amount. The Employer will make matching contributions equal to 100% of the Participant's "matched Employee contributions" that do not exceed 7.0% of a Participant's Compensation. Effective January I, 2025. 27.A.c [X] 7% of Compensation. **RESOLVED**, that the undersigned is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of the Employer, all documents necessary to effect the changes authorized herein.

Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Raffety

ZOOM Option for August Board Meeting: No Zoom meeting for August 2024.

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COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

There were no personnel matters.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 12, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in North Platte, NE

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nate Munter, Cammie Kerner, Devin Brundege, Corey Steinke, Scott Dicke, and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 July 9, 2024

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-07-09-01	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the minutes for the June 13, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-07-09-02	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Larson, to accept the June 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-07-09-03	Budget		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to approve the Visa bill. Motion carried.
	2024-07-09-04	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to approve one well decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2024-07-09-05	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Larson, seconded by Harris, to approve two NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2024-07-09-06	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams, to change the August board meeting time from 1:30 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.
	2024-07-09-07	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to hold an informational meeting about Groundwater Quantity Management Phase II/Eaton Township in August in Heartwell, NE at the Community Center . Motion carried.
	2024-07-09-08	District Plans & Programs	Phase II Eaton	12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to hold a Groundwater Quantity Phase II Management hearing for Eaton Township at the September 2024 board meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-07-09-09	Personnel	Retirement	12			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to approve the following NARD Resolution concerning the 414(h) retirement plan: NARD 414 (h) Contribution Resolution WHEREAS , the contribution levels for the NARD 414(h) have not been changed since July I, 2006; and WHEREAS , the NRD managers and Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD) Board representatives have been talking to local boards and local employees since August of 2023 about a possible change in contribution levels to assist with recruitment and

						<p>retention of employees; and WHEREAS, based on feedback from those conversations, on May 20, 2024, the NRD Employee Benefits Committee voted unanimously to recommend the NRD Managers and NARD Board approve an increase on employee contribution from 5.5% to 6.5% and employer contribution from 6.0% to 7.0% effective January I, 2025; and WHEREAS, on June 5, 2024, the NRD Managers voted 21-1-1 to request the NARD Board approve an increase on employee contribution from 5.5% to 6.5% and employer contribution from 6.0% to 7.0% effective January I, 2025; and THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the following Mandatory Employee Contributions Section 30.c, of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 414(h) Plan is to be amended as follows: 30.c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Eligible Employee must contribute to the Plan 6.5% (not to exceed 25% of Compensation. Effective January I, 2025. THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the following Employer Matching Conditions Section 26.B.e.1 and 27.A.c of the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts 414(h) Plan is to be amended as follows: 26.B.e. 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fixed - uniform rate/amount. The Employer will make matching contributions equal to 100% of the Participant's "matched Employee contributions" that do not exceed 7.0% of a Participant's Compensation. Effective January I, 2025. 27.A.c <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 7% of Compensation. RESOLVED, that the undersigned is hereby authorized to execute, on behalf of the Employer, all documents necessary to effect the changes authorized herein. Motion carried.</p>
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