

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on January 7, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by Vice President MASINI.

**Present:**

Marcus MASINI	Vice President
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary

**Public Present:**

Wyatt Fereday, NSE	Sarah Fichtner, NSE	Taylor Thomas, USBWC
Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Don Smith	Kaitlin Constantine, Summit

**1. Public Comment**

None presented.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

President SNYDER was absent.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the December 9, 2019 Regular Meeting**

Secretary HALTERMAN advised a correction was needed:

- Page 3: remove 'via phone' on Director GIORGI's second.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**4. Consideration of Minutes of the January 3, 2020 Special Meeting**

Director GIORGI made a motion to accept the minutes; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**5. Water Master's Report**

Water Master SARKISIAN advised Bridgeport is currently at 23,930 acre-feet (57%) and Topaz is at 28,100 acre-feet (48%). Bridgeport is at minimum release of 20.2 and Topaz at 10.5 feet. There is currently 20 feet of stock water going through the system. The SWE is at 83% of average and snow is needed. Nevada Division of Water Resources will be holding the forecast meeting on Thursday. Director GIORGI asked what the April 1<sup>st</sup> average is; GM BRYAN stated it is at 40%.

**6. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of December 31, 2019:

Cash in Checking:	\$ 362,011.12
Cash in Money Market	\$1,254,386.41
Cash in CDs	<u>\$1,082,598.12</u>
Total	\$2,698,995.65

**B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment**

***December 2019 Bills & Payroll***

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
121205	12/9/2019	AFLAC	\$ 35.70
121206	12/9/2019	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	\$ 907.60
121207	12/9/2019	Frontier	\$ 288.63
121208	12/9/2019	AT&T Mobility	\$ 116.20
121209	12/9/2019	Mason Valley Quicknet	\$ 410.00
121210	12/9/2019	MBK Engineers	\$ 6,789.50
121212	12/9/2019	Xerox Financial Services	\$ 139.44
121213	12/9/2019	HomeTown Health	\$ 6,569.33
121214	12/12/2019	PERS Administrative Fund	\$ 6,682.09
121215	12/12/2019	Mellon HSA Solution	\$ 20,400.00
121216	12/13/2019	Giomi, Inc.	\$ 156.65
121217	12/13/2019	AT&T	\$ 149.07
121218	12/13/2019	John Deere Credit	\$ 5.40
121219	12/13/2019	True Value	\$ 122.15
121220	12/13/2019	NWRA	\$ 100.00
121221	12/13/2019	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$ 19.98
121222	12/13/2019	Power Plan	\$ 37.74
121223	12/13/2019	Public Employees' Benefits	\$ 870.23
121224	12/13/2019	Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	\$ 301.50
121225	12/13/2019	Quill	\$ 102.54
121226	12/13/2019	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$ 463.80
121227	12/13/2019	NV Energy	\$ 328.28
121228	12/13/2019	Southwest Gas Corporation	\$ 289.50
121229	12/13/2019	USPS	\$ 194.00
121230	12/13/2019	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$ 3,802.50
121231	12/13/2019	Woodburn & Wedge	\$ 33,135.00
121232	12/13/2019	Desert Research Institute	\$ 14,423.38
121233	12/13/2019	Sierra Office Solutions	\$ 114.43
121234	12/30/2019	AT&T Mobility	\$ 116.20
121235	12/30/2019	MBK Engineers	\$ 5,133.80
121236	12/30/2019	NV Energy	\$ 23.73
121237	12/30/2019	Standard Insurance Company	\$ 242.47
121238	12/30/2019	Verizon Wireless	\$ 457.36

121239	12/30/2019	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	\$	162.25
121240	12/30/2019	Xerox Financial Services	\$	177.03
121241	12/30/2019	HomeTown Health	\$	6,569.33
121242	12/30/2019	PAC Machine Company	\$	3,280.00
121243	12/30/2019	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	\$	84.50
121244	12/30/2019	MF Barcellos	\$	5,658.73
PAYROLL		DECEMBER PAYROLL	\$	32,074.12
<b>Total Bills &amp; Payroll</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>150,934.16</b>

Director GIORGI made a motion to pay the bills; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**C. Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN reported that since November 1<sup>st</sup>, 9,850 acre-feet in Topaz and 10,690 acre-feet in Bridgeport have been stored.

The shop crew has finished the army railroad culvert replacement and the drain is open. The crew is now back on the Saroni project and the pipe is placed. They are working on backfill and getting drainage on the alluvial fan behind Mr. Burns' house. There is concrete that must be done on the pipeline. They crew is currently scheduled to work with the Road Department on replacing the bridge on Silverado Road. The County has asked to use the heavy excavator to remove the bridge and set a culvert. After that is finished, the Christof Carrasco turnout must be replaced on the Saroni. Regular repair and maintenance on the High Ditch is scheduled upon the Saroni project completion.

In December, there were a series of meetings to discuss the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the Stored Water Program. The engineers gave suggestions on how to improve the next season. All indications point toward moving forward with the second year of the Program this year if it is a decent water year. Communication with the Nevada Division of Water Resources and California Water Control Board has begun to make certain everything is in order to proceed. Director GIORGI asked if a certain percentage of water is needed for the Program; GM BRYAN stated the goal is to have at least an average year. This year had great participation because it was a good water year; it is unknown what kind of participation there will be if it is a less than average year. Director GIORGI asked if the Program must be three years in a row; GM BRYAN stated it does not have to be consecutive years, it just has to run for three years total per the grant requirements. GM BRYAN stated NFWF has indicated that their role in the basin is going to significantly change in 2024 so it is best to get the Program done as soon as possible. GM BRYAN will keep the Board informed of progress.

The reports from California and Nevada Safety Dams have been received. California gave the District until June 30, 2021 to address the gate problem at the Bridgeport diversion house. GM BRYAN submitted the ITRC report to them, so

they know we intend to fix the problem. There has been a lag on getting a response from the contractor who worked on Topaz. It will take a couple months to get the equipment here, the gear drive will come from England. GM BRYAN will keep the Board informed of progress. GM BRYAN has let California know when we have a schedule for the repair and will submit the stamped report when the repair is complete.

Dr. Styles is at the District this week. Walker Basin Conservancy has requested ITRC do a large scale survey report and has obligated to pay approximately \$40,000.

The District held another workshop on January 3, 2020 for the Local Improvement District offering. If any of the ditch companies would like to have further discussion or have GM BRYAN at their annual meeting, please let him know.

On Tuesday April 21, 2020, the District will be running a flow measurement class on behalf of a request from TCID. The class will be classroom discussion in the morning and field work in the afternoon. If anyone is interested, there is a sign-up sheet at the front counter and the class is \$60 per person.

Director GIORGI requested to know if there were any problems with the pipe for the Saroni Project sitting in the sun; GM BRYAN stated there were no problems.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel DePAOLI reported there has been no word from the Nevada Supreme Court on setting a hearing for the Mineral County matter, but he expects to hear something this year. [They] are still working on getting a schedule together on the US/Tribe litigation that is back in the District Court. There is a status conference in February, with a January 30 deadline, to see if an agreement can be worked out; there is agreement on some things but not others. Once an agreement is reached, things will potentially happen and Counsel DePAOLI will have an attorney/client meeting once that is obtained.

**7. Update from the Division of Water Resources regarding groundwater pumping and upcoming fieldwork schedules**

Wyatt FEREDAY reported they have collected all the ag well data excluding the Sunset Hills small irrigation rights. The Sunset Hills area will be completed in January. Season totals were 26,074 acre-feet in Mason Valley and 14,024 acre-feet in Smith Valley for a total of 40,099 acre-feet between both basins. That is another historically low figure, as it should be since it was a good runoff year. Overlooking the Storage Leasing Program went smoothly, and all the Nevada State Engineer Office terms were complied with in full. Wyatt provided a summary memo to GM BRYAN that concluded every water user who had ground water rights did not exceed the 4.0 feet per acre limit combining all sources of water. For future years, the permits could easily be replicated.

Wyatt and Sarah have been talking to the Water Rights Manager to prepare for Kerry's retirement. To make the transition smooth, the management is considering a meter self-reporting order. The groundwater user would need to report the meter reading monthly. The good news is that the Humboldt region is currently reporting via online so there is a reporting process already in effect. It is unknown when the State Engineer would sign the order, but it is not necessary until Kerry retires. Vice President MASINI questioned Wyatt on an email he received for the reporting. Wyatt stated RCI or the hydrologist could have sent it out, as the reporting system can be utilized by the water user or an agent. Also, the system is being updated and email addresses are being added. To add all wells or update email information, anyone can email [metersupport@water.nv.gov](mailto:metersupport@water.nv.gov).

**8. Update by Walker Basin Conservancy on activities related to the Walker Basin Restoration Program, including Acquisitions and Conservation and Stewardship Activities**

Silas ADAMS emailed GM BRYAN this morning. A job announcement for a Water Director has been posted on the Conservancy website. Anyone interested can send their resume to [amygladding@walkerbasin.org](mailto:amygladding@walkerbasin.org).

**9. Direction to the District Manager concerning investigation of potential for acquisition of property located at 400 N. Main St. Yerington, NV 89447 for possible future expansion of the District's headquarters**

GM BRYAN stated last month he mentioned the property to the south of the office is for sale. The property includes the tire shop and the strip mall building. A flyer with the details was provided in the packet. The seller is asking \$600,000 and is willing to carry the note or exchange property. GM BRYAN asked the Board to obtain an appraisal and/or talk about other options in progressing with the interest in the property. At some point, the City of Yerington will be moving into the old Armory building and there will be more traffic on the road. There are potential grant opportunities to build a new office on the property-, but the intent right now is to secure the property. There are currently two tenants paying rent- the tire shop paying \$1000 monthly and a gym paying \$500. There are multiple opportunities for furthering education classes, meetings, and trainings that could potentially open other funding opportunities. An appraisal could be a couple thousand dollars, but it would be a great starting point as to finding the value of the property. Director GIORGI asked if GM BRYAN has talked to the owner about exchanging property; GM BRYAN stated he has not talked to the owner, but it is noted on the flyer that he is willing to exchange. Treasurer NUTI advised he looked at a list of District-owned properties and he would like to designate what properties could be sold/exchanged. GM BRYAN stated the properties that abut public land could potentially be beneficial to keep. The property on Wilhoyt Lane could be subdivided or property that is landlocked in Wabuska could be sold. Vice President MASINI asked why the District has random properties; GM BRYAN stated the District acquired some of them via unpaid assessments. Director GIORGI asked if the District owned any property at the Reservoir; GM BRYAN recommended not getting rid of the properties on the reservoirs. Vice President MASINI asked if it would be more beneficial to move to a property between Mason and Smith Valley; GM BRYAN stated it was considered in the past, but no progress was made on the consideration. GM BRYAN

stated storage of equipment isn't necessarily a problem in Mason Valley, but it is in Smith Valley. Unfortunately, the District does not own property in Smith Valley, so equipment is being stored on private property. Vice President MASINI asked GM BRYAN if he looked at Marathon; GM BRYAN stated the Tribe has purchased that building. Treasurer NUTI asked if it is possible to swap the City for the Armory; GM BRYAN stated the building there would need work as well. GM BRYAN stated there are options other than brick and mortar for an office building, but that is a future need. Director GIORGI asked if there was an acquisition fund to purchase the property; GM BRYAN stated there is no acquisition fund, and the purchase would have to go through the General Fund for the purchase for now. Vice President MASINI asked if a grant could be obtained after purchasing the property through the General Fund; GM BRYAN stated he wasn't sure. Secretary HALTERMAN has been researching grants for a potential building, but there aren't any grants for the initial property purchase. GM BRYAN advised educational grants are available if the board/classroom is offered for educational trainings and meetings. Treasurer NUTI asked if the District could create a policy stating only governmental type agencies could rent the board room; Counsel DePAOLI stated it could be limited to certain agencies as there could be a problem if the room is open to anybody. Treasurer NUTI stated, if there is no reason to keep some of the District properties, they could be sold to pay for the purchase. Treasurer NUTI asked GM BRYAN if the property near his house has utilities; GM BRYAN stated the utilities stop before the property, but the Wilhoyt property does have utility connections nearby. Director GIORGI made a motion to let the General Manager move forward in investigating the property; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**10. Director Comments**

None presented.

**11. Public Comment**

None presented.

**12. Adjournment**

Director GIORGI made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Director ACCIARI offered a second. Meeting was adjourned at 10:54 AM.

ABSENT

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Jim Snyder, President

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Marcus Masini, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer

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Dennis Acciari, Director

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David Giorgi, Director