

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on February 7, 2020. 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
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	Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC
Kaitlin Constantine, Summit	John Peters, Mono County	Jason Canger, Mono County
Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD	Nubia Peters	Eric Edgerton
Chase Pasley	Don Smith	

1. Public Comment

Don SMITH presented pictures from Donette Huselton showing the Sierra Nevada snowpack from a helicopter view before Christmas.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

Vice President MASINI was absent.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting

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

4. Water Master's Report

Water Master SARKISIAN stated there was weather service briefing and things do not look good. Joanne reported Bridgeport is currently at 27,690 acre-feet (66%) and Topaz is at 32,320 acre-feet (55%). The SAB & Joggles hired someone to fix the sheeting on the radials at the weir; work will start on the 12th. Hopefully the leaking will stop. Up until a few days ago they were closed and there was still 50 feet going through. SWE is 59% as of this morning. President SNYDER asked about a long range forecast; Joanne stated there isn't much out there.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of January 31, 2020:

Cash in Checking:	\$ 132,301.21
Cash in Money Market	\$1,438,719.66

Cash in CDs	<u>\$1,082,598.12</u>
Total	<u>\$2,653,618.99</u>

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

January 2020 Bills & Payroll

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
121245	1/7/2020	AFLAC	\$ 35.70
121246	1/7/2020	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	\$ 907.60
121247	1/7/2020	Frontier	\$ 288.63
121248	1/7/2020	NV Energy	\$ 324.93
121249	1/7/2020	Alhambra	\$ 9.79
121250	1/7/2020	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$ 4,180.72
121251	1/7/2020	White Cap Construction Supply	\$ 316.44
121252	1/7/2020	D & S Waste Removal	\$ 203.64
121253	1/7/2020	Allied Sanitation and Septic	\$ 191.43
121254	1/13/2020	ABILA	\$ 177.75
121255	1/13/2020	Giomi, Inc.	\$ 171.43
121256	1/13/2020	AT&T	\$ 148.45
121257	1/13/2020	John Deere Credit	\$ 466.56
121258	1/13/2020	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	\$ 147.49
121259	1/13/2020	Lyon County Recorder	\$ 83.90
121260	1/13/2020	Mason Valley Quicknet	\$ 410.00
121261	1/13/2020	MF Barcellos	\$ 3,947.28
121262	1/13/2020	True Value	\$ 58.04
121263	1/13/2020	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$ 123.38
121264	1/13/2020	Pitney Bowes Global Financial	\$ 212.02
121265	1/13/2020	Public Employees' Benefits	\$ 870.23
121266	1/13/2020	Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	\$ 37.90
121267	1/13/2020	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$ 61.17
121268	1/13/2020	NV Energy	\$ 36.71
121269	1/13/2020	Southwest Gas Corporation	\$ 504.98
121270	1/13/2020	U.S. Geological Survey	\$ 11,757.33
121271	1/13/2020	Verizon Wireless	\$ 456.41

121272	1/13/2020	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	33,203.10
121273	1/13/2020	Desert Research Institute	\$	27,793.78
121274	1/13/2020	Sierra Office Solutions	\$	137.43
121275	1/14/2020	IRENE B SMITH	\$	1,801.07
121276	1/14/2020	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	6,913.92
121277	1/14/2020	Nevada Employment Security	\$	620.67
121278	1/14/2020	Petty Cash	\$	290.03
121279				VOID
121280	1/15/2020	CA State Water Resources Control	\$	28,990.00
121281	1/15/2020	California Dept. of Fish and Game	\$	850.00
121282	1/29/2020	AFLAC	\$	35.70
121283	1/29/2020	ABILA	\$	177.75
121284	1/29/2020	Frontier	\$	284.71
121285	1/29/2020	AT&T Mobility	\$	115.93
121286	1/29/2020	MBK Engineers	\$	18,200.65
121287	1/29/2020	Quill	\$	1,144.84
121288	1/29/2020	NV Energy	\$	33.82
121289	1/29/2020	Standard Insurance Company	\$	242.47
121290	1/29/2020	Tyres International	\$	307.30
121291	1/29/2020	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	\$	162.25
121292	1/29/2020	Western Nevada Supply Company	\$	1,873.34
121293	1/29/2020	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	27,519.50
121294	1/29/2020	Xerox Financial Services	\$	139.44
121295	1/29/2020	HomeTown Health	\$	6,569.33
121296	1/29/2020	Yerington Ready Mix	\$	3,129.01
121297	1/30/2020	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	7,199.54
121298	1/30/2020	Petty Cash	\$	500.00
PAYROLL		JANUARY PAYROLL	\$	33,543.99

Total Bills & Payroll \$ 227,909.48

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN advised Bridgeport is currently at 65% and Topaz is at 54%. As of 5:00am on 2/7/2020, 14,050 acre-feet in Topaz and 14,450 acre-feet in Bridgeport have been stored since November 1st. Included in the packet is a report from the NRCS February 1st. The report provides the SWE, the monthly water percentage from October 2019 through January, water year-to-date precipitation, SNOTEL April through July, streamflow forecast, and year-to-date snowpack. Now is typically when we see the peak of the snow, but there is still time to get more in the next couple months. We can only store for the rest of this month, unless the decree is set at Full after March 1st. GM BRYAN has contacted Tim Bardsley and Jeff Anderson to give a presentation at next month's meeting.

The shop crew completed the pours on the Christof/Carrasco project. There is only one safety valve to pour, grooming to be done and a metal grate to be placed on the pipeline project. On Monday, the equipment will be moved back to Yerington to complete repair and maintenance work on Silverado Road, the weir, SAB canal, High Ditch, G&H settling basin as well as resetting the rock dams at the Spragg, G&H and High Ditch. GM BRYAN is working with the Conservancy on getting agreements at the Pitchfork Ranch and deciding whether they are going to take any water this year. Once the Yerington work is done, the equipment will go back to the Colony to do repair and maintenance.

The equipment for the Bridgeport Gatehouse has been ordered. GM BRYAN had a meeting with Dr. Styles and the manufacturer a couple weeks ago. The equipment should be delivered in April. We are still attempting to contact Syblon Reed and are getting quotes from other companies. The repairs can be completed during the water season.

On Monday, February 24th, there will be the annual pre-season meeting with the Ditch Riders. One thing being implemented this year is to contact all the users who lease their land. The water user will need to sign a form that allows the lessee to order water.

Over the last month and a half there were several ditch meetings. GM BRYAN was able to speak at most of them about the Local Improvement District option. There is expressed interest from approximately 14 ditch companies. We will have further workshops and will post when they are happening.

On April 21-23rd, the District is hosting a flow measurement class. Dr. Styles will be teaching the three day class which consists of classroom and field time. The class is open to the public and is \$60 per person. There are flyers in the front office, and it is posted on the website.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI reported there is a date from the Supreme Court for the Mineral County case that has the certified questions from the 9th Circuit. Oral argument will

be March 3rd at 11:00am in Carson City. It will be before the entire court- not a panel but all the Justices. Early on, Justice Parraguirre excused himself; Counsel DePAOLI is unsure if another Justice will be appointed. They are allowing a total of 60 minutes for argument- 30 minutes per side. The parties could give some of their time to amicus if they wanted to, Counsel DePAOLI does not expect that to happen on our end. There are 3 entities who filed briefs as respondents, Lyon County, the group that Walston represents and the Nevada Department of Wildlife. Once it is argued, it will be submitted. It is not likely there will be further briefing, but that is not unheard of. There will likely be a decision by the end of the year as Justice Gibbons is leaving. John PETERS confirmed the meeting is in Carson City. Treasurer NUTI asked if the 30 minutes included the time for questions; Counsel DePAOLI advised it does, but sometimes it is better when there are questions presented because that means they have looked at the case.

E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

GM BRYAN stated the District has started the process of filing the appropriate paperwork to move forward with the Stored Water Program. The petitions have been filed with California and MBK has taken care of the postings. A few light changes need to be changed from last year, but MBK has been taking care of those. GM BRYAN would like to have MBK at the next meeting to give a report based on the allocations that will be set next month. Treasurer NUTI asked if there were any substantial changes from last year; Counsel DePAOLI advised it is nearly identical. GM BRYAN stated the amount is the same- no more than 25,000 acre-feet combined from the reservoirs. Treasurer NUTI confirmed the Stored Water Program must be held for two more years; GM BRYAN stated, per the grant, the District does have to hold the Program for two more years, but they do not have to be consecutive. John PETERS requested to know if the release documents will be available to the public; GM BRYAN stated all the documents will be available on the website. John stated they (Mono County) are interested in the timing, which reservoir it will impact, and being able to understand how it works depending on the amount of yearly precipitation and snowpack. GM BRYAN stated the Program will be run according to the 9th Circuit requirements in terms of impacting recreation and irrigation activities and releases will occur during the historic flows.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY reported Sarah has taken a new role in the Division- Nevada Floodplain Mapping Coordinator. Final pumping numbers are close to being published on the website. Total pumped 51,716 acre-feet between the two valleys minus the geothermal and mining/milling pumping. 89% of the total water pumped in Smith Valley was for irrigation, 69% of the total pumped in Mason Valley was for irrigation. Water levels are expected to come up before the Spring water level measurements.

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

GM BRYAN spoke to Jeff Bryant and at next month's meeting they hope to introduce the new Water Director to the Board.

8. Consideration of authorization of District counsel to execute, deliver and file Conditional Stipulations to Resolve Protests Regarding Application Nos. 88160 through 88162.

Counsel DePAOLI stated in July 2018, NFWF filed three applications (88160, 88161 and 88162) to change existing irrigation rights that had points of diversion at the weir from irrigation to instream for Walker Lake. The applications were intended to be consistent with the first application and the legal rulings that follow. In order to be sure that would be how things turned out, the District filed conditional protests to keep participating at the State Engineer level. The District filed a conditional protest stating that if the previous stipulations were followed and are consistent with prior court rulings, they can be approved. Walker River Tribe filed a similar protest, the USBWC filed a letter of comments, and the District has worked with NFWF legal counsel to work out conditional stipulations. If/when the three conditional stipulations are approved, it would ensure the change applications follow the same set of rules and pattern Application 80700. Counsel DePAOLI understands the USBWC is still working with the Conservancy on any issues they may have. It appears their issues would be along the same lines as well as last year's budget process concerning the Miller Lane Gage. Counsel DePAOLI is asking the Board for approval to execute the three stipulations with the attorneys for the Conservancy and they can file them with the State Engineer. The Conservancy would then need to get a decision or permit from the State Engineer and go to the District Court for an amendment to the decree. If something goes not as planned, the District would be able to participate at the State level. Treasurer NUTI requested confirmation that the applications are the same as the previous application except for the water amounts; Counsel DePAOLI confirmed. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to authorize District counsel to execute, deliver and file Conditional Stipulations to Resolve District Protests regarding Applications 88160, 88161 and 88162; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

9. Consideration of request of Bridgeport Reservoir tenant, Chase Pasley, for permission under his lease with the District to make certain electrical improvements on the land leased from the District.

Chase PASLEY provided documents on a proposed utility upgrade at the Bridgeport Marina RV Park. Chase stated it is a basic upgrade to the panel and extending electrical underground utilities to RV sites. Mono County requires a building permit and part of the permit is authorization from the landowner. President SNYDER inquired whether the existing utilities have been found; Chase stated he has found all the existing utilities. GM BRYAN stated, per the lease agreement, Chase must get authorization to make any changes to the property. Director GIORGI made a motion to approve the request if the work is up to code; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

10. Director Comments

None presented.

11. Public Comment

John PETERS stated Lahontan did a tour of the Bridgeport Rancher's water quality project. During the tour, it was found that people are using Buckeye hot springs as bathrooms. The Forest Service and Eastern Sierra Sustainable Partnership Director have created a project to build restroom facilities to greatly reduce the hazard to water quality in Buckeye Creek. The Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment/ California Environmental Protection Agency released a water quality assessment identifying mercury in the fish at Bridgeport and Topaz Reservoir. There are fish identified that are more than 200 miles from the reservoirs. There is nothing new, but they released the findings. Treasurer NUTI stated it was misleading to identify fish that were miles away; John stated they are working out the details. Mono County Health will post signage once the results are finalized. John is working to avoid too many signs along the reservoirs, so he is working with businesses to post only what is necessary and is tasteful. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has released their proposed fishing regulations. For East Walker, they proposed year-round catch and release only. The traditional first day of fishing season will be the last day in April, but they decided to go back to October 31st as the close. For the last 15 years, November 15th has been the close and businesses have taken advantage of the late season to rent boats, etc. Mono County's position is that it could have an adverse economic impact to cut the season early. John has been named to the Western Interstate Region through the National Association of Counties to advocate for better rural policy, land use and protection. He is willing to work with the District to better advocate for areas of concern. In the Governor of California's January budget release, he is investing one time money in the hatchery system to replace the entire fleet of hatchery trucks, modernization and commit 7.5 million dollar general fund money to wetlands management to use to modernize water conveyance systems. John is unsure if any money will come to Mono County. The Lahontan Cutthroat reintroduction is back and becoming more active. The budget is not adopted yet, but that is what CDFW has requested for a long time.

John questioned when the next meeting would be as the 7th is a Saturday; GM BRYAN stated it would be on March 9th.

12. Adjournment

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. Meeting was adjourned at 10:49 AM.

Jim Snyder, President

ABSENT
Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director