

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on April 7, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by President SNYDER.

**Present:**

|                   |                         |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Jim SNYDER        | President               |
| Marcus MASINI     | Vice President          |
| Richard NUTI      | Treasurer               |
| Dennis ACCIARI    | Director                |
| Robert BRYAN      | General Manager         |
| Counsel DePAOLI   | Legal Counsel, via Zoom |
| Counsel FERGUSON  | Legal Counsel, via Zoom |
| Jessica HALTERMAN | Secretary               |
| Sandy NEVILLE     | Water Rights Specialist |

**Public Present:**

|                         |                     |                  |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC | Angela Bezzone, MBK | Kat Dow, WBC     |
| Brice Boland, WBC       | Mike Bryan          | Tell Pickett     |
| Chantae Lessard, Hudbay | Tom Young, NDOT     | Mike Fuess, NDOT |
| Jeff Freeman, NDOT      |                     |                  |

**Public Present via Zoom:**

|                       |                    |               |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Isaac Metcalf, NDOW   | Dawn Johnson, NOAA | Shawn Stavang |
| Dave Hockaday, LCBOCC | Steven Fulstone    | Scott Parker  |
| Smith Valley CAB      |                    |               |

**1. Public Comment**  
None presented.

**2. Presentation and discussion by Dawn Johnson with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2023 irrigation season.**

Dawn Johnson provided a presentation on the current water year weather and water outlook. Highlights included:

- The Walker Basin is at 301% of median peak for the year and 313% of today's median for the SNOTEL SWE.
- This year has been the wettest by 5" in Lee Vining.
- It has been the coldest Nov 1- Apr 6 period on record.
- This weekend will bring temperatures in the 70s but temperatures will cool down again next week.
- Next week will bring increased breezes and light rain/snow showers.
- The current atmospheric rivers are tracking to the north, but the basin is getting some of the effects right now in the form of clouds.
- 8-14 day outlook favors below normal temperatures with near normal precipitation.
- There are no big signals for 1-2" of liquid for the Walker Basin in the upcoming two weeks.

- Through April, the trend is below normal temperatures with near to above normal precipitation.
- The early summer outlook does predict a warming trend which is typical of the summer months.
- The short range river outlook does predict increased flows as temperatures begin to warm but nothing is approaching monitor stage at this time.
- The snowpack is still at record breaking numbers. At Willow Flat, the basin is at 420% of median with 37.4” of SWE; Sonora Pass has broken the record by nearly 19” being at 315% of median with 72.5” of SWE; Sawmill Ridge is at 311% of median with 49.4” of SWE.
- The spatial snow comparison with 4/6/2017 vs 4/6/2023 shows extensively more snow in the lower basins.
- The low level snowpack is not accurately measured as this extreme amount is not encountered often.
- All SNOTEL sites are above record levels.
- Soil moisture is at the median average. There were not a lot of rain events prior to the snow, so the soil has not had a chance to absorb moisture.
- The April-July water supply outlook shows flows higher than observed flows in 2017
- There is more than 10x the capacity of Topaz in the snowpack and 6x the capacity of Bridgeport.
- The flood matrix shows a high probability of moderate flood stage for the West Walker below Little Walker, moderate probability of moderate flood stage for Walker River near Mason, and high probability of moderate flood stage for the Mono County small streams.
- Freakout Scenarios:
  - o Continue to build and/or maintain snowpack through April followed by a prolonged heatwave in May, June, or early July.
  - o A significant multi-day rain event in April or May after snowmelt has been initiated.
- Goldilocks Scenarios:
  - o Transition to seasonal temperatures and dry conditions ASAP, slowly eliminates low elevation snowpack and starts eating away at mid elevation snowpack.
  - o No big spring rain events.
  - o No prolonged heat waves late April through early July, a few warm days followed by cooldowns is a more ideal pattern.
  - o A cool and dry spring and summer with no heat waves until the snowpack has greatly diminished.

### **3. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Director GIORGI was absent.

### **4. Consideration of Minutes of the March 7, 2023 Regular Meeting**

Vice President MASINI made a motion to approve the minutes; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**5. Water Master’s Report**

Joanne SARKISIAN reported that Bridgeport is at 7,158 acre-feet (17% of capacity) with an outflow of 462cfs and Topaz is at 19,870 acre-feet (33% capacity) with an outflow of 542cfs. Joanne stated both reservoirs are good for the moment and the District will continue to release enough to lower the pools. Joanne is delivering 308cfs systemwide with most of that being decree and a small amount of permit water. All users are encouraged to take water. Smith Valley is receiving only 8.72cfs until Hoye Canyon is fixed.

**6. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of March 31, 2023:

|                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Cash in Checking     | \$ 96,172.00         |
| Cash in Money Market | \$ 621,230.91        |
| Cash in CDs          | <u>\$ 757,568.24</u> |
| Total                | \$1,474,971.15       |

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

**Walker River Irrigation District**

**March 2023 Bills & Payroll**

| <b>Payee</b>                    | <b>Check No.</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Amount</b> |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------------|
| City of Yerington               | 100315           | 03/07/2023  | \$ 83.73      |
| Hunewill Construction Co., Inc. | 100316           | 03/07/2023  | \$ 13,531.54  |
| MAMMOTH TIMES                   | 100317           | 03/07/2023  | \$ 53.25      |
| Mason Valley Equipment          | 100318           | 03/07/2023  | \$ 1,243.09   |
| NV Energy                       | 100319           | 03/07/2023  | \$ 477.16     |
| Purchase Power / Pitney         | 100320           | 03/07/2023  | \$ 748.97     |
| Ameritas Life Insurance Corp    | 100321           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 1,263.40   |
| Desert Research Institute       | 100322           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 29,374.70  |
| JESSE CERVANTES                 | 100323           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 214.20     |
| Jim Menesini Petroleum          | 100324           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 670.40     |
| Lyon County Recorder            | 100325           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 20.84      |
| MBK Engineers                   | 100326           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 8,674.75   |
| Nationwide Insurance            | 100327           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 400.00     |
| NV Energy                       | 100328           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 34.92      |
| O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.       | 100329           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 91.28      |
| PERS Administrative Fund        | 100330           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 9,271.77   |
| Public Employees' Benefits      | 100331           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 870.23     |
| Quill                           | 100332           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 1,028.21   |
| Sierra Office Solutions         | 100333           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 91.49      |
| Wells Fargo Card Services       | 100334           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 14,794.28  |
| Southwest Gas Corporation       | 100335           | 03/14/2023  | \$ 630.72     |
| Alhambra                        | 300020           | 03/27/2023  | \$ 123.40     |

|                                   |        |            |           |                   |
|-----------------------------------|--------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| HomeTown Health                   | 300021 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 8,567.84          |
| Verizon Wireless                  | 300022 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 297.02            |
| ABILA Dept 2145                   | 100336 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 222.24            |
| California Dept. of Water         | 100337 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 19,097.00         |
| D & S Waste Removal               | 100338 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 213.82            |
| Desert Engineering                | 100339 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 653.92            |
| MAMMOTH TIMES                     | 100340 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 1,573.75          |
| Mason Valley Tire                 | 100341 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 30.00             |
| MF Barcellos                      | 100342 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 4,501.74          |
| Nationwide Insurance              | 100343 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 170.00            |
| Quill                             | 100344 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 69.99             |
| Reno Gazette Journal              | 100345 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 457.08            |
| Sierra Office Solutions           | 100346 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 118.34            |
| Standard Insurance Company        | 100347 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 1,110.54          |
| USBWC                             | 100348 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 196.83            |
| Woodburn & Wedge                  | 100349 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 35,960.00         |
| Xerox Corporation                 | 100350 | 03/27/2023 | \$        | 322.80            |
| Lyon County Treasurer             | 100351 | 03/30/2023 | \$        | 127,791.80        |
| Payroll                           |        | 3/31/2023  | \$        | 65,225.17         |
| EFTPS                             |        | 3/31/2023  | \$        | 11,915.68         |
| <b>Total Bills &amp; Payroll:</b> |        |            | <b>\$</b> | <b>285,047.04</b> |

Vice President MASINI inquired about the Hunewill bill; GM BRYAN stated it was aggregate to fix the Colony. Secretary HALTERMAN stated the Colony was billed and has already reimbursed the District.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to approve the bills; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

### C. Manager's Report

Angele BEZZONE provided a presentation on the current conditions and forecasts. Highlights included:

- The 50% exceedance estimate for East Walker near Bridgeport is 214TAF, 25% exceedance is 228TAF, and 10% exceedance is 239TAF. The actual flows in 2017 were 208TAF.
- The 50% exceedance estimate for the West Walker below Little Walker near Coleville is 414TAF, 25% exceedance is 430TAF, and 10% exceedance is 438TAF. The actual flows in 2017 were 406TAF.
- Reservoir operations will be based on the 50% exceedance levels. Bridgeport is currently below 10,000 acre-feet of storage and will be drawn down to approximately 5,000 acre-feet. That will be held with matching inflow and outflow until 940 cfs is coming out of the reservoir. The operations will be done in effort to keep the outflows regulated without using the siphons.
- On Topaz, water can be routed around the reservoir. The operations will be based on what is in the river at the Coleville gage and the Hoye gage. Operations will need to balance water coming through the natural channel and water

coming into the reservoir. Gravity has affected the releases at the reservoir and more water will be routed in the natural channel in effort to draw the reservoir level down.

- The losses in the West Walker will assist in lowering the flow in the main stem.
- Based on 2017 loss and gain data, this year the flow expected at the Mason gage is 2,500-3,000 cfs from mid-May through July.
- In 2017, the Mason gage was above flood stage for approximately 1 month; this year the gage is expected to be above flood stage for approximately 9 weeks.
- The heatwaves and cooldowns assisted in runoff and reservoir control in 2017, hopefully the weather will be the same pattern this year.

Treasurer NUTI confirmed that the data did not consider the amount of water sitting in Bridgeport Valley; Angela confirmed. GM BRYAN stated the weather service called and stated the lower elevation snow is not well reported and they project nearly 700,000 acre-feet. Treasurer NUTI asked if the East Walker ranches will be pulling water like they did in 2017; GM BRYAN stated there will be some water pulled off, but not as much as 2017. The ranches are willing to help by taking as much water as they can, and they have already sustained water inundation from the March event. In March, the flows significantly surpassed the flows in 2017.

GM BRYAN stated the USGS gage readings were provided in the packet as well as the changes in snowpack and the current snow water equivalents. The Leavitt Meadows gage is reading 1,633% of average because, based on historical figures, there should be no snow at that site and there is 39.2" sitting there. The NRCS April 1<sup>st</sup> Forecast report has not been received yet. The reservoir tender reported 2' of ice on Bridgeport right now. GM BRYAN is continuing to draw Bridgeport down to 5,000 acre-feet or less and Topaz 10,000 acre-feet or less. Vice President MASINI asked if there is a potential for the inflows exceeding the outflows; GM BRYAN stated it is possible if a warm spell or rain event happens or if Twin Lakes releases a lot of water at once. Vice President MASINI asked if there were gages above Bridgeport Reservoir; GM BRYAN stated there are gages on some streams, but not all. The total inflow amount is calculated by the reservoir gage only. GM BRYAN stated he is already receiving calls from people who are upset about the reservoir levels because of the impact on recreation. President SNYDER asked if NRCS performs measurement on the low level snow; GM BRYAN stated they do readings by helicopter, but nothing officially for low levels. Joanne stated there is approximately 3 feet of snow in Bridgeport valley that is packed tightly; one rancher had to jackhammer a walking path at his ranch. Vice President MASINI asked if ice could present an issue with reservoir releases; GM BRYAN stated it could. Ice did cause a problem with the High and G&H earlier in the season. Vice President MASINI asked about the effect on the dam; GM BRYAN stated the grate at Bridgeport will always be under water and ice will not affect it. Ice could cause a problem at the tube connecting Upper and Lower Twin Lakes.

GM BRYAN stated the shop crew is rebuilding the Colony Ditch. Concrete will be poured early next week. There have been some repairs started on the Saroni Ditch.

Stan Marriott has a crew cleaning the concrete section of the Saroni as well as the drain. On Monday, GM BRYAN will meet with the Saroni Advisory Board to discuss work to be done. GM BRYAN hopes to have the canal ready for water within the next couple of weeks. GM BRYAN needs to draw down Topaz and needs users on the West to take water to keep the flows controlled in town.

GM BRYAN has been in contact with BIA and WRPT so they can operate their rivers and reservoir effectively. To date, there has been 62,400 acre-feet delivered to Walker Lake and that number continues to rise.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, GM BRYAN attended a stakeholders map meeting with Hudbay to discuss the open pit, shovel-ready truck operation. They are reaching out to the general public in Mason Valley and Smith Valley. If anyone is interested in talking with them, they would like to talk.

On April 6<sup>th</sup>, NDWR gave the spring to spring water measurement level presentation. The presentation is available on the District website.

There is a breakdown of the legislative water bills and the activity on each of them in the packet. President SNYDER asked if SB262 relating to qualified electors had been addressed; GM BRYAN stated he was unfamiliar with the bill but will get the language on it.

GM BRYAN has been meeting with MBK, NWS, NOAA, RFC, BIA, Lyon County Emergency Management, and others regarding the Spring Thaw. There will be several meetings next week. A town hall meeting will be scheduled during the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> to start the public outreach. The potential impacts will be discussed. GM BRYAN has also reached out to the Emergency Manager to schedule a meeting for the ditch companies with hopefully a representative from the State and FEMA in attendance.

President SNYDER asked if there are any numbers on the extent of damages to date; GM BRYAN stated he did not have a figure but asked everyone to submit information to the District or Emergency Management. GM BRYAN stated the figures for the Colony are available and he could estimate what the Saroni will cost.

Vice President MASINI asked if the rented equipment is now on the Saroni and asked if it will be kept after the work is done; GM BRYAN stated he would like to hold on to it for as long as needed. The current problem is that the District has more equipment than operators. GM BRYAN has reached out to companies for operators, but everyone is concerned with flooding and no one is available.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel DePAOLI wanted to let the Board know that today is the day where discovery and initial disclosures begin in the Mineral County case. The case has

been fairly quiet, but will be moving along from this point. Counsel DePAOLI advised SB362 looks like it relates to members of town boards and does not deal with electors of an irrigation district at this point.

**E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

Angela BEZZONE stated the program is moving forward. The proofs of publication were submitted to the California State Water Resources Control Board on Wednesday proving the petition was published. Their deadline to issue the order is this coming Wednesday. The application period closes on May 12<sup>th</sup> with a final commitment date of May 31<sup>st</sup>. At this point, there is approximately 3,200 acre-feet of water enrolled with just over 1,600 acre-feet from the west and just under 1,600 acre-feet from the East. WBC has not submitted their application yet. Angela, Wes, and the team will be working on the release plan. It will more than likely include releases to be made well after flood operations. Releases could start as late as the end of August-beginning of September and can go through October.

**F. 2023 Election Update**

Secretary HALTERMAN stated there was no opposition in any of the Districts. Jim is the Director for District 1, David Giorgi is the Director for District 2, and Richard Nuti is the Director for District 4. The appointments and oaths will be completed next month. NOTE: Secretary HALTERMAN corrected herself later in the meeting- Marcus Masini is the Director for District 1, Jim Snyder is the Director for District 2, David Giorgi is the Director for District 3, Richard Nuti is Director for District 4, and Dennis Acciari is the Director for District 5.

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

Secretary HALTERMAN read the following email from AJ Jensby:

‘DWR will not be at the WRID meeting this month. A few points for the board, our presentation yesterday is available from Bert. Groundwater across both basins continued to decline but the rate flattened and came closer to the 12-16 drought. We expect big increases next spring with all of the surface water available and limited supplemental pumping. We want to thank WRID for hosting us yesterday morning and getting the word out to all about our presentation.’

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

Kat DOW stated they are close on the application on the East Walker but still a couple of months out.

**9. Consideration and action on proposed District Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, including the fixing of the charges and levying assessments for that fiscal year on the water right lands within the District, on lands with appurtenant**

**stored water rights within the District, on water right lands within the Local Improvement Districts within the District, on water right lands held by the High Ditch within the District, on reserved water rights, presently or formerly appurtenant to water right lands within the District, and Equipment Rental and Interfund Rental rates.**

GM BRYAN stated the current and proposed assessment rates are:

|              |   |   |
|--------------|---|---|
| - General    | \$10/acre currently                                       | \$12/acre proposed  |
| - Reservoir  | \$4.70/acre currently                                     | \$5/acre proposed   |
| - Equipment  | \$2.75/acre currently                                     | \$3.50/acre proposed  |
| - Local #1   | \$1/acre currently  | No proposed change  |
| - Local #2   | \$1/acre currently  | \$1.50/acre proposed  |
| - Local #3   | \$1.30/acre currently                                     | No proposed change  |
| - Local #4   | (reg) \$11/acre currently<br>(special) \$8/acre currently | \$20/acre proposed<br>No proposed special assessment until the cash deficit is zero |
| - High Ditch | \$10/acre   | No proposed change  |

Repairs and maintenance will be done on Local #1, Local #2, and the High Ditch.

The current cash balances are included for each fund as well as a projection for the ending balance on June 30, 2023 and June 30, 2024.

Treasurer NUTI asked if the new vehicle proposed in the Reservoir Fund is to replace a ditch rider vehicle: GM BRYAN stated it replaced the 1997 Ford which was a ditch rider vehicle. The ditch rider was put into another vehicle and the Water Rights Specialist is in the Explorer. The new vehicle would be to replace the Water Rights Specialist's truck that was given to the ditch rider.

GM BRYAN stated the District is attempting to get reimbursed for repairs from the March flood event and private landowners will be billed for work.

President SNYDER asked for the totals of all the funds at the end of each year; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the total for FY23 is approximately \$1,770,000 and FY24 is approximately \$1,672,000. President SNYDER asked if that anticipates any high expenses; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it does not. GM BRYAN stated in 2017, labor cost was approximately \$200,000 from April through August. In 2017, there were five operators in five excavators from April through August; GM BRYAN does not expect that to happen this year. Last week at the Colony, the equipment crew and an office staff member were running machines. GM BRYAN stated he is trying to keep it 'lean and green.' The District continues to work with Lyon County and the State of Nevada. There will be flooding and hopefully the District can recuperate some costs. The District is not a flood control district but does help with flood mitigation. President SNYDER asked if any of the costs had been considered in the cash projections; GM BRYAN stated the budget has a line item for \$50,000 for river repair that is normally not expended. President SNYDER clarified that the flood mitigation costs were not included in the expenses or cash projections and the



cash was being eroded; Secretary HALTERMAN confirmed. GM BRYAN stated the District is the lowest assessed district in Nevada. Pershing County assesses \$45/acre and TCID assesses close to that but also assesses non-water righted ground in the City of Fernley and Fallon. GM BRYAN stated the District is not a flood control District and has talked to the County about them taxing for flood operations. GM BRYAN stated those funds should not only be used on a flood year, but the drought years also need to have work done.

President SNYDER asked where the budget could be altered to bring the cash deficit into a positive; GM BRYAN stated the flood mitigation should be in the Reservoir Fund or the Equipment Fund. The General Fund could be altered for office operations. Treasurer NUTI asked how many acres the District encompasses; GM BRYAN stated the District is in an area of 246,000 acres. President SNYDER clarified that there are only approximately 80,000 water righted acres. Treasurer NUTI suggested beginning the discussion and consideration of assessing the non-water righted acres; GM BRYAN stated other irrigation districts do assess non-water righted acres. Treasurer NUTI stated assessing the non-water righted acres does open the door for more people to expect things to be done; GM BRYAN stated the District is not a flood control district because of that concern. GM BRYAN stated people in Douglas County have purchased land that abuts District property and they expect the District to drop everything to fix a culvert that runs through the District property. Because we have stayed at arm's length, there is no liability to fix anything or control water. Treasurer NUTI stated the topic does need to be discussed; Vice President MASINI stated the District ends up taking care of the problem anyway. President SNYDER asked which funds could be increased to stop the erosion of the cash carryover and suggested \$2-\$3 increase; Treasurer NUTI stated that would be acceptable and would bring in at least \$160,000 more. GM BRYAN stated the appropriate level would be to go to the County and have them include the tax in their tax roll and do the work on a bad water year. It is too late to do mitigation this year, it needed to be done over the last three years. GM BRYAN stated he does agree but the County needs to take the forefront in assisting. GM BRYAN stated there will be a lot of opposition from the County Commission and from owners that may not flood. President SNYDER asked to augment the budget to stop the cash erosion; Treasurer NUTI stated the expenses will not go down. GM BRYAN stated the trend has changed significantly over the last twenty years. Twenty years ago the District only had a \$150,000 cash balance and was considering the elimination of the Equipment Rental Fund. If the Rental Fund is eliminated, the District would need to go out to bid for projects, repairs, and maintenance. The Rental Fund was not eliminated, but in order to save money, infrastructure was neglected. The District infrastructure is in much better shape than it was in 2017, so there will not be extensive work on the drains this year.

President SNYDER asked if the budget had to be acted on at this meeting; GM BRYAN stated it did not have to be approved immediately, but the sooner the better as Secretary HALTERMAN must file with the County Treasurer. Treasurer NUTI stated the proposed budget for the 3 major funds is \$20.50 per acre; GM BRYAN stated that is dependent on which local applies. Treasurer NUTI asked which fund the Hoyer Canyon work is going through; GM BRYAN stated all of the work on the Colony and Hoyer Canyon is going through the Equipment Fund. Secretary HALTERMAN stated the acre base for the

Reservoir Fund is approximately 1,600 acres more than the Equipment Fund. Secretary Halterman stated if \$2/acre more is assessed, the cash balance next year would be a positive change. GM BRYAN stated the District will be doing large projects at the end of the year that will be funded by the NFWF grant and will increase the infrastructure. Treasurer NUTI stated he is concerned that the equipment crew is getting stretched too thin. When the crew is working on projects, there needs to be someone performing maintenance on the drains. GM BRYAN stated if he had two more full time employees, he could have at least one person on an excavator. GM BRYAN stated the office is understaffed as well. Water card changes are taking longer and longer because some users have nearly 100 cards. Other irrigation districts charge for water card changes, copies, emails, etc. President SNYDER appreciates the efficiency. Treasurer NUTI stated there are things in the District where the can was kicked down the road and we are now needing to address them. Vice President MASINI expressed that he would like to talk to people in the districts and get feedback on how they will react to an increase. GM BRYAN stated the budget has been available for over a month and he has no concerns with showing people what is going on. If no one gives feedback, nothing can be changed. President SNYDER asked if the budget could be changed even though it had been published; GM BRYAN stated it can be changed and redistributed. GM BRYAN stated changes could be made but he needs to know what numbers need to be changed. Secretary HALTERMAN requested to revisit the ending balances. If the budget is increased by \$2 per acre, the June 30, 2024 ending balance is estimated to be approximately \$1.836 (approximately \$60,000 increase) and \$3 per acre budget increase would increase the ending balance by approximately \$147,000. Vice President MASINI requested clarification on what the increase was based on; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it is an increase from the estimated June 30, 2023 ending cash balance. President SNYDER asked to recalculate the budget by adding \$1 to the proposed amount in the General Fund, the Reservoir Fund, and the Equipment Fund along with an increase in Local #2. President SNYDER requested a note be included on why the budget was being recalculated; GM BRYAN stated a note could be included. Vice President MASINI stated he was not sure the \$3 would cover everything considering the legal expenses; GM BRYAN stated last year the budget was not hit, but it will be close this year. GM BRYAN stated two reiterations could be provided with comparisons on proposed and recalculated amounts and the cash breakdown could be updated. Vice President MASINI asked why Local #2 was deficient; GM BRYAN stated it has been kept low for the past few years, but repairs and maintenance have increased over the past few years. Vice President MASINI asked if funds from other funds were used in Local #2; GM BRYAN stated the funds are kept separate.

Vice President MASINI made a motion to rework the drafts into Option A and Option B based on the discussion in the meeting; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

- 10. Review and consideration of establishing the final apportionment of benefits and costs associated with the proposed Colony Canal local improvement district based upon a fraction the numerator of which is the number of acres in each parcel with an appurtenant surface water right and the denominator of which is the total number of acres with appurtenant surface water rights within the improvement district.**

Appurtenant surface water rights include, water rights adjudicated in the final decree entered on April 14, 1936, as amended April 24, 1940, in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, Case in Equity No. C-125, entitled *United States of America, Plaintiff vs. Walker River Irrigation District, et al., Defendants*, and also previously apportioned benefits from those certain storage water rights allocated to and held by Walker River Irrigation District in the final decree entered on April 14, 1936, as amended April 24, 1940, in the United States District Court for the District of Nevada, Case in Equity No. C-125, entitled *United States of America, Plaintiff vs. Walker River Irrigation District, et al., Defendants*. All expenses associated with the care, operation, maintenance, management, repair, and necessary current improvement or replacement of the Colony Canal will be based upon that apportionment of benefits. (For possible action).

Counsel FERGUSON stated in February, the Board considered the preliminary apportionment of benefits for the proposed Colony Canal Local Improvement District. At that time, Counsel walked through the steps taken. The apportionment of benefits was provided in the packet and did not change from the previous meeting and are still appurtenant to the canal. The apportionment of benefits would be included in the assessment.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to approve the final apportionment of benefits for the Colony Canal Local Improvement District as stated in the agenda item for this particular purpose; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and approved unanimously.

**11. Discussion, consideration, and possible award of bids submitted for the WRID annual financial audit.**

Secretary HALTERMAN stated only one sealed bid was submitted. Secretary HALTERMAN stated another local CPA firm expressed interest, but no bid was submitted. The notice was posted in newspapers locally, Fernley, Dayton, Fallon, and Gardnerville/Minden. Notices were delivered by hand to the Yerington CPA firms. A phone call was made to local firms prior to April 1<sup>st</sup> asking if there were any comments, questions, or concerns. Sandy with Sciarani & Company sat with Secretary HALTERMAN last week to look at the books. Sciarani & Company was not going to put in a bid due to being overcommitted, but the books looked good and they should be able to complete the audit in a timely manner if awarded. President SNYDER opened the sealed bid. Sciarani & Company provided a 3-year proposal for fiscal years June 30, 2023 through June 30, 2027 in the amount of \$22,000 per year plus \$5,000 per year if a Single Audit is required. President SNYDER asked how the proposal compares to the past costs; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it is approximately \$2,000 more than previous years, but the previous years varied depending on work performed. Secretary HALTERMAN stated she obligated as much time and effort needed to assist in completing the audit before October 1<sup>st</sup> this year as her schedule was a hold up in year's past.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to accept the 3-year bid proposal from Sciarani & Company; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**12. Director Comments**

None presented.

**13. Public Comment**

None presented.

**14. Adjournment**

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:02pm.

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Jim Snyder, President

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Marcus Masini, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dennis Acciari, Director

ABSENT  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Giorgi, Director