

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 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 eleven directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Philips, Raffety, Ryan, and Reynolds. Grams, Harris and Hinrichs 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

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to excuse Raffety from the November and December 2024 board meetings. Motion carried

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Raffety

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

MEETING AGENDA

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to accept the meeting agenda for the January 15, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of December 10, 2025, Board of Directors meeting.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips, to approve the minutes for the December 10, 2025, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the November 12, 2024, Projects and Construction Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ryan presented the financial report for the month of January 2025 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$210,696.02
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$90,323.50
Actual Expenditures for Month	\$199,022.05
Actual Revenues for Month.....	\$9,393.95
Main Checking- December 31, 2024.....	\$117,514.91
Accounts Receivable – December 31, 2024.....	\$250.90
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – December 31, 2024.....	\$161,966.21

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Building Sinking Fund – December 31, 2024-----	\$3,815.67
Vehicle Sinking Fund – December 31, 2024-----	\$54,643.63
Water Resources Fund – December 31, 2024-----	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – December 31, 2024-----	\$3368.52
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – December 31, 2024-----	\$11,125.84
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – December 31, 2024-----	\$9,665.82
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – December 31, 2024-----	\$10,870.10
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – December 31, 2024-----	\$2,271.00
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – December 31, 2024-----	\$9,960.25
Water Jamboree – December 31, 2024-----	\$2,725.97
Odessa IPA – December 31, 2024-----	\$20,612.00
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – December 31, 2024-----	\$1,554.81

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety, to accept the December 2025 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

ADJOURN SINE DIE

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to approve the re-nomination of the current officers. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Kerner thanked the board for allowing them to have their annual work group meeting at the NRD. At their meeting they had to pick five top resource concerns. They ended up with insufficient water, water quality degradation, nutrient pest management, soil quality

degradation in terms of soil health, livestock production and degraded plant conditions. Those will get sent to Lincoln. She reported that they are working on their first go around of IRA applications for Act Now funding. There were 52 applications that they assessed, ranked and finished up.

COST SHARE REPORT

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

Moved by Larson, seconded by Bilka, to approve one well-decommissioning cost-share application, as recommended. Motion carried

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented NSWCP cost-share funds for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan to approve NSWCP cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

SMS Cost-Share- Thorburn presented 5 applications recommended for approval.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Grimes, to approve SMS cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

Thorburn presented the Minden Country Club flow meter cost share applications and requested funds for that project.

Moved by Ryan, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve to help Minden Country Club cost of \$5,000. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: Grimes, Harris, Lundeen, Garrelts

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented a transfer requests for Schrock Farms Inc. and three WCIP applications for the Anderberry's.

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

Thorburn presented one well variance request for approval.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve one well variance request for Lamar and Venetta Schmidt approval. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

Thorburn presented six WCIP applications for approval.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Harris, to approve six WCIP applications for approval. Motion carried.

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

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

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

Select contractor for NET Recharge Tool: Executive committee recommended Olsson as the contractor.

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve staff to send a letter to DG Fuels on a study of the impact of groundwater pumping associated with their proposed fuel plant. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grimes, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: Reynolds reported that January 27-29, 2025, is the Legislative Conference in Lincoln. Governor Pillen was at the Manager's meeting and discussed combining DNR and NDEE. Tri-Basin is hosting the Republican Basin Banquet.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee: Met with Julie Bushell-Ethos Connected about the proposed sustainable aviation fuel plant, sustainable farming, and carbons credits. Planned annual water use for the plan was discussed, but the committee is still unsure of the water source and possible impact on ground water levels.

WCIP Commingled Connection was also reviewed and a recommendation to cap the CNPPID bill reimbursement at \$65.00 per acre. Also, a statement was added to the contract: The producer will utilize CNPPID water when it is available.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the two recommendations from the Executive Committee. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

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: Nothing to report.

Platte Basin: Nothing to report.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report.

North Dry Creek: Staff started cutting trees.

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: Staff started cutting trees.

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Meeting on January 31 in GI.

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

CNPPID Report: Dicke shared that new officers were elected: President-Kyle Shepard, Vice President- Brent Sonesen, Secretary- Tim Boyle, Treasurer- Dudley Nelson. Central is trying to wrap up work at Johnson Lake near Medos. They are installing dikes. Lake Mac is at 57.5%, Elwood is at an elevation of 2607” which is 15 ft below capacity. They are discussing the recharge pits with DNR and have not completed the revisions to the recharge contract. They want to take excess flows when available. He also reminded everyone of the upcoming South-Central Water Conference on Thursday, January 23rd.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Work Session: A board work session was scheduled for February 19, 2025. The would like to have North Platte NRD talk about their recharge efforts and invite NRD Legal Counsel Don Blankenau to meet with the board as well.

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the Board Work Session Meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

Contract with DNR: The board approved the contract for observation well transmitters to be installed across the district. This will give real-time access to up to 9 wells.

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to excuse Raffety from the November and December 2024 board meetings. Motion carried

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Grams, Harris and Hinrichs

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

There was a 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, February 19, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Todd Garrelts, David Grimes, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Reed Philips, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, and Jeff Ryan

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Nolan Little, Camilla Kerner, Scott Dicke, Gary Robison, Wayne Anderson, Dalton Refior, and Nicole Simeon

Respectfully Submitted:

Nicole Simeon, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 January 15, 2025

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2025-01-15-01	Meeting Administration					Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to excuse Raffety from the November and December 2024 board meetings. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to accept the meeting agenda for the January 15, 2025 Board Meeting. Motion carried
	2025-01-15-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Larson, seconded by Philips, to approve the minutes for the December 10, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-04	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety, to accept the December 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-05	Budget					Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-06	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to adjourn sine die and to elect John Thorburn as interim chairman. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-07	Meeting Administration					Moved by Raffety, seconded by Grimes, to approve the re-nomination of the current officers. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-08	Certification & Transfers					Moved by Larson, seconded by Bilka, to approve one well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-09	District Plan & Programs					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve NSWCP cost-share applications, as recommended. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-10	District Plan & Programs					Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bilka, to approve SMS cost-share applications. Motion carried

	2025-01-15-11	District Plan & Programs					Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve a transfer request for Schrock Farms Inc. and three WCIP applications for the Anderbery's. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-12	Projects					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Ryan, to approve the recommendation to select Ollson. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-13	Projects					Moved by Larson, seconded by Reynolds, to approve the two recommendations from the Executive Committee. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-14	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the Board Work Session Meeting. Motion carried.
	2025-01-15-15	District Plan & Programs					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Reynolds to approve contract for observation well transmitters. Motion carried.