

MINUTES OF THE TRI-BASIN NRD BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, March 8, 2016, 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 Vice Chairman, Brad Lundeen, at 1:30 p.m. Lundeen noted Public Meeting Law is posted in the boardroom.

ROLL CALL

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

EXCUSE ABSENCES

There were no absences to excuse.

MINUTES

Thorburn presented the minutes of the February 9, 2015, Board of Directors meeting and work session and January 25, 2016 Phelps County Weed Control committee meeting. Moved by Johnson, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the February 9, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting and Work Session. Motion carried.

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

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Winz

ABSENT: Olsen

Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the minutes for the January 25, 2016 Phelps County Weed Control Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bilka presented the financial report for the month of February 2016 as follows:

Accrual Expenditures for Month	\$70,031.47
Cash Expenditures for Month.....	\$73,594.71
Accrual Revenues for Month.....	\$140,281.25
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Cash Revenues for Month.....	\$140,251.70
Bank Balance—February 29, 2016.....	\$557,707.74
-	
Accounts Receivable – February 29, 2016.....	\$6,846.31
Investments – Pinnacle Bank – February 29, 2016.....	\$50,091.52
-	
Building Sinking Fund – February 29, 2016.....	\$70,004.53
-	
Vehicle Sinking Fund – February 29, 2016.....	\$49,940.64
Water Resources Fund – February 29, 2016.....	\$150,009.70
Whiskey Slough IPA Balance – February 29, 2016.....	\$18,307.49
Fort Kearny-West IPA Balance – February 29, 2016.....	\$10,963.61
South Dry Creek IPA Balance – February 29, 2016.....	\$13,423.93
Fort Kearny IPA Balance – February 29, 2016.....	\$11,917.65
Sacramento Creek IPA Balance – February 29, 2016.....	\$21,971.04

-	
Water Jamboree – February 29, 2016-----	\$5,370.49
-	
NRRMDA – February 29, 2016-----	\$7,625.03
Odessa IPA – February 29, 2016-----	\$13,845.46

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety to accept the February 2016 financial reports and file for audit. Motion carried.

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AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

SPECIAL BILLS

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

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

NRCS REPORT

FSA Farm Plans: Breece presented one farm plan for approval. Moved by Garrelts, seconded Bilka to approve a farm plan for Craig Forster. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: Harris and Johnson

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

Activity and Progress Report: Breece reported TBNRD counties have been leading the state in computer system signups. Breece recommended TBNRD staff watch an informational video on “Active Shooter Policy”.

COST SHARE REPORT

Well Abandonment – Thorburn presented three well decommissioning applications for approval. Moved by Raffety, seconded Winz to approve three well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

NSWCP & NRD Applications – Thorburn recommended three NSWCP cost-share applications for approval. Moved by Garrelts, seconded Larson to approve three NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds,
Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

Groundwater & Certified Acre Transfers – Thorburn presented one certified irrigated acre transfer request for Rhodell Jameson and a correction to certified irrigated acres for Neal and Nanci Carlson. Nanci Carlson and Rhodell Jameson were present to answer questions. There was discussion about collecting back taxes. Currently, county assessors are not collecting back taxes.

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to approve a certified irrigated acre transfer request for Rhodell Jameson and a correction to certified irrigated acres for Neal/Nanci Carlson. Motion carried.

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

NAY: Winz

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Designate Stakeholder for Platte Basin IMP: Thorburn explained that a director and stakeholder need to be designated for the Platte Basin IMP process. Russ Edeal, Bob Dahlgren and Vernon Nelson were stakeholders during the previous IMP process and will be contacted to participate again. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety to designate Larry Reynolds as representative and Joe Larson as alternate representative for the Platte Basin IMP. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Lundeen, Raffety, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: Larson and Reynolds

ABSENT: Olsen

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Johnson to designate Bob Dahlgren, Russ Edeal and Vernon Nelson as stakeholders for the Platte Basin IMP. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

Consider Offering Backup Water System Operator Services to Villages in NRD: Thorburn explained that TBNRD could offer services of a backup water system operator to towns of less than five hundred (Loomis, Smithfield, Wilcox, Atlanta and Funk). Two technicians (Nott and VanEperen) would be trained for this purpose. Thorburn consulted with TBNRD's property insurance agent and employees would be covered under the current policy but suggested adding a "hold harmless" clause to the interlocal agreement. Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka to offer backup water system operator services to area villages in TBNRD. Motion carried.

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AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

NARD REPORT

Reynolds reported that the NRD history program will air on PBS on March 24, 2016 at 8 pm and March 27, 2016 at 1:30 pm. The Blue Basin Tour will be held June 13-14, 2016.

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.

Executive Committee Meeting: Thorburn will set an executive committee meeting to discuss personnel policy and by-laws. Garrelts suggested using Skype or a conference call for Olsen.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Republican Basin (NRRMDA): The Republican Basin IMP meeting will be held Tuesday, March 16, 2016 in Cambridge. Johnson and Winz will attend. NRD managers have been asked not to attend to allow Jeff Fasset, NDNR Director, to discuss IMP progress with stakeholders and directors.

Platte Basin: There is an opportunity to divert up to 500 acre feet into E-65 Canal. Thorburn estimated the cost at \$12,000 with NDNR paying fifty percent. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Winz to divert high flows into E-65 Canal. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

South Dry Creek: IPA meetings were held. Landowner suggested work be done and Ostgren Construction has been contacted.

Sacramento Creek: IPA meetings were held. Phelps County Road Dept. will change some bridges.

Middle Lost Creek: Nothing to report.

Fort Kearny West: IPA meetings were held.

Fort Kearny: IPA meetings were held. Work will be done on ditch this spring.

North Dry Creek: IPA meetings were held. Some work will be scheduled.

Whiskey Slough: IPA meetings were held. Survey of downstream will be done.

Odessa IPA: IPA meetings were held. Grass seeding planned.
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Lake Seldom: Management Plan was approved by city council.

CoHyst/Platte Basin Coalition: Little attended the CoHyst Graphic User Interface workshop.

Sand Creek/Little Blue Basin: Advertising for stakeholders has begun.

Platte-Republican Diversion: This item will be discussed under a later agenda item.

Weed Mgmt. Areas/Riparian Veg. TF: Nothing to report.

CNPPID: Ford reported Lake McConaughay is at elevation 3255.4 ft. and 84% of capacity.

NEW BUSINESS

Review Proposed Contract with CNPPID for Platte-Republican Diversion Works: There is no contract to discuss yet.

Approve “Bridges to Opportunity” Agreement with USDA/FSA: Thorburn explained a pilot program called “Bridges to Opportunity” is being developed that will allow FSA staff to share details about NRD conservation programs with customers. Moved by Johnson, seconded by Cavanaugh to approve the “Bridges to Opportunity” Agreements for Phelps and Gosper Counties. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

Review Proposed Contract with JEO to Facilitate Little Blue IMP Meetings: Thorburn explained that JEO will facilitate six meetings for the Little Blue IMP. The total cost will be shared between NDNR (50%), LBNRD (25%) and TBNRD (25%). JEO will lead the meetings, take minutes, set the agenda, help stakeholders express views, and give technical support. Thorburn had Jeff Cox review the contract. Cox made several changes that will be incorporated into the document. Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to approve the contract with JEO to facilitate the Little Blue IMP meetings. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: Garrelts

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

Consider Financial Support for Platte Valley Weed Mgmt. Area: Thorburn explained that the Platte Valley Weed Management has been working for eight years to control noxious weeds, clearing channels and reduce consumption in the Platte River. The group has been funded by an NET grant but did not get funded this year. The organization could get funding from the state next year but is asking for funding from partners in the interim. TBNRD budgeted for the PVWM in previous years, but not for FY 2015-2016. Thorburn mentioned the project could be funded in the 2016-2017 Budget.

COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

Mike Clements, LRNRD, reported on NCORPE progress.

PERSONNEL & LEGAL MATTERS

Moved by Winz, seconded by Bilka to move to executive session for the protection of the public to discuss legal issues at 2:43 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

Moved by Bilka, seconded by Winz to move out of executive session for the protection of the public to discuss legal issues at 3:03 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Larson to change the board meeting dates for April and May to April 5, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. and May 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.

AYE: Bergstrom, Bilka, Cavanaugh, Garrelts, Johnson, Harris, Larson, Lundeen, Raffety, Reynolds, Ryan and Winz

NAY: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Olsen

NEXT BOARD MEETING

TBNRD Regular Board Meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

DIRECTORS PRESENT

Brian Bergstrom, Joe Bilka, Mike Cavanaugh, Todd Garrelts, Ed Harris, Phyllis Johnson, Joe Larson, Brad Lundeen, Dave Raffety, Larry Reynolds, Jeff Ryan and Ray Winz.

OTHERS PRESENT

Carie Lynch, John Thorburn, Nicole Salisbury, Dave Ford, Kevin Breece, Ryan Lutkemeier, Tammy Fahrenbruch, Lori Potter, David Jameson, Rhodell Jameson, Ruth Nielsen, Charles Brooks, Nolan Little, Curtis Scheele, Nanci Carlson and Mike Clements.

Respectfully Submitted:

Carie Lynch, Asst. Secretary

INDEX OF BOARD DECISIONS
 TRI-BASIN NATURAL RESOURCES DISTRICT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
 March 8, 2016

ID	Motion #	Category	Subject	Aye	Nay	Abs	Motion
	2016-03-08-01	Meeting Administration		11		1	Moved by Johnson, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes for the February 9, 2016 Board of Directors Meeting and Work Session. Motion carried.
	2016-03-08-02	Meeting Administration					Moved by Bergstrom, seconded by Cavanaugh, to approve the minutes for the January 25, 2016 Phelps County Weed Control Committee Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.
	2016-03-08-03	Budget		12			Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety to accept the February 2016 financial reports and file for audit. Motion carried.
	2016-03-08-04	Budget		12			Moved by Bilka, seconded Garrelts to approve the visa, attorney and conservation study bills. Motion carried.
	2016-03-08-05	Meeting Administration		10	2		Moved by Garrelts, seconded Bilka to approve a farm plan for Craig Forster. Motion carried.
	2016-03-08-06	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Raffety, seconded Winz to approve three well decommissioning cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2016-03-08-07	Meeting Administration		12			Moved by Garrelts, seconded Larson to approve three NSWCP cost-share applications. Motion carried.
	2016-03-08-08	Certification & Transfers	Jameson and Carlson	11	1		Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Raffety to approve a certified irrigated acre transfer request for Rhodell Jameson and a correction to certified irrigated acres for Neal/Nanci Carlson. Motion carried.
	2016-03-08-09	Directors	Platte Basin IMP	10		2	Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Raffety to designate Larry Reynolds as representative

							and Joe Larson as alternate representative for the Platte Basin IMP. Motion carried.
2016-03-08-10	River Basins	Stakeholders PB IMP	12				Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Johnson to designate Bob Dahlgren, Russ Edeal and Vernon Nelson as stakeholders for the Platte Basin IMP. Motion carried.
2016-03-08-11	Agreements	Backup Water System Operator	12				Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Bilka to offer backup water system operator services to area villages in TBNRD. Motion carried.
2016-03-08-12	Agreements	Divert high flows E-65	12				Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Winz to divert high flows into E-65 Canal. Motion carried.
2016-03-08-13	Agreements	Bridges to Opportunity	12				Moved by Johnson, seconded by Cavanaugh to approve the "Bridges to Opportunity" Agreements for Phelps and Gosper Counties. Motion carried.
2016-03-08-14	Agreements	LB IMP Facilitator	11	1			Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Ryan to approve the contract with JEO to facilitate the Little Blue IMP meetings. Motion carried.
2016-03-08-15	Meeting Administration		12				Moved by Winz, seconded by Bilka to move to executive session for the protection of the public to discuss legal issues at 2:43 p.m. Motion carried.
2016-03-08-16	Meeting Administration		12				Moved by Bilka, seconded by Winz to move out of executive session for the protection of the public to discuss legal issues at 3:03 p.m. Motion carried.
2016-03-08-17	Meeting Administration		12				Moved by Garrelts, seconded by Larson to change the board meeting dates for April and May to April 5, 2016 at 1:30 p.m. and May 17, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried.