

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 14, 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 nine directors present: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan. Harris, Larson and Philips were absent. Bergstrom arrived at 7:35 p.m. 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 April 9, 2024, Board of Directors and May 6, 2024, Planning Committee meetings. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes for the April 9, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Bergstrom, Harris, Larson, Phillips

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the May 6, 2024, Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$115,657.40
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$63,049.08
Actual Expenditures for Month -----	\$116,035.44
Actual Revenues for Month-----	\$58,006.69
Main Checking-April 30, 2024-----	\$74,113.80
Accounts Receivable – April 30, 2024-----	\$79,113.25
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – April 30, 2024-----	\$210,000.00
Building Sinking Fund – April 30, 2024-----	\$30,044.65
Vehicle Sinking Fund – April 30, 2024-----	\$1,451.04
Water Resources Fund – April 30, 2024-----	\$204,152.62
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – April 30, 2024-----	\$18,904.32
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – April 30, 2024-----	\$9,890.09
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – April 30, 2024-----	\$7,664.57
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – April 30, 2024-----	\$10,657.47
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – April 30, 2024-----	\$1,235.37
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – April 30, 2024-----	\$8,844.07
Water Jamboree – April 30, 2024-----	\$8,889.07
Odessa IPA – April 30, 2024-----	\$20,208.80
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – April 30, 2024-----	\$2,891.73

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

SPECIAL BILLS

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no plans to approve.

Activity and Progress Report: Cammie Kerner is back after 4 months assisting NRCS in Lincoln. Lisa Berkeypile is in Lincoln helping with CSP programs across the state. Kerner reported staff has been working on the inflation reduction act which funded additional EQIP and CSP.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Decommissioning – Thorburn presented one Well Decommissioning cost-share application for approval. Moved by Grams, seconded by Ryan to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater, Certified Acre Transfers & WCIP – Thorburn presented two irrigated acre transfer requests for BR Hock Farms and Janyce Hock Life Estate for approval and a WCIP application for Gary Lindstrom. Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Reynolds, to approve two irrigated acre transfer requests and a WCIP contract. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

Educational Land Leases – There were no Educational Lands and Funds applications for approval.

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OTHER BUSINESS

The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the board for comment or discussion. Thorburn introduced Carrie Putnam, the new Water Resources Program Specialist. Devin Brundage thanked Thorburn for attending a Water Services committee meeting and invited directors/staff to the CNPPID Tour and suggested incorporating the tour into the August Board of Directors Tour.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Consider Support for Elwood FFA Students Going to National Convention: Thorburn introduced the Elwood FFA students. The students won the state competition and five students will be participating in the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN this fall but could use financial support to attend. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety, to support the Elwood FFA Students to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, to give a presentation on the Platte River Diversion by providing a scholarship totaling \$1,250. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

Robust Review of Platte Basin IMP Impacts (NDNR): Ryan Kelly, NDNR, presented information about TBNRD's integrated management plan, basin wide plan, offset requirements and groundwater/surface water status. Thorburn mentioned the Platte Basin Wide Drought Plan should be done this year.

NARD REPORT

NARD Report: The Basin Tour will start in McCook this year. The PRD will be part of the tour.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning Committee Meeting: Thorburn reviewed the Planning committee recommendations. The committee did not recommend a change to the WCIP groundwater rate but did recommend a change to the commingled rate. The current rate is \$35/acre which was CNPPID's rate at the time the program started. CNPPID's current rate is \$42/acre. The committee recommended changing the commingled rate to the current CNPPID rate for new contracts only. The committee recommended increasing the cost-share rate for flowmeters to 60% (70% was discussed at the committee meeting) with a \$1,000 cap because current cost-share isn't paying a high enough rate. Lundeen asked that credits for offsets be left on the Planning Committee agenda. Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bilka to accept the Planning Committee's recommendations to set the WCIP Commingled rate for FY 2024-2025 at \$42/acre for new contracts. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Hinrichs, Raffety, Reynolds and Ryan

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to accept the Planning Committee's recommendation to raise the cap on flowmeter cost-share to \$1,000 and increase the reimbursement rate from 50% to 60%. Motion carried unanimously.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

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: The Platte Republican Diversion Hearing will be held May 23, at the Bertrand Community Building. Directors are invited to attend.

Platte Basin: Addressed under a previous agenda item.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Nothing to report.

North Dry Creek: No Spray bids received.

Odessa IPA: No Spray bids received.

Sacramento Creek: No Spray bids received.

Fort Kearny: No Spray bids received.

Fort Kearny West: No Spray bids received.

South Dry Creek: No Spray bids received.

Whiskey Slough: No Spray bids received.

Middle Lost Creek: No Spray bids received.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Rainwater Basin Joint Venture: Meeting and tour was held in Ord.

Platte-Republican Diversion & Republican Basin Augmentation Well: Discussed earlier in the meeting.

CNPPID Report: Dicke reported Elwood Reservoir and E-65 repairs are on track, irrigation season has started, and Lake McConaughy is at 64.9% of capacity. There was discussion about the change in CNPPID's Mission Statement.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Bids for SUV for TBNRD: Thorburn explained that the dealer hasn't provided bid. The vehicle will be added to next year's budget.

Schedule Hearing for Groundwater Mgmt. Rules Violators: Thorburn explained that several producers/landowners haven't turned in their water use reports. A hearing needs to be scheduled at the next board meeting. If a violator fails to provide the water use reports after the hearing, a cease and desist order is issued. Board members can call violators.

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Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams to schedule a groundwater management rules violator hearing at the June board meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Harris, Larson and Philips

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

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Lundeen commented on the Drought Mitigation Plan and the importance of coordination with CNPPID.

PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

There were no personnel or legal matters.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Todd Garrelts, Joel Grams, David Grimes, Rob Hinrichs, Brad Lundeen, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds and Jeff Ryan.

OTHERS PRESENT:

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Carrie Putnam, Nate Munter, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Cammie Kerner, Devin Brundage, Elwood FFA, Jennifer Schellpeper, Ryan Kelly and Kari Burgert. Scott Dicke, and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
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ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-05-14-01	Meeting Administration		9			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bilka, to approve the minutes for the April 9, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-05-14-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Grimes, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the May 6, 2024, Planning Committee meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2024-05-14-03	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Bergstrom, to accept the April 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-05-14-04	Budget		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Raffety, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2024-05-14-05	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Grams, seconded by Ryan to approve one Well Decommissioning cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2024-05-14-06	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Grams, seconded by Raffety, to approve three TBNRD Conservation Tree Cost-Share applications, two Soil Moisture cost-share applications and one NSWCP cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2024-05-14-07	Certification & Transfers		10			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Reynolds, to approve two irrigated acre transfer requests and a WCIP contract. Motion carried.
	2024-05-14-08	Education & Awards	Elwood FFA	10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety, to support the Elwood FFA Students to attend the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN, to give a presentation on the Platte River Diversion by providing a scholarship totaling \$1,250. Motion carried.
	2024-05-14-09	District Plans & Programs	WCIP Rates	10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Bilka to accept the Planning Committee's recommendations to set the WCIP Commingled rate for FY 2024-2025 at \$42/acre for new contracts. Motion carried.
	2024-05-14-10	District Plans & Programs	Flowmeter Cost-Share Rates	10			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to accept the Planning Committee's recommendation to raise the cap on flowmeter cost-share to \$1,000 and increase the reimbursement rate from

							50% to 60%. Motion carried unanimously.
	2024-05-14-11	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grams to schedule a groundwater management rules violator hearing at the June board meeting. Motion carried.