

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 1:30 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, Todd Garrelts at 1:30 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law is available upon request.

ROLL CALL

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

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the February 20, 2024, Board of Directors and work session. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting and work session. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$108,801.43
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$142,072.75
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$119,865.97
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$125,360.58
Main Checking—February 29, 2024.....	\$142,803.69
Accounts Receivable – February 29, 2024.....	\$27,648.86
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – February 29, 2024.....	\$210,000.00
Building Sinking Fund – February 29, 2024.....	\$29,784.75
Vehicle Sinking Fund – February 29, 2024.....	\$1,438.49
Water Resources Fund – February 29, 2024.....	\$202,386.59
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – February 29, 2024.....	\$18,803.54
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – February 29, 2024.....	\$9,799.93
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 29, 2024.....	\$7,612.85
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – February 29, 2024.....	\$10,600.47
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – February 29, 2024.....	\$1,922.28
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 29, 2024.....	\$8,674.30
Water Jamboree – February 29, 2024.....	\$8,398.70
Odessa IPA – February 29, 2024.....	\$20,100.72
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – February 29, 2024.....	\$3,733.81

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

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SPECIAL BILLS

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Levi Adam, reported staff has been working on CSP, EQIP and FSA status reviews. Cammie Kerner is back in the Holdrege office.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented three Well Decommissioning cost-share applications for approval. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Ryan, to approve three Well Decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented five NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve five NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented seven irrigated acre transfer requests for MKB Partnership and Gardels Farms, one WCIP application for Joe Anderson and a variance for a WCIP contract for approval. Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan, to approve seven irrigated acre transfer requests, WCIP contracts and a WCIP variance that allows Dawson to comply with his WCIP contract. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

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. There was discussion with public about the WCIP program.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

District Matching for Employee/Family Health Insurance Coverage: This item will be discussed after executive session.

NPAIT Overview - Zulkoski: Walker Zulkoski explained NPAIT. Currently the interest rate is 5.3% with no fees and minimum. NPAIT is not a checking account, not insured by the FDIC but invested in funds approved by government guidelines. Money can be moved between current checking and savings accounts when needed. A board resolution would be needed to use NPAIT. NPAIT handles bond reporting for NRDs if funds are held by NPAIT.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Reynolds reported the NARD budget will increase 2% for the next two years and NARD is opposing LB1238 – Combined Animal Feeding Operations. Reynolds reported that NACD provided USDA/NRCS grant funding for Climate Smart Protection Cost-Share.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: Thorburn introduced Lisa Schroeder, Minden NRCS secretary.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin: Republican Basin IMP Stakeholder meeting will be held March 26, 2024, at 2 pm.

Platte Basin: Nothing to report.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report.

North Dry Creek: Nothing to report.

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: IPA meetings were held.

Whiskey Slough: IPA meetings were held.

Middle Lost Creek: IPA meetings were held.

Lake Seldom: IPA meetings were held.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Meeting was held in February.

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

CNPPID Report: Steve Osterbuhr reported that irrigation season will start June 10, 2024, and Elwood reservoir seepage mitigation is on track.

NEW BUSINESS

ZOOM Option for April Board Meeting: Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to change the board meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 pm on April 9, 2024. Motion failed.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams and Ryan

NAY: Bergstrom, Lundeen, Philips, and Reynolds

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

Thorburn explained that allowing a zoom board meeting means that board members will be able to join the meeting and vote via zoom, but zoom will not be an option for the public. The public will be able to attend in person at the NRD office as usual. Moved by Grams, seconded by Lundeen to designate April 9, 2024 as a "Zoom" board meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

IPA Assessments for FY 2024-2025: Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to set the Improvement Project Assessments for 2025 as follows: Ft Kearny - .00, Ft. Kearny West - .20, North Dry Creek - .15, Sacramento Creek - .25, South Dry Creek - .20, Whiskey Slough - .15, and Odessa - .00. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There were no comments or concerns.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 2:20 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Larson

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to move out of the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 2:36 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Larson

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

District Matching for Employee/Family Health Insurance Coverage: Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to change the percentage of health insurance covered by the district from 33% to 75% for family, spouse and children coverage including vision and dental. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Larson

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Todd Garrelts, Joel Grams, Brad Lundeen, Reed Philips, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds and Jeff Ryan.

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Lisa Schroeder, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Levi Adam, Cammie Kerner, Walker Zulkoski, Mike Dawson, Steve Osterbuhr, Scott Dicke, James McGowan, Steve Werner and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

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

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-03-12-01	Meeting Administration		8		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the minutes for the February 20, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting and work session. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-02	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the February 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-03	Budget		9			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-04	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Ryan, to approve three Well Decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-05	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve five NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-06	Certification & Transfers		9			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Ryan, to approve seven irrigated acre transfer requests, WCIP contracts and a WCIP variance that allows Dawson to comply with his WCIP contract. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-07	Meeting Administration		4	4	1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to change the board meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 pm on April 9, 2024. Motion failed.
	2024-03-12-08	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Grams, seconded by Lundeen to designate April 9, 2024 as a "Zoom" board meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-09	Projects	IPA Assessments	9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to set the Improvement Project Assessments for 2025 as follows: Ft Kearny - .00, Ft. Kearny West - .20, North Dry Creek - .15, Sacramento Creek - .25, South Dry Creek - .20, Whiskey Slough - .15, and Odessa - .00. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-10	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 2:20 p.m. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-11	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to move out of the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the

							protection of an individual(s) at 2:36 p.m. Motion carried.
	2024-03-12-12	Personnel	Health Insurance to 75%	9			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to change the percentage of health insurance covered by the district from 33% to 75% for family, spouse and children coverage including vision and dental. Motion carried.