

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on December 7, 2022. 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

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Carlie Henneman, WBC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
Marshall Smith, POOL/PACT	Jarrold Hickman, POOL/PACT	

Public Present via Zoom:

Dave Hockaday, BOCC	Don Smith
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1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call

Director GIORGI was absent.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the November 7, 2022 Regular Meeting

Treasurer NUTI advised ‘gages’ needs to be added after USGS on page 5. Director ACCIARI made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

4. Presentation and discussion by representatives from POOL & PACT

Secretary HALTERMAN reminded everyone that she introduced the Workplace Safety Plan at the last meeting. The two POOL/PACT representatives, Marshall and Jarrod assisted in the compilation of the plan and were present to answer any questions. Marshall SMITH introduced himself and Jarrod HICKMAN as the Risk Management Team for POOL & PACT. Marshall explained that POOL/PACT is comprised of 133 entities and is member driven. The purpose of POOL & PACT is to help members. POOL is the general liability section and PACT is the worker’s compensation element. The policies are written by members, and the claims handling process is driven by members. POOL/PACT offers a wide range of benefits, including insurance, risk management, policies, etc. Jessica

reached out to POOL/PACT to ask what services were available to bring the District to compliance. The first step was to bring the Written Workplace Safety Plan to current times. Marshall commended Jessica for her dedication, discipline, and diligence to get the plan completed. Treasurer NUTI asked if the presented plan was a standard size for our type of agency; Jarrod stated it is standard size for this type of agency and is actually only 10 pages longer than the original plan from the 1990s- most of that 10 pages are added forms. Jarrod stated the presented plan incorporated the old plan and backfilled with the areas that were deficient. Counsel FERGUSON stated he has looked at the plan and there are many requirements for training, safety devices, investigations, and meetings. Counsel FERGUSON talked with GM BRYAN and Secretary HALTERMAN and thinks the District needs to evaluate the plan based on the structure of the District and the work regularly performed. Counsel FERGUSON asked if the plan could be modified if there are sections that do not pertain to the District; Jarrod stated the presented plan is not final and can be modified accordingly. Jarrod advised he and Marshall are to provide general guidance as part of their risk management services. They have 133 entities all with different operations, so parts of the plan are generic, but the plan as written meets statutory and regulatory requirements as well as best practices published by NV Safety Consultation and Training Section (SCATS). One of the first things expressed to Jessica was that their role is guidance and any documentation must to be reviewed by legal and the Board. Jarrod stated the Hazard Identification (inspections) and the investigation sections are regulatory requirements. In respect to training, there is job specific training that POOL/PACT does not offer, but the trainings in the plan are provided by POOL/PACT and are easily completed and are no cost to the member. Marshall stated they are working with a number of small fire protection districts that have the same requirements. Jarrod stated the template was developed on the Nevada SCATS Written Workplace Safety Guide and they use the checklist to address the best practice, regulatory and statutory requirements. Counsel FERGUSON asked Jarrod and Marshall if they would be the ones to work with if modifications are needed; they confirmed they would be available to assist from this point forward. President SNYDER asked GM BRYAN and Secretary HALTERMAN if they saw any problems with the plan; GM BRYAN stated there are not any sections that are of concern and the plan does overlap with the Personnel Manual. GM BRYAN stated the plan is straight forward and the training has been completed by several staff members already. GM BRYAN stated the District has a unique job duty and skill set so there may be some trainings on things that are not done every day but could be done at some point. Vice President MASINI confirmed the plan should minimize risk for the entire District; Marshall confirmed. Marshall stated they are not a commercial insurance company whose intent is to make money and does not care to minimize claims; POOL/PACT's intention is to adopt policies and provide training to reduce claims and keep employees safe and engaged. Jarrod stated NRS 618 is focused on Occupational Safety. The hazard identification and accident investigation are extensive. If there is a hazard outside the door, it does not only affect the employee safety but does affect the agency. President SNYDER thanked Marshall and Jarrod for their involvement and attendance to discuss the plan.

5. Water Master's Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport is at 8,600 acre-feet (20%) and Topaz is at 14,720 acre-feet (24%). Stock water is running at 29cfs systemwide and Joanne is monitoring it closely so no one gets more than they are supposed to. Since November 1st, Bridgeport has stored 1,858 acre-feet and Topaz has stored 3,620 acre-feet. Joanne stated the SWE is 191% for the day. She stated more storms are needed to keep the SWE at that level or increase it as it goes down every day without a storm. Vice President MASINI asked if the storage has been a problem since it is so cold; Joanne stated it has and there is not much coming down. There is 37cfs at Coleville and only .66cfs is being released from Topaz and she relies on the natural flow to keep the fish alive. Hoye was showing backwater but prior to that it showed 10-11 feet. Joanne is averaging 11 feet at Hudson. Bridgeport release was at 30cfs because of the temperature, but Joe has it back to 20cfs as it has been above 0 degrees.

6. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of November 30, 2022:

Cash in Checking	\$ 84,754.75
Cash in Money Market	\$ 898,661.65
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 757,568.24</u>
Total	\$1,740,984.64

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

Payee	Check No.	Date	Amount
ABILA Dept 3303	100175	11/14/2022	\$ 205.77
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	100176	11/14/2022	\$ 1,027.80
Castle Tire Disposal & Rec	100177	11/14/2022	\$ 486.91
CHANDRA BRYAN	100178	11/14/2022	\$ 120.00
City of Yerington	100179	11/14/2022	\$ 83.73
D & S Waste Removal	100180	11/14/2022	\$ 30.00
Giomi, Inc.	100181	11/14/2022	\$ 190.03
Jim Menesini Petroleum	100182	11/14/2022	\$ 135.66
Lyon County Recorder	100183	11/14/2022	\$ 34.09
MF Barcellos	100184	11/14/2022	\$ 2,309.85
NV Energy	100185	11/14/2022	\$ 303.86
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	100186	11/14/2022	\$ 143.07
PERS Administrative Fund	100187	11/14/2022	\$ 9,150.07
Plymouth Ditch Company	100188	11/14/2022	\$ 222.26
Public Employees' Benefits	100189	11/14/2022	\$ 870.23
Purchase Power / Pitney	100190	11/14/2022	\$ 301.50

Raley's	100191	11/14/2022	\$	239.40
Sierra Office Solutions	100192	11/14/2022	\$	141.88
Smith Valley Conservation	100193	11/14/2022	\$	6,096.23
Southwest Gas Corporation	100194	11/14/2022	\$	45.09
THE PARTS HOUSE	100195	11/14/2022	\$	633.97
Truckee Tahoe Lumber Co.	100196	11/14/2022	\$	390.65
Wells Fargo Card Services	100197	11/14/2022	\$	1,897.14
ABILA Dept 3303	100198	11/28/2022	\$	205.77
CMC TIRE INC SPO	100199	11/28/2022	\$	4,481.85
Desert Engineering	100200	11/28/2022	\$	2,607.83
Desert Research Institute	100201	11/28/2022	\$	12,932.16
Mellon HSA Solution	100202	11/28/2022	\$	23,800.00
Power Plan	100203	11/28/2022	\$	11,664.44
USBWC	100204	11/28/2022	\$	11,525.44
Vision Service Plan - Nevada	100205	11/28/2022	\$	186.05
White Cap Construction	100206	11/28/2022	\$	2,848.50
Woodburn & Wedge	100207	11/28/2022	\$	60,790.08
Xerox Corporation	100208	11/28/2022	\$	224.72
Yerington Ready Mix	100209	11/28/2022	\$	5,379.10
November Payroll		11/30/2022	\$	35,726.78
Grand Totals:				\$ 197,431.91

President SNYDER asked what the Mellon bill was; Treasurer NUTI stated it is the health savings account. GM BRYAN stated it is distributed at the beginning of the year. Vice President MASINI made a motion to approve the bills; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 24% of capacity and Bridgeport is at 20% of capacity. The USGS gages site figures and the SNOTEL sites figures are in the packet. The storms last week gave a big boost- 11.8" of water inside the 49" of snow at Leavitt Lake. The mountains did get rain with the snow and caught some water before the weather went back to a hard freeze. It is better to have layers of snow and ice. GM BRYAN stated he requested the weather service to do a presentation in January but he recently sent an email on what is going on now.

The shop crew is continuing winter repairs and maintenance in Smith and Mason Valleys. If there are any problems, let GM BRYAN know and the crew can address them. There is a beaver dam on west walker and more dams will be built because of the low flows. The crew will trap if the traps can be put in an area that will not

affect other animals. The crew is assisting the Conservation District for a few days with erosion problems along the river corridor. The crews assisted in moving cottonwoods to the Blanchard property.

GM BRYAN advised NDWR will be at the District on December 15th at 10:00am to present on the pumping totals for Smith and Mason Valleys. The board room will be set up to accommodate a large audience and the school is allowing the District to borrow chairs. A legal posting will be done since there is a possibility of a quorum present. GM BRYAN suggested users come to the meeting with any questions or requests for clarification.

GM BRYAN received a letter of support from DCNR and USBWC regarding the 3 USGS gages on the East Walker. There is over 40 miles of river without gaging right now. The biggest roadblock is funding. Everyone at the meeting last month agreed that the gages are necessary and they want to contribute but do not know if there is much in their budget to contribute. USBWC is willing to fund a portion of the gages. GM BRYAN will be working on collaborators and will report back to the Board. If any board member wants, the topic can be added to an agenda for discussion. Treasurer NUTI asked what each gage costs; GM BRYAN stated approximately \$13,700- if an agency spearheads it, USGS does a cost share. Carlie stated the conservancy is in support and wants to help. GM BRYAN requested a letter be sent to him and/or Joanne.

On November 30th, GM BRYAN gave a guest lecture to a master class in economics. GM BRYAN stated it was a good visit. He spoke about the day to day operations of the District and received a lot of great questions. That visit has transitioned into meeting with a group of 8 people associated with UNR and the State to discuss water and how to bring urban and rural together. The group will be meeting with other entities as well and will be putting together report on their findings. President SNYDER asked if the proceedings will be available to the public; GM BRYAN stated the information should be available to the public but he is unsure of a timeline as the group is still gathering information.

Dr. Styles will be visiting the District late next week; if there are any questions or areas of concern, GM BRYAN will have Dr. Styles address them when he is here.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DEPAOLI reported there are 8 Bill Draft Requests related to water. There is only 1 that reveals any information. The request is from the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources and asks for a bill to clarify processes and authority for the conjunctive management of surface and groundwater basins. Treasurer NUTI asked if there is a number on that request; Counsel DePAOLI stated there has not been a number assigned yet.

E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

GM BRYAN stated the District is still working on the final approval from NFWF for the amendment that would allow another stored water program. GM BRYAN reported that the District is having problems with getting the information into the system, so GM BRYAN reached out to Femke for direction. The District cannot continue with any future planning until the amendment is approved in writing. For the 2022 program year, USGS still needs to finalize their numbers.

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

Wyatt emailed Secretary HALTERMAN stating there was no update, but he, AJ and Kip are looking forward to the December 15th meeting.

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

Carlie HENNEMAN stated they are wrapping up last year. The Conservancy received a sizeable grant to build a second native plant nursery. They have been supplying plants to other organizations from first nursery. President SNYDER asked where the second nursery is going to be built; Carlie stated it will be built on the Suttor Property.

9. Presentation and Consideration of FY 2021-2022 Audit Report by Sciarani & Co.

Jim SCIARANI stated the location of the auditor opinion was moved to the first two paragraphs instead of being buried in the letter. Jim reported that last year they did a qualified opinion because of the OPEB valuation and the doubtful collection of assessments. This year the valuation was performed professionally so the opinion is unmodified. A large portion of the doubtful assessments were paid by the Tribe this year so that opinion was removed.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Page 13: Jim stated nothing significant happened this year but the Change of Net Position indicated a substantial loss of over \$500,000. Depreciation represents nearly half of the loss, but cash is showing a loss of nearly \$250,000.
- Handout: Jim gave a handout with the cash breakdown showing fund cash balances. The Reservoir Fund is flush, the Equipment Fund is depleted and the General Fund is depleting. There has been a noticeable downward trend over the past few years.
- Jim stated he had one complaint from a ditch company because a bill was six months late. Jim suggested management should monitor the billing.
- Page 10: GASB 87 is new. Jim stated the new directive forced accountants to capitalize the leases and show on the balance sheet. Jim took all of the leases and discounted them at 2% then came to a value of what they represent.
- President SNYDER asked why the Federal Grant fund was negative; Jim advised the District covers the costs of the grant work then has to wait for the reimbursement. Jim stated when the grant was active, Jessica was billing for reimbursement quarterly and

now it is only once or twice per year. Secretary HALTERMAN clarified that the reimbursements are being requested every 6-8 weeks, but NFWF does not pay on each request and batches several of them when they do pay.

- Treasurer NUTI stated before any new Local Improvement Districts are formed, there needs to be a policy on not allowing them to run in the red; GM BRYAN stated the by-laws are being created and that will be part of the policy.
- President SNYDER stated he agrees that the decline in the Net Positions needs to stop. Treasurer NUTI asked if it is possible to see the cash balances before the next budget; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the cash balances and net position can be available at any time and she will run the report at the end of the month. President SNYDER asked if the net position figures can be available at each meeting; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it can be incorporated into the packet each month.
- Treasurer NUTI stated the District needs to take a hard look at the federal grants. The budget that is approved is not enough when the work can actually be completed and the increase of costs are left to the ditch company to pick up. The recent grants are costing much more than originally budgeted for.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to approve the FY2022 Financial Audit; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

10. Review and discussion of NV Energy’s modified proposal concerning the purchase, by way of a boundary line adjustment, of 0.68 acres of a portion of Douglas County APN 1022-29-201-002 for Topaz substation upgrades, 0.22 acres for an easement for a distribution powerline, also on Douglas County APN 1022-29-201-002, for a total purchase price of \$78,700.00 and direction to General Manager and legal counsel with respect thereto.

GM BRYAN stated the adjustments were addressed as requested in previous meetings. Counsel DePAOLI (referencing the memorandum) advised NV Energy would be purchasing .68 acres from the WRID parcel to be added to their current parcel, a powerline easement shown on Exhibit B, and grading and access easements shown on Exhibit C and D. The total purchase price is still \$78,700. Counsel DePAOLI stated the purchase agreement is now in final shape for moving forward once approved by the Board then NV Energy will proceed with the boundary line adjustment. The plan is to close the sale on January 14th but before then NV Energy must get the boundary line adjustment approved and obtain a permit for work at the substation and additional transmission lines. Counsel DePAOLI stated that in the memo, it is indicated that if the Board wants to move forward a motion authorizing the board president to execute the purchase agreement and other documents needed to consummate the transaction as well as having GM Bryan and counsel to review the documents is needed. Per statute, there must be unanimous approval of the board present and voting. GM BRYAN stated the changes to the location of the power line were made. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to allow legal counsel, the general manager, and the Board President to execute all documents necessary as stated in the agenda item; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

11. Director Comments

None presented.

12. Public Comment

None presented.

13. Adjournment

Vice President MASINI made a motion to adjourn; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:10am.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

ABSENT

David Giorgi, Director