

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 11, 2014, 1:30 p.m.
Tri-Basin NRD

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly board meeting of the Tri-Basin Natural Resources District (NRD) was called to order by Chairman David Nickel, at 1:30 p.m. Nickel noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with thirteen directors present: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz. Notice of the meeting was published in the Holdrege Citizen, Bertrand Herald, Elwood Bulletin and the Minden Courier and announced over radio stations KRVN, Lexington and KUVR, Holdrege.

EXCUSE ABSENCES

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the February 11, 2014 Board Meeting and Special Board of Directors Meeting.

Moved by Raffety, seconded by Olsen, to approve the minutes for the February 11, 2014 Regular Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Garrelts and Winz

ABSENT: None

Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes for the February 11, 2014 Special Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety and Reynolds

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Winz

ABSENT: None

FINANCIAL REPORT

Garrelts presented the financial report for the month of February 2014 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month -----	\$63,616.30
Cash Expenditures for Month-----	\$71,566.72
Accrual Revenues for Month-----	\$126,547.17
Cash Revenues for Month-----	\$101,454.38
Bank Balance—February 28, 2014-----	\$314,015.56
Accounts Receivable – February 28, 2014-----	\$102,897.30
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – February 28, 2014-----	\$609,858.94
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – February 28, 2014-----	\$19,144.86
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – February 28, 2014-----	\$8,299.71
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2014-----	\$9,743.55
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – February 28, 2014-----	\$11,751.42
North Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2014-----	\$16,301.13
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – February 28, 2014-----	\$23,035.81
Water Jamboree – February 28, 2014-----	\$1,743.79
NRRMDA – February 28, 2014-----	\$7,676.02

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Lynch reported that accounts receivable is higher than normal mostly because of two charges for IWMS and PBHEP, both of which have been paid but not posted yet. There was discussion about the IPA checking account balances. Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bilka, to accept the February 2014 financial reports and file for audit. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

SPECIAL BILLS

Thorburn presented the VISA and attorney bills for approval. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Larson to approve the visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: There were no farm plans for approval.

Activity and Progress Report: Breece reported staff has been busy ranking EQIP plans and waivers are being granted so projects can be started. Breece reported on a new regional program called RCPP.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Abandonment – Thorburn presented nine Well Decommissioning Cost-Share applications. Moved by Winz, seconded by Olsen to approve Well Decommissioning Cost-share applications #87 to #95. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn presented thirteen NSWCP cost-share applications, one TBNRD Cost-share and 2nd extension for approval. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Johnson to approve thirteen NSWCP Cost-share applications and one TBNRD cost-share application. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka to approve a second NSWCP extension for Merlin Wilke. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater & Certified Acre Transfers – Thorburn presented twelve irrigated acre transfer requests: David Grimes (2), Rebecca Crandall, Nicholas Tomsen, Steven Anderson (4), Charles Tomsen (3), Jessica Shoff and two special requests for Rebecca Crandall (well modification) and Charles Tomsen (well variance).

Moved by Nelson, seconded by Lundeen to approve twelve irrigated acre transfer requests: David Grimes (2), Rebecca Crandall, Nicholas Tomsen, Steven Anderson (4), Charles Tomsen (3), Jessica Shoff and two well variance requests for Crandall and Tomsen. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Educational Land Leases – There were no educational land leases to approve.

OTHER BUSINESS

The public was given the opportunity to bring other specific business or non-agenda items before the board for comment and/or discussion. Lee Wells commented on a meeting he had with Thorburn and several other Odessa IPA landowners.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Soybean Water Use Efficiency in Tri-Basin NRD - Grassini: UNL Agronomy Professor Patricio Grassini presented information showing the increased water and nitrogen efficiency of using corn after soybean rotation instead in comparison to corn after corn. Grassini complimented TBNRD on the variety and quantity of data collected and made available by the district for use in the study.

Tri-Basin NRD Groundwater Quality Update: Nolan Little presented information about groundwater nitrate levels across the District. Little mentioned that a grant from NDEQ will allow TBNRD to purchase equipment to sample water quality in dedicated observation wells.

2013 North Dry Creek Augmentation Well Operation: Thorburn presented information on location of proposed 2nd augmentation well with revised pumping estimates. There was discussion about the site and associated depletion rate. Thorburn explained that power is already installed at the site. Nickel asked that Thorburn get offset information from HDR. The Platte River Program would like to cooperate with TBNRD to provide flows for habitat. Garrelts advised using the same contractor unless he wouldn't honor the bid. NDNR will fund part of the cost of construction.

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety to proceed with the second North Dry Creek Augmentation well, using the estimate from the previous contractor, unless the contractor won't honor the estimate and then bid the project. Motion carried.

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AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Consider Proceeding with Additional Augmentation Wells in Platte and Republican Basins: Thorburn reviewed the Republican Basin Augmentation Projects and commented that landowner's negotiations would be discussed in executive session.

NARD REPORT

NARD Legislative Report (Reynolds): Reynolds commented that the National Envirothon will not be held due to funding issues and nominations for NRD Hall of Fame and Director of the Year are being taken now through May 1st. Reynolds asked to be taken off the Land Committee, RBJV Committee and PBHEP Committee because of his commitment to the NARD Board of Directors. Raffety is the alternate for the Land Committee and RBJV committees and Thorburn is the alternate for the PBHEP Committee. Anyone interested should contact Thorburn.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no committee reports.

STAFF REPORTS & NECESSARY ACTION

Board Directives to Staff: There was nothing to report.

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

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin (NRRMD): Non-binding arbitration on NCORP was conducted in Lincoln March 3-5, 2014.

Platte Basin: Land Committee will met February 25, 2014 and land acquisition was discussed.

South Dry Creek: Annual IPA meeting was held February 28, 2014.

Sacramento Creek: Annual IPA meeting was held February 28, 2014.

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Fort Kearny West: Annual IPA meeting was held February 28, 2014.

Fort Kearny: Annual IPA meeting was held February 28, 2014.

North Dry Creek: Annual IPA meeting was held February 28, 2014.

Whiskey Slough: Annual IPA meeting was held February 28, 2014.

Odessa IPA: Annual IPA meeting was held February 28, 2014. Draft of drainage study was completed.

Lake Seldom: Nothing to report.

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CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Nothing to report.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Meeting with NDNR will be held in Davenport on March 17, 2014.

CNPPID: Ford reported Lake McConaughay is at elevation 3238.1 feet and 59.9% capacity.

NEW BUSINESS

Bids for Pickup to Replace 2006 Ford F150: Thorburn presented bids for a replacement for the 2006 Ford. The budgeted amount was \$25,000. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Lundeen to accept the bid from Janssen and Sons for the Ford 150 XLT. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: Bilka and Nelson

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Consider Cooperation with NDC Drainage District on Ditch Maintenance: North Dry Creek Drainage District approached TBNRD to spray ditch bottoms. Thorburn explained that the IPAs are not charged for labor, just fuel, chemicals and equipment rental when spraying ditches. Moved by Nelson, seconded by Winz to cooperate with North Dry Creek Drainage District for ditch maintenance by charging them for materials and not labor costs. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Nickel

ABSENT: None

Schedule Hearing for Groundwater Management Rules: Thorburn reported no hearing is necessary because the landowner turned in his reports. He complimented Tammy Fahrenbruch, Office Manager, for her efforts to get the producer in compliance.

Consider Whether to Hold April Board Meeting during Day or Evening: The April board meeting will be held in the evening at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 8, 2014.

PERSONNEL & LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson to move to executive session for the protection of the public to discuss property negotiations at 3:28 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Olsen to move out of executive session for the protection of the public to discuss property negotiations at 4:09 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

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Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson to inform NDNR and enter into negotiations with landowners along Turkey Creek to get easements for augmentation well locations. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Garrelts, Harris, Johnson, Larson, Lundeen, Nelson, Nickel, Olsen, Raffety, Reynolds and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Reynolds recommended that Thorburn compose a letter expressing opposition on LB1074 from TBNRD.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting will be held 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, April 8, 2014 at Tri-Basin NRD, Holdrege, NE

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Todd Garrelts, Ed Harris, Phyllis Johnson, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, David Nelson, David Nickel, David Olsen, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds and Ray Winz.

OTHERS PRESENT

Carie Lynch, John Thorburn, Nicole Salisbury, Kevin Breece, Dave Ford, Andy Tomsen, Steve Anderson, Patricio Grassini, Bhupinder Farmaha, Nolan Little, Tammy Fahrenbruch, David Grimes, Sherrod Hanson, Doris Hanson, Charles Brooks and Lee Wells.

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	Abs	Motion
	2014-03-11-01	Meeting Administration		11		2	Moved by Raffety, seconded by Olsen, to approve the minutes for the February 11, 2014 Regular Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried.
	2014-03-11-02	Meeting Administration		12		1	Moved by Lundeen, seconded by Nelson, to approve the minutes for the February 11, 2014 Special Board of Directors Meeting. Motion carried.
	2014-03-11-03	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Raffety, seconded by Bilka, to accept the February 2014 financial reports and file for audit. Motion carried.
	2014-03-11-04	Budget		13			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Larson to approve the visa and attorney bills. Motion carried.
	2014-03-11-05	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Winz, seconded by Olsen to approve Well Decommissioning Cost-share applications #87 to #95. Motion carried.
	2014-03-11-06	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Johnson to approve thirteen NSWCP Cost-share applications and one TBNRD cost-share application. Motion carried.
	2014-03-11-07	Meeting Administration		13			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka to approve a second NSWCP extension for Merlin Wilke. Motion carried.
	2014-03-11-08	Certifications & Transfers	Grimes, Crandall, Tomsen, Shoff	13			Moved by Nelson, seconded by Lundeen to approve twelve irrigated acre transfer requests: David Grimes (2), Rebecca Crandall, Nicholas Tomsen, Steven Anderson (4), Charles Tomsen (3), Jessica Shoff and two well variance requests for Crandall and Tomsen. Motion carried.
	2014-03-11-09	Projects	NDC Aug Well	13			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety to proceed with the second North Dry Creek Augmentation well, using the estimate from the

							previous contractor, unless the contractor won't honor the estimate and then bid the project. Motion carried.
2014-03-11-10	Budget	New Pickup	11	2			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Lundeen to accept the bid from Janssen and Sons for the Ford 150 XLT. Motion carried.
2014-03-11-11	Projects	NDC Drainage District	12			1	Moved by Nelson, seconded by Winz to cooperate with North Dry Creek Drainage District for ditch maintenance by charging them for materials and not labor costs. Motion carried.
2014-03-11-12	Meeting Administration		13				Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson to move to executive session for the protection of the public to discuss property negotiations at 3:28 p.m. Motion carried.
2014-03-11-13	Meeting Administration		13				Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Olsen to move out of executive session for the protection of the public to discuss property negotiations at 4:09 p.m. Motion carried.
2014-03-11-14	Projects	Rep. Basin Aug well	13				Moved by Bilka, seconded by Larson to inform NDNR and enter into negotiations with landowners along Turkey Creek to get easements for augmentation well locations. Motion carried.