

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on August 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
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via Zoom

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Kat Dow, WBC	Jodi Roan, NDWR
Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD	Chantae Lessard, Hudbay	

Public Present via Zoom:

Wes Walker, MBK Engineers	Dave Hockaday, LCBOCC	Mike Fuess, NDOT
Emily FOY		

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call

All 5 board members were present.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the July 7, 2023 Regular Meeting

Secretary HALTERMAN stated Vice President MASINI needed to be added as being present at the meeting. Vice President MASINI made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

4. Water Master's Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported that Bridgeport Reservoir was at 91% capacity with 38,790 acre-feet, and Topaz was at 90% capacity with 53,950 acre-feet. All of the boards are in place and the diversions are going back in. System wide delivery is 752 acre-feet and that includes permit, decree, and storage. Priority is currently at Full/Flood. Vice President MASINI asked how long Full/Flood was going to last; Joanne estimated about another week.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of July 31, 2023:

Cash in Checking	\$ 77,333.01
Cash in Money Market	\$ 491,582.18
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 757,568.24</u>
Total	\$1,326,483.43

**B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment
Walker River Irrigation District
July 2023 Bills & Payroll**

Payee	Check No.	Date	Amount
Champion Chevrolet	100463	07/03/2023	\$ 36,572.25
SV Conservation District	100464	07/07/2023	\$ 31,891.08
City of Yerington	100465	07/13/2023	\$ 150.20
D & S Waste Removal	100466	07/13/2023	\$ 213.82
Decision Support Tech.	100467	07/13/2023	\$ 658.00
Giomi, Inc.	100468	07/13/2023	\$ 353.31
Jim Menesini Petroleum	100469	07/13/2023	\$ 691.66
Local Government EMRB	100470	07/13/2023	\$ 21.00
Lyon County Recorder	100471	07/13/2023	\$ 37.73
MF Barcellos	100472	07/13/2023	\$ 5,306.84
Mickey Mutual Ditch Co.	100473	07/13/2023	\$ 9.54
NV Energy	100474	07/13/2023	\$ 376.91
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	100475	07/13/2023	\$ 573.80
Pape' Machinery	100476	07/13/2023	\$ 21,100.00
Pitney Bowes Global	100477	07/13/2023	\$ 213.42
Public Employees' Ben.	100478	07/13/2023	\$ 870.23
Purchase Power	100479	07/13/2023	\$ 452.56
Southwest Gas Corp	100480	07/13/2023	\$ 46.23
Standard Insurance Co	100481	07/13/2023	\$ 304.06
THE PARTS HOUSE	100482	07/13/2023	\$ 751.35
Truckee Tahoe Lumber	100483	07/13/2023	\$ 8,027.66
True Value	100484	07/13/2023	\$ 233.44
USBWC	100485	07/13/2023	\$ 9,310.00
USI Insurance Services	100486	07/13/2023	\$ 21,969.85
Xerox Corporation	100487	07/13/2023	\$ 220.94
Sticks and Stones	100488	07/13/2023	\$ 65.98

Six-N-Ranch	100489	07/13/2023	\$	1,799.98
Spaeth Technologies Inc.	100490	07/14/2023	\$	565.00
Desert Research Institute	100491	07/28/2023	\$	6,752.81
Lyon County Treasurer	100492	07/28/2023	\$	3,760.08
Pape' Machinery	100493	07/28/2023	\$	35,496.62
Sierra Office Solutions	100494	07/28/2023	\$	82.41
Standard Insurance	100495	07/28/2023	\$	304.06
U.S. Geological Survey	100496	07/28/2023	\$	21,418.00
USBWC	100497	07/28/2023	\$	162.79
USBWC	100498	07/28/2023	\$	121.49
Walker River Irrigation	100499	07/28/2023	\$	609.83
Western Nevada Supply	100500	07/28/2023	\$	4,572.00
WILLIAM KLING	100501	07/28/2023	\$	1,000.00
Woodburn & Wedge	100502	07/28/2023	\$	28,783.66
Alhambra	300034	07/13/2023	\$	143.39
Verizon Wireless	300035	07/13/2023	\$	296.54
Payroll & Taxes		7/15/2023	\$	53,222.47
Total Payroll & Taxes				\$ 299,512.99

Director GIORGI asked if the Barcellos bill was for work on the river; GM BRYAN confirmed it was and that FEMA should be reimbursing the District. President SNYDER asked if a new vehicle was purchased from Champion Chevrolet; GM BRYAN stated it was the purchase of the budgeted Colorado. President SNYDER asked if the Colorado was diesel; GM BRYAN stated it was not. Vice President MASINI asked if the Pape bill was for the rental equipment; GM BRYAN stated it was for the rental equipment and some work on the District's 250. Vice President MASINI asked if the rental equipment had been returned to Pape; GM BRYAN stated it has not. Pape is trying to sell the District a loader for \$198,000 as they are in short supply and we are lucky to have one. Pape was supposed to bring a replacement for the 135 excavator because the one we have has been purchased by Peri's. All of the rented equipment is still being used.

Director GIORGI made a motion to approve the bills; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 53,970 acre-feet (90%) and Bridgeport is at 38,790 acre-feet (92%). The reservoir pools maxed out about a week ago with less than 1 foot before the siphons kicked on in Bridgeport and less than 2 feet of free board in Topaz. Topaz capped out at 92-93% and Bridgeport capped out at 94-95%. The pools will now continue to drop as storage water is called for, leasing

program water is released and the decree being set at full/flood. The inflows are falling so the priority is expected to fall soon. Overall, the reservoirs are in a great place and there is approximately 81,500 acre-feet of water allocated.

The shop crew has been assisting Lyon County with repairs from the Spring Thaw event as well as performing repairs and maintenance on District infrastructure. Some of the areas of repairs/maintenance were Mason Road, Spragg Ditch, Sierra Way, Lux Lane, Saroni, Desert Creek overpass, and various drains. There are a lot of repairs and maintenance to be completed still. The High Ditch must be repaired but the work cannot be done until the access is better and there is somewhere to put the material.

Secretary HALTERMAN has been working with FEMA in getting everything filed for the AR2 March Event. As of right now, all of the paperwork has been submitted and is being reviewed. The total cost to the District, just for this event, was \$337,696.63 and it looks like the District will receive 75% of the claim in the amount of \$253,269.48. Secretary HALTERMAN stated there are mitigation funds available to fix the High Ditch so that it will not be injured as badly in another high water event.

On July 10th, GM BRYAN and local farmers/ranchers met with JJ Goicoechea with the Department of Agriculture at Lucy Snyder's. JJ discussed staffing changes, future plans, and other changes in the Department. One key item discussed was the opportunity for farmers and ranchers to get money for damages incurred this year. JJ recommended private agencies and individuals to contact the NRCS/FSA office because there are programs to assist with repairing damages and recouping costs.

From July 10th-20th, Dr. Styles and his students were in the District continuing data collection for the Conveyance Loss Study. The Study began in 2014 and NFWF recently approved more money to fund the continuation. All of the work is grant funded through NFWF.

On July 24th, GM BRYAN met with Frank McDonough from DRI. Frank advised that Legislature approved funding for cloud seeding in Nevada. There is not a lot of money, but it seemed to be enough to jump start the seeding program again. There is approximately \$30-60,000 allocated to the Walker Basin. Frank has had conversations with Rick Stone regarding the aerial seeding and recommends that multiple agencies join together to keep the costs down. Frank was going to reach out to Carson and other agencies, but mentioned private funding is also an option. Secretary HALTERMAN will be looking to see how much money can be pulled from the budgeted cloud seeding line item. GM BRYAN will be meeting with Frank soon to see if he had any luck with other agencies.

On July 24th, District staff and Lyon County staff met with FEMA to tour damaged areas from the Spring Thaw event. Staff and FEMA visited Lux Lane, Sierra Way, Miller Lane, East Walker Road, High Ditch, Saroni Road, and the Desert Creek

overpass. It appears that Lyon County has met the threshold for the presidential declaration, but we are still waiting to hear for certain. There are no final costs calculated yet. If a presidential declaration is made, there will be mitigation funds available to improve infrastructure. The reimbursement from FEMA is to bring infrastructure back to pre-disaster condition only- no improvements.

The District finally received the cultural clearance for the Campbell WaterSMART grant. There was a long hold up with NEPA but the Notice to Proceed has been issued and the job can be completed.

The NRCS PIFR is still being evaluated by the National Office. Staff have been having monthly progress meetings, but we now must wait for word from the National Office.

Last week, GM BRYAN met with ditch companies and representatives from Peri & Sons regarding two applications to move water. The first application, 92736, was to move Campbell water to another place on the Campbell and there was no opposition. The application is in the publication period and comments are due next week. The second application, 92775, was to move Fox water to the Nichol-Merritt. There was opposition and discussion and Peri & Sons decided to withdraw the application. Moving East decree and storage water to the Main would have been a lengthy process. GM BRYAN received the withdrawal letter this morning.

GM BRYAN advised there has been a change in the PERS reporting system. The change will not allow ditch riders who are salary during the irrigation season to be hired as hourly temporary staff during the off season. The employees must be all hourly, all salary, or be independent contractors in the off season. Secretary HALTERMAN has included a letter explaining the change and offering options in the packet. No decision can be made until the item is put on a future agenda, but GM BRYAN wanted to introduce the topic in case there were any questions. Director GIORGI asked if the employees would be involved in the decision as well; GM BRYAN stated there is overlap and the District cannot pay employees both salary and hourly during the year. Director GIORGI asked if the pay was above retirement; GM BRYAN stated the District would have to offer PERS and other benefits if the employee were to work more than the allowed hour limit. The employees do have the option of waiving benefits, but the District must offer them.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel FERGUSON stated he did not have anything to report.

E. Review and Approval of Monthly Storage Transfers

Director GIORGI made a motion to approve the storage transfers; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Wes WALKER advised the Leasing Program started on Friday and, to date, 1,100 acre-feet has been released from Topaz and 1,000 acre-feet has been released from Bridgeport. Wes reminded everyone that there is just over 14,000 acre-feet enrolled from Topaz and just under 11,000 acre-feet enrolled from Bridgeport. There are some release constraints from Bridgeport that will be in effect later this month. Releases are expected to end mid-September in Topaz and mid-September or early October in Bridgeport. The program water is expected to be seen at Wabuska today.

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

Jodi ROAN stated AJ welcomed a little boy named Walker last month, all is well, and AJ says 'hello'.

7. 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 the lake is up approximately 15 feet and is expected to continue to rise through the next few months with the leasing program. The current level is still lower than 2009 but is projected to hit that level by next year.

8. Director Comments

Treasurer NUTI wanted to publicly thank all agencies involved in keeping the City of Yerington from flooding. Everyone involved did a great job and he thanks God for not allowing it to flood as bad as it could have.

9. Public Comment

None presented.

10. Adjournment

Director GIORGI made a motion to adjourn; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:33am.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director