

**MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**  
**West Central Research and Extension Center**  
**402 W. State Farm Rd., North Platte NE**

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman, Todd Garrelts at 9:30 a.m. Garrelts noted Public Meeting Law was posted in the meeting room. Thorburn opened the public hearing for the budget prior to this meeting.

**ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken with ten directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs, Larson, Lundeen and Reynolds. Philips, Raffety and Ryan 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 July 9, 2024, Board of Directors meeting and July 18, 2024, Special Board of Director’s Meeting, July 9, 2024, and July 12, 2024, Executive Committee meetings. Moved by Larson, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the minutes for the July 9, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the July 18, 2024, Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bergstrom and Larson

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the July 9 and July 12, 2024, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Thorburn presented the financial report for the month of July 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-July 31, 2024.....	\$560,742.96
Accounts Receivable – July 31, 2024.....	\$130,634.92
CD/Sinking Funds – Bruning Bank – July 31, 2024.....	\$158,480.00
Building Sinking Fund – July 31, 2024.....	\$3,815.67
Vehicle Sinking Fund – July 31, 2024.....	\$54,643.63
Water Resources Fund – July 31, 2024.....	\$9,713.02
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – July 31, 2024.....	\$21,338.46
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – July 31, 2024.....	\$10,575.00
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2024.....	\$8,853.01
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – July 31, 2024.....	\$10,721.95
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2024.....	\$1,005.26
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – July 31, 2024.....	\$9,551.66

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Water Jamboree – July 31, 2024-----	\$4,396.50
Odessa IPA – July 31, 2024-----	\$20,331.06
Sacramento Creek IPA Loan Balance – July 31, 2024-----	\$1,081.19

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

**SPECIAL BILLS**

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

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

**NRCS REPORT**

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

**Activity and Progress Report:** Cammie Kerner mentioned the Memorandum of Understanding between USDA/NRCS and TBNRD. She mentioned that the NRD should be paying for the Local Work Group meeting advertisement but hasn't been because of an oversight and mentioned information can be shared with TBNRD if it's used for USDA/NRCS programs.

**COST SHARE REPORT**

**Well Decommissioning** – There were no well decommissioning cost-share applications to approve.

**NSWCP & NRD Applications** – There were no NSWCP cost-share applications to approve.

**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. Chuck Burr, UNL Extension gave a presentation about TAPS. Burr mentioned a version of TAPs will be used in schools to teach students how to decrease nitrogen while increasing yields.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Approve FY 2024-25 Budget (After Hearing):** This item cannot be addressed until after the hearing is closed.

**Authorize Additional 1% Levy Authority:** This item cannot be addressed until after the hearing is closed.

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**NARD REPORT**

**NARD Report:** Reynolds talked about a meeting he attended with Governor Pillan and the Drought Planning meeting. Kerner mentioned all applicable NRCS funded projects require flowmeters.

**Select Delegate and Alternate Delegate for NARD Conference:** Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to select Reynolds as delegate and Raffety as alternate delegate to the NARD Fall Conference. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Reynolds

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

**Discuss Legislative Resolutions for NARD Conference:** There were no resolutions to discuss.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Schedule Building Committee Meeting:** Garrelts suggested each committee consider including an outside member to sit on the committee. The Building Committee will meet September 10 at 6 p.m.

Moved by Larson, seconded by Bilka, to change the September board meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Motion failed.

AYE: Bilka, Garrelts, Grams, Larson, and Reynolds

NAY: Bergstrom, Grimes, Harris, Hinrichs and Lundeen

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

**STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION**

**Board Directives to Staff:** Garrelts mentioned he will be demonstrating drone spraying on weeds with Munter in the next month.

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

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**Republican Basin:** Annual Compact meeting August 28, 2024 at 9 a.m. in Colby, KS

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

**Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin:** Basin Annual meeting in Minden in September and Eaton Township Phase II meeting in Heartwell on September 4<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. with hearing at the September board meeting.

**North Dry Creek:** Ditch bottoms were sprayed.

**Odessa IPA:** Ditch bottoms were sprayed.

**Sacramento Creek:** Ditch bottoms were sprayed.

**Fort Kearny:** Ditch bottoms were sprayed.

**Fort Kearny West:** Ditch bottoms were sprayed.

**South Dry Creek:** Ditch bottoms were sprayed.

**Whiskey Slough:** Ditch bottoms were sprayed.

**Middle Lost Creek:** Ditch bottoms were sprayed.

**Lake Seldom:** Nothing to report.

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

**Rainwater Basin Joint Venture:** Board meeting in September.

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

**CNPPID Report:** Dicke thanked the board for attending the tour.

### NEW BUSINESS

**Discuss Repairs to Boren Dam:** Thorburn presented pictures showing damage to the Boren erosion structure. Funding was originally provided by NEMA but repairs will need to be paid by TBNRD. Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to authorize repairs to the Boren Erosion Structure. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

**Discuss WCIP Commingled Option Enhancements:** There was discussion about the WCIP program and how to increase participation. Lundeen suggested increasing public awareness by including CNPPID, water users, municipalities, stakeholders, power districts and NRCS in discussions. Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Bilka, to discuss at a special board meeting amending the WCIP program to increase participation. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

**Schedule Hearing to Set TBNRD FY 2024-25 Levy:** Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to schedule a hearing to set the levy for the FY 2024-2025 TBNRD budget. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Approve FY 2024-25 Budget (After Hearing):** Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the FY 2024-2025 TBNRD budget as presented. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

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**Authorize Additional 1% Levy Authority:** Moved by Larson, seconded by Grams, to authorize an additional 1% budget authority for the FY 2024-2025 FY TBNRD budget. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Bilka

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to direct staff and management to develop a plan to get information to the public and present the plan to the Information and Education Committee. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

**COMMENTS AND CONCERNS**

There were no comments or concerns.

**PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS**

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs to move to Executive Session to discuss contractual issues for the protection of the public at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bilka to move out of the Executive Session to discuss contractual issues for the protection of the public at 11:19 a.m. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Philips, Raffety and Ryan

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m.

**DIRECTORS PRESENT**

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

John Thorburn, Sasha Hahn, Nolan Little, Nate Munter, Cammie Kerner, Alex Linden, Jenice Bergstrom, Patty Lundeen, Mike Drain, Scott Dicke, and Carie Lynch.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS  
TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
August 13, 2024

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion
	2024-08-13-01	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Bergstrom, to approve the minutes for the July 9, 2024, Regular Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-02	Meeting Administration		8		2	Moved by Grimes, seconded by Lundeen, to approve the minutes for the July 18, 2024, Special Board of Directors meeting. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-03	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs, to approve the minutes for the July 9 and July 12, 2024, Executive Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.
	2024-08-13-04	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to accept the July 2024 Financial Report, and submit for audit. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-05	Budget		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Grimes, to approve the Visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-06	Directors	Fall Conference	9		1	Moved by Bilka, seconded by Lundeen, to select Reynolds as delegate and Raffety as alternate delegate to the NARD Fall Conference. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-07	Meeting Administration		5	5		Moved by Larson, seconded by Bilka, to change the September board meeting time from 7:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Motion failed.
	2024-08-13-08	Projects	Boren	10			Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to authorize repairs to the Boren Erosion Structure. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-09	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Hinrichs, seconded by Bilka, to discuss at a special board meeting amending the WCIP program to increase participation. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-10	Budget		9		1	Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Grams, to schedule a hearing to set the levy for the FY 2024-2025 TBNRD budget. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-11	Budget		9		1	Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Grimes, to approve the FY 2024-2025 TBNRD budget as presented. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-12	Budget		10			Moved by Larson, seconded by Grams, to authorize an additional 1% budget authority for the FY 2024-2025 FY TBNRD budget. Motion carried.

	2024-08-13-13	District Plans & Programs	Information to Public	10			Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Reynolds, to direct staff and management to develop a plan to get information to the public and present the plan to the Information and Education Committee. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-14	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Bilka, seconded by Hinrichs to move to Executive Session to discuss contractual issues for the protection of the public at 10:45 a.m. Motion carried.
	2024-08-13-15	Meeting Administration		10			Moved by Grimes, seconded by Bilka to move out of the Executive Session to discuss contractual issues for the protection of the public at 11:19 a.m. Motion carried.