

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 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, Todd Garrelts at 7:30 p.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law is available upon request. This meeting was advertised as a virtual meeting for directors only.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with ten directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan. Grams joined via zoom at 7:31 p.m. Bergstrom and Raffety 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 March 12, 2024, Board of Directors. Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the March 12, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Hinrichs, Philips, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Harris, Larson and Lundeen

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Grams and Raffety

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$118,741.76
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$163,154.28
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$127,195.61
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$116,534.47
Main Checking—March 31, 2024-----	\$132,142.55
Accounts Receivable – March 31, 2024-----	\$75,037.27
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – March 31, 2024-----	\$210,000.00
Building Sinking Fund – March 31, 2024-----	\$30,044.65
Vehicle Sinking Fund – March 31, 2024-----	\$1,451.04
Water Resources Fund – March 31, 2024-----	\$204,152.62
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – March 31, 2024-----	\$18,853.70
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – March 31, 2024-----	\$9,831.23
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2024-----	\$7,644.06
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – March 31, 2024-----	\$10,628.93
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2024-----	\$1,922.28
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – March 31, 2024-----	\$8,785.46
Water Jamboree – March 31, 2024-----	\$8,421.25
Odessa IPA – March 31, 2024-----	\$20,154.69
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – March 31, 2024-----	\$2,891.73

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 9, 2024

Page Two

**SPECIAL BILLS**

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

**NRCS REPORT**

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

**Activity and Progress Report:** Curtis Scheele, reported staff has been working on CSP and EQIP. He also mentioned TAPS competition this year.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Decommissioning** – Thorburn presented seven Well Decommissioning cost-share applications for approval. Moved by Larson, seconded by Grimes to approve seven Well Decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – Thorburn presented nineteen TBNRD Conservation Tree Cost-Share applications, one Soil Moisture cost-share application and one NSWCP cost-share application for approval. Moved by Ryan, seconded by Philips, to approve nineteen TBNRD Conservation Tree Cost-Share applications, one Soil Moisture cost-share application and one NSWCP cost-share application. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Grimes

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

**GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT**

**Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP** – Thorburn presented three irrigated acre transfer requests for David Olsen, Kaymae LLC and LKS LLC for approval. Jake Olsen was present to answer questions. Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Lundeen, to approve three irrigated acre transfer requests. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

**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.

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 9, 2024

Page Three

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Discuss Options for Redepositing CDs:** Thorburn explained that NPAIT is offering an investment rate of 5.29% and Bruning Bank offered 5.3% for a five-month CD. Thorburn also explained that the new RBJV employee needs a vehicle. He suggested keeping the Ford Explorer and purchasing a new vehicle. A portion of the CD represents the Vehicle Sinking Fund. This item will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Consider Allowing Assignment of Payments on WCIP Contracts:** Thorburn explained that landowners have asked that WCIP payments be allowed for tenants and producers. Thorburn consulted with Blankenau and determined that there is no problem allowing assignment of payments including current WCIP contracts. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to allow assignment of WCIP payments on current and future contracts. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

**NARD REPORT**

**NARD Report:** Reynolds mentioned the basin tour starting in McCook this year. Thorburn suggested changing the board meeting date because of the tour. Reynolds also mentioned the legislative bill concerning sales tax revision. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan, to change the June Board meeting date from Tuesday, June 11, 2024, to Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Schedule P&C Construction Committee Meeting:** Thorburn asked for a Projects and Construction meeting to discuss the topics of WCIP Contract Rates and Flowmeter Cost-Share rate increase. Thorburn will schedule a meeting based on the weather.

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

**Board Directives to Staff:** Thorburn reported on meeting in Liberal, Kansas and Little reported on Washington DC trip.

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Nothing to report.

**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.

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 9, 2024

Page Four

**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:** Burn is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

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

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

**Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well:** Blankenau will tour PRD on April 18, 2024.

**CNPPID Report:** Dicke reported on LB 1260, Perkins County Canal, Elwood Reservoir seepage repair completion date in June and Lake McConaughy at 63.3% of capacity.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**NPAIT Deposit Authorization Resolution:** The board asked Thorburn to present bids for a new vehicle to the May board meeting. Thorburn suggested moving the remainder of the vehicle sinking fund to NPAIT after a vehicle is purchased. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to adopt a resolution to allow investing with NPAIT when needed. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to reinvest with Bruning except for funds for a new vehicle and to allow staff to deposit funds at their discretion. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

**ZOOM Option for April Board Meeting:** No Zoom meeting for May 2024.

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

There were no comments or concerns.

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MINUTES

April 9, 2024

Page Five

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson to move out of the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom and Raffety

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Jake Olsen, Nate Munter, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Curtis Scheele, Scott Dicke, and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

---

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

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

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-04-09-01	Meeting Administration		7		3	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the March 12, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-02	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson, to accept the March 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-03	Budget		11			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-04	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Larson, seconded by Grimes to approve seven Well Decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-05	Meeting Administration		10		1	Moved by Ryan, seconded by Philips, to approve nineteen TBNRD Conservation Tree Cost-Share applications, one Soil Moisture cost-share application and one NSWCP cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-06	Certification & Transfers		11			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Lundeen, to approve three irrigated acre transfer requests. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-07	Certification & Transfers	WCIP	11			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Grimes, to allow assignment of WCIP payments on current and future contracts. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-08	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan, to change the June Board meeting date from Tuesday, June 11, 2024, to Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-09	Budget	NPAIT	11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bilka to adopt a resolution to allow investing with NPAIT when needed. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-10	Budget	Bruning	11			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Lundeen to reinvest with Bruning except for funds for a new vehicle and to allow staff to deposit funds at their discretion. Motion carried.
	2024-04-09-11	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen to move to Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 8:12 p.m. Motion carried.

	2024-04-09-12	Meeting Administration		11			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Larson to move out of the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters for the protection of an individual(s) at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried.
--	---------------	------------------------	--	----	--	--	---