

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on March 9, 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 |
| Marcus MASINI | Vice President |
| Richard NUTI | Treasurer |
| David GIORGI | Director |
| Dennis ACCIARI | Director |
| Robert BRYAN | General Manager |
| Gordon DePAOLI | Legal Counsel, via landline |
| Jessica HALTERMAN | Secretary |

Public Present:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Wyatt Fereday, NSE | Adam Sullivan, NSE | Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC |
| Taylor Thomas, USBWC | Kaitlin Constantine, Summit | Jason Canger, Mono County |
| Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD | Silas Adams, WBC | Angela Mushrush, NRCS |
| Tim Bardsley, NWS | Jeff Anderson, NRCS | Antonio Fuentes, Christopher Ranch |
| Don Smith | Carole O'Banion | Mike Mantelli, Christopher Ranch |
| Mike Bryan | | |

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All members present with Counsel DePAOLI on the phone.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the February 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 water started water on March 2nd. Currently, 154 feet of decree is running which is more than what is available- 70 on the East and 50 on the West. The decree has dropped to 1870 on East/Main and 1866 on West/Tunnel. The decree is dropping off very quickly. The weir repairs were completed but it has been difficult to build the pool. There is 20 feet going through right now and there is a little seepage under the center gate due to a divot in the concrete. Treasurer NUTI asked if the repairs stopped the leaking; Joanne advised it did except for the center gate.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of February 29, 2020:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash in Checking: | \$ 239,978.57 |
| Cash in Money Market | \$1,286,350.42 |
| Cash in CDs | <u>\$1,082,598.12</u> |
| Total | \$2,608,927.11 |

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment
February 2020 Bills & Payroll

| <u>Check Number</u> | <u>Effective Date</u> | <u>Vendor Name</u> | <u>Check Amount</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 121299 | 2/7/2020 | Ameritas Life Insurance | \$ 907.60 |
| 121300 | 2/7/2020 | Hunewill Construction Co., | \$ 748.31 |
| 121301 | 2/7/2020 | Sticks and Stones Buildings | \$ 642.82 |
| 121302 | 2/7/2020 | Mason Valley Quicknet | \$ 410.00 |
| 121303 | 2/7/2020 | True Value | \$ 29.99 |
| 121304 | 2/7/2020 | O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. | \$ 41.97 |
| 121305 | 2/7/2020 | PDM Steel Service Centers, | \$ 544.67 |
| 121306 | 2/7/2020 | Power Plan | \$ 2,411.06 |
| 121307 | 2/7/2020 | Public Employees' Benefits | \$ 870.23 |
| 121308 | 2/7/2020 | Purchase Power / Pitney | \$ 150.00 |
| 121309 | 2/7/2020 | Quill | \$ 349.89 |
| 121310 | 2/7/2020 | Renner Equipment Co. | \$ 1,000.00 |
| 121311 | 2/7/2020 | NV Energy | \$ 319.84 |
| 121312 | 2/7/2020 | Alhambra | \$ 332.48 |
| 121313 | 2/7/2020 | Southwest Gas Corporation | \$ 478.52 |
| 121314 | 2/7/2020 | Wells Fargo Card Services | \$ 2,322.49 |
| 121315 | 2/7/2020 | Sierra Office Solutions | \$ 231.75 |
| 121316 | 2/7/2020 | Studio 33 | \$ 430.00 |
| 121317 | 2/7/2020 | Yerington Ready Mix | \$ 2,225.27 |
| 121318 | 2/7/2020 | Cal Poly Corporation | \$ 94,240.35 |
| 121319 | 2/26/2020 | AFLAC | \$ 35.70 |
| 121320 | 2/26/2020 | ABILA | \$ 177.75 |
| 121321 | 2/26/2020 | Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. | \$ 70,560.00 |
| 121322 | 2/26/2020 | Giomi, Inc. | \$ 436.30 |
| 121323 | 2/26/2020 | AT&T | \$ 147.07 |
| 121324 | 2/26/2020 | John Deere Credit | \$ 23.03 |

| | | | | |
|---------|-----------|------------------------------|----|-----------|
| 121325 | 2/26/2020 | Associated Concrete | \$ | 1,279.01 |
| 121326 | 2/26/2020 | NAPA AUTO & TRUCK | \$ | 190.97 |
| 121327 | 2/26/2020 | Lyon County Recorder | \$ | 44.50 |
| 121328 | 2/26/2020 | MBK Engineers | \$ | 22,340.00 |
| 121329 | 2/26/2020 | MF Barcellos | \$ | 4,221.10 |
| 121330 | 2/26/2020 | Power Plan | \$ | 4,198.79 |
| 121331 | 2/26/2020 | Quill | \$ | 972.65 |
| 121332 | 2/26/2020 | Jim Menesini Petroleum | \$ | 476.89 |
| 121333 | 2/26/2020 | Standard Insurance | \$ | 242.47 |
| 121334 | 2/26/2020 | Valley Tire and Auto Service | \$ | 192.33 |
| 121335 | 2/26/2020 | Verizon Wireless | \$ | 496.41 |
| 121336 | 2/26/2020 | Vision Service Plan - Nevada | \$ | 162.25 |
| 121337 | 2/26/2020 | Western Nevada Supply | \$ | 3,795.91 |
| 121338 | 2/26/2020 | White Cap Construction | \$ | 1,260.30 |
| 121339 | 2/26/2020 | Woodburn & Wedge | \$ | 35,946.10 |
| 121340 | 2/26/2020 | Xerox Financial Services | \$ | 139.44 |
| 121341 | 2/26/2020 | City of Yerington | \$ | 88.94 |
| 121342 | 2/26/2020 | HomeTown Health | \$ | 6,569.33 |
| 121343 | 2/26/2020 | Allied Sanitation and Septic | \$ | 80.00 |
| 121344 | 2/26/2020 | WEST Consultants, Inc. | \$ | 4,098.56 |
| 121345 | 2/26/2020 | Yerington Ready Mix | \$ | 1,369.13 |
| 121346 | 2/28/2020 | Desert Research Institute | \$ | 13,421.03 |
| PAYROLL | | FEBRUARY PAYROLL | \$ | 33,188.93 |

Total Bills & Payroll \$ 314,842.13

Secretary HALTERMAN stated there was a breakdown of the CalPoly bill in the meeting packet. President SNYDER inquired if the flow tracker data was an ongoing project; GM BRYAN stated it is ongoing and grant funded as there are sensors in the canals and the data is being used for the Stored Water Program. President SNYDER asked if the loss data would be available; GM BRYAN stated it is available to each of the ditch companies. 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 advised the current USGS figures were provided in the packet. Topaz is currently at 34,710 acre-feet (58% capacity) and Bridgeport is currently at 30,240

acre-feet (71% capacity). During the off season, 16,180 acre-feet were stored in Topaz and 16,720 acre-feet were stored in Bridgeport. The only way to store during the season is if the Water Master sets full decree, which is not likely as the inflows are less than 100 cfs combined.

The shop crew completed the bridge replacement on Silverado Road, the rock diversion at the Campbell, repairs on the SAB from the flooding event, sediment removal from the G&H and Fox-Mickey settling basins, repairs & maintenance on the High Ditch, placed the rock dams except the one at the Pitchfork Ranch. The Pitchfork Ranch will be taking water this year, so the dam will need to be placed within a week or two. The crew will continue with regular scheduled maintenance on the Colony Ditch and other key locations in Smith Valley before coming back to Mason Valley to do work on the drains.

GM BRYAN spoke to Dale Ferguson and he is renewing the 9405 Hoyer Permit. The permit must be filed yearly with NDWR.

Secretary HALTERMAN has been working with Ellen from Woodburn & Wedge on updating the personnel manual to comply with federal regulations and POOL/PACT recommendations. The discussion and review of the manual will be on the April meeting agenda. The revisions will also be available on our website, via email or a paper copy is available at the front desk.

GM BRYAN and Secretary HALTERMAN have been working on the 2020-2021 budget proposal. The packet will be given to the Board and put on our website soon. We hope to address the budget in the April meeting.

GM BRYAN stated Lee Smith was contacted to do appraisals on two of the District properties. The two properties include approximately 80 acres at Wilhoyt and Pete Hendrichs and approximately 8 acres behind the old plastic facility in Wabuska. Once the appraisals are completed, GM BRYAN will get the Board a copy.

The first monthly update meeting was held with NRCS regarding the Watershed Grant. Letters to stakeholders and other cooperators will be sent out soon. Work on the Saroni Canal for the BOR grant is almost complete. Only one soft plug must be poured, and cleaning/grooming will be done. The Plymouth Ditch has purchased the pipe for their Phase I project.

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 via landline. The oral argument occurred last Tuesday on the Mineral County Working Group Case and the two certified questions from the 9th Circuit. Counsel DePAOLI advised he was satisfied with the way the argument went on our side. He expects to hear something from the Nevada Supreme Court within the next 3-4 months. As part of preparing for the oral argument, Counsel DePAOLI reviewed the amicus briefs. They were excellent briefs and Counsel has written thank-you notes. Those agencies who filed the briefs were: Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Washoe County Water Conservation District, Carson Truckee Water Conservation District, Southern Nevada Water Authority, Carson Water Sub Conservancy District, Elko County, Humboldt River Basin Water Authority, Douglas & Storey Counties, Carson City, City of Fernley, City of Fallon, Churchill County, Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, Nevada Mining Association, Pacific Legal Foundation, Peri & Sons Farms, Desert Pearl Farms, Peri Family Ranch, Jason Corp, Frade Ranches, Inc., Pershing County Water Cons District, Pershing, Humboldt and Lander Counties. All were very good briefs and hopefully helpful.

Treasurer NUTI confirmed the once the questions are certified, they will go back to the 9th Circuit; Counsel DePAOLI stated once they are answered, they will go back to the 9th Circuit and a decision will be issued based on what the Nevada Supreme Court stated in terms of giving them an answer. What the 9th Circuit does depends on how the Nevada Supreme Court answers the questions. One of the judges on the 9th Circuit panel, has been replaced by another 9th Circuit judge.

E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

GM BRYAN stated the petitions have been filed with California Water Control Board, but nothing has been heard yet. The District did receive a copy of the letter of support from NFWF.

6. Recess as Board of Directors and convene as Board of Corrections for corrections of assessments pursuant to NRS 539.680.

At 10:15am, the Board of Directors recessed, and the Board of Corrections convened. President SNYDER asked for any corrections to assessments; none were presented.

7. Adjourn as Board of Corrections and reconvene as Board of Directors

Board of Corrections adjourned, and Board of Directors reconvened at 10:16am.

8. Presentation and discussion by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2020 irrigation season.

Tim Bardsley explained his PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- January & February were some of the driest months on record.
- The odds of getting to a normal snowpack are very low.
- Precipitation is far below normal.
- There are a couple storms on the two week look, but they are not expected to make significant changes.

- Spring storms may add to the precipitation, but it is highly unlikely that the basin will return to average.
- CNRFC April-July Runoff is estimated at 24-38% of average.

9. Presentation and discussion by Jeff Anderson with NRCS regarding the current water year snowpack and water outlook for 2020 irrigation season.

Jeff Anderson explained his PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Monthly precipitation to date is approximately 38%.
- The three weeks before Christmas were near record in snow accumulation, but there has not been anything since.
- Water year precipitation is at a record low.
- Snow water equivalent is below 50% of median.
- The 2020 SWE peak at Leavitt Meadows is 6.4"; 2019 was 28.1" and 2015 was 1.4".
- Snow is going or gone on the southern aspect slopes.
- Basin wide soil saturation is well below average, but above the minimum on record.
- YTD 2020 is currently the lowest precipitation on record.
- March 1st forecasts range from 53-59% of average.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY reported he and Kerry were in the valley last week doing water level readings. The aquifer in Mason Valley is up 2.25 feet and Smith Valley is up 5.04 excluding the Artesia area. One well was pumping in each basin. The first round of irrigation well readings will happen during the week of March 30th.

Adam SULLIVAN, Deputy Administrator, introduced himself. He reported the department administration has had a complete turnover during the last few years and would like to keep communication open with the users.

President SNYDER inquired how many acre feet the Mason Valley increase represented; Wyatt was uncertain but did state the aquifer has reached the pre-drought level. It is still historically low, but it has recovered to pre-drought status. Vice President MASINI inquired if the aquifers across the state had equal recovery; Wyatt stated Smith and Mason Valleys recovered much better than other areas across the state. Vice President MASINI inquired whether there were certain areas of Mason Valley where the levels were different; Wyatt stated it was pretty much, across the board, up.

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

Silas ADAMS reported the Conservancy hired Laura Patton as the Water Director. Silas hopes to formally introduce Laura at the next meeting.

12. Discussion and consideration of storage water allocation for the 2020 irrigation season.

GM BRYAN reported that after calculating the current capacities, evaporation losses, minimum pool amounts and considering current snowpack levels, he recommends the allocations be set at 38.29% for the West and 51.45% for the East. Director GIORGI asked if a cushion is needed for each reservoir; GM BRYAN stated there is a small cushion as not all the water rights will be called for and some spring storms will add a small amount. Director GIORGI asked if it is better to hold back and reallocate or better to give all at once; GM BRYAN stated he is in the range where he is comfortable, as he does not want to have to de-allocate later in the year, but it is ultimately the Board's decision. Treasurer NUTI inquired if the numbers were fashioned to ensure the water will be available until October 31st; GM BRYAN stated it is, but, as always, he recommends using the storage water as soon as possible. Director ACCIARI made a motion to approve the recommended allocations; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

13. Discussion and determination of the season for delivery of storage water in 2020 as provided in Section 9.3 of District Regulation No. 9.

GM BRYAN stated per Regulation No. 9, the Board must set a start date for storage water delivery. Historically, April 1st has been the start date, but the regulation was created for those who wanted to use water prior to April. Some canals are not ready for water currently, but the decree rights are not senior. Joanne stated the Tribe's water starts March 28th. Vice President MASINI made a motion to set the irrigation start date as March 10, 2020; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

14. Discussion and determination of the last date to allow irrigation season changes in place of use of storage water from reservoir to reservoir as provided in and required by Section 6.1 of District Regulation No. 6.

GM BRYAN recommends no reservoir to reservoir transfers due to the lower allocation numbers, current reservoir capacity, and dry soil, but it is the Board's decision. Vice President MASINI questioned if reservoir to reservoir transfers were stopped in 2015 & 2016; GM BRYAN stated they were stopped both years. Vice President MASINI made a motion to suspend reservoir to reservoir transfers for the 2020 water year; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. Treasurer NUTI questioned how transfers are usually submitted; GM BRYAN stated there is approximately 1,000 acre feet transferred each year. Director GIORGI confirmed temporary transfers between users can still be done; GM BRYAN confirmed they would still be allowed. The vote was called for and passed.

15. Consideration for making available and delivering well water for the District Well under Nevada State Engineer Permit No. 25813, Certificate No. 8861 to lands within the District beginning April 1, 2020.

GM BRYAN recommends the well be utilized this year. The certificate allows the District to pump 3269.63 acre-feet during April 1st to September 30th. The rate of \$16.50 per acre-foot will be charged. Director GIORGI asked how frequently a user can get the well water; GM BRYAN stated the drawing is lottery style and is completed each month, but the water must be used in the month it is drawn. Director GIORGI made a motion to run the well starting April 1st; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

16. Director Comments

None presented.

17. Public Comment

Angela MUSHRUSH wanted the District to be aware that the deadline for EQIP is April 10 and the District is now eligible to apply.

Carole O'BANION requested to know when the repairs would be completed on the Simpson Colony Ditch; GM BRYAN stated a safety valve is being installed right now in attempt to lessen the chance of damage from a potential mudslide from the burn scar. There are a few other areas that need minor maintenance, but GM BRYAN hopes the work will be done in the next week or so.

18. Adjournment

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. Meeting was adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director