**August 8, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on August 8, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the district board room, 410 N Main St, Yerington, Nevada by President Jim Snyder.

**Present were:**

Jim SNYDER President

David GIORGI Vice President

Richard NUTI Treasurer

David LITTLE Director

Bridget BANTA Secretary

Robert BRYAN General Manager

Robert Martinez Water Master

Dale FERGUSON Legal Counsel

Gordon DEPAOLI Legal Counsel

**Public Present:**

Donette Huselton Isaac Metcalf Ed Ryan

Jeff Dengel Peter Knight

**Public Comment**:

Donette Huselton advised she brought in a newspaper article regarding state law and transferring water from here to Las Vegas.

**Roll Call:**

All members present.

**Consideration of July 7, 2016 Minutes**

Director LITTLE made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Director GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Water Master Report**

Priorities currently set at:

East 1859

West 1862

Tunnel 1862

Main 1862

Topaz storage is at 47% and Bridgeport is at 34%. Weber Reservoir is at 2080 ac ft. He advised as soon as the tribe hit 1800 ac ft., they send the water to Weber to maintain the fishery. The tribe is no longer irrigating, however MARTINEZ is still mandated to deliver the 26 ac ft. Director NUTI requested to know if they are required to irrigate with the water. MARTINEZ advised this is still in litigation as far as beneficial use.

Water Master MARTINEZ advised we are still in severe to moderate drought. He advised one good season is not going to pull us out of a drought. He encourages everyone to call for the storage water as soon as possible. The sooner, the better. The water transportation, or shrink, increases as we get later in the season.

The Walker River Paiute Tribe will go off on priority September 11, 2016. MARTINEZ advised the amount of water delivered through the Wabuska gage is at 10,875 acre feet. A meeting was held July 26th with BIA regarding ground water and requesting more gaging. The BIA will need to file a formal request. This would impact them with more fees, and MARTINEZ advised he does not believe his board will support that. Director LITTLE requested to know how many gages they were talking about. MARTINEZ stated more than 2 and less than 10.

NDOW has presented a proposal on a pilot project received funding from NFWF to add around 7 meanders downstream from the weir where the river was straightened in the 60’s. Martinez advised he is against it. Donette Huselton advised the State Engineer is going to make domestic well holders just as accountable as the farmers. He did not take into consideration the fact that domestic well owners also have livestock on their property. He is also making sure the language in the law will be worded to ensure a well holder will not lose their water rights if they do not use the well for a year.

**Staff Reports**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Cash in checking 404,289.09

Cash in Money Market 1,452,608.70

 Cash in CD’s 1,239,333.42

 **Total 3,096,231.21**

 **Consideration of Bills and Payroll**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 118968 | 7/14/2016 | O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. | 9.58  |
| 118969 | 7/14/2016 | Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC | 50.21  |
| 118970 | 7/14/2016 | Public Employees' Benefits Program | 801.00  |
| 118971 | 7/14/2016 | Quill | 589.21  |
| 118972 | 7/14/2016 | Reno Gazette Journal | 341.00  |
| 118973 | 7/14/2016 | Sciarani & Co. | 5,000.00  |
| 118974 | 7/14/2016 | NV Energy | 259.84  |
| 118975 | 7/14/2016 | Southwest Gas Corporation | 39.11  |
| 118976 | 7/14/2016 | USBWC | 8,415.00  |
| 118977 | 7/14/2016 | Verizon Wireless | 205.54  |
| 118978 | 7/14/2016 | Xerox Corporation | 229.40  |
| 118979 | 7/14/2016 | Yerington, City of | 113.45  |
| 118980 | 7/14/2016 | Desert Research Institute | 7,257.35  |
| 118981 | 7/14/2016 | Spectra Associates, Inc. | 996.00  |
| 118986 | 7/15/2016 | Wells Fargo Insurance Services | 14,203.53  |
| 118987 | 7/27/2016 | Farm-Assist, Inc. | 304.40  |
| 118988 | 7/27/2016 | BERKLEYNET | 814.00  |
| 118989 | 7/27/2016 | Lyon County Treasurer | 2,288.74  |
| 118990 | 7/27/2016 | MBK Engineers | 133.00  |
| 118991 | 7/27/2016 | Nevada Employment Security Division | 1,432.55  |
| 118992 | 7/27/2016 | Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC | 212.02  |
| 118993 | 7/27/2016 | Quill | 256.70  |
| 118994 | 7/27/2016 | Alhambra | 9.95  |
| 118995 | 7/27/2016 | Standard Insurance Company | 168.70  |
| 118996 | 7/27/2016 | Telog Instruments, Inc. | 3,017.54  |
| 118997 | 7/27/2016 | USBWC | 12.20  |
| 118998 | 7/27/2016 | U.S. Geological Survey | 6,044.50  |
| 118999 | 7/27/2016 | Vision Service Plan - Nevada | 120.47  |
| 119000 | 7/27/2016 | Wells Fargo Card Services | 1,144.31  |
| 119001 | 7/27/2016 | Xerox Financial Services | 139.44  |
| 119002 | 7/27/2016 | HomeTown Health | 4,100.79  |
| 119003 | 7/27/2016 | Cruz, Maria | 350.00  |
| 119004 | 7/27/2016 | Yerington Ready Mix | 325.03  |
| 119005 | 7/26/2016 | Lyon County Sheriff's Department | 629.06  |
| 119006 | 7/27/2016 | State Collections & Disbursement Unit (SCaDU) | 426.92  |
| 119007 | 7/27/2016 | PERS Administrative Fund | 4,360.35  |
| 119008 | 7/27/2016 | Woodburn & Wedge | 45,446.64  |
| 119009 | 7/27/2016 | State Collections & Disbursement Unit (SCaDU) | 110.00  |
| 119010 | 7/27/2016 | State Collections & Disbursement Unit (SCaDU) | 631.00  |
| 119011 | 7/28/2016 | Nevada Employment Security Division | 541.18  |
| 119012 | 7/27/2016 | NV Energy | 6,245.13  |
| 119013 | 7/27/2016 | Arigoni, Robert | 1,685.00  |
| 119014 | 7/27/2016 | Omar Cortes | 88.12  |
| 4459 | 7/15/2016 | Jesus Cervantes | 1,279.01  |
| 4460 | 7/15/2016 | Oscar Cortez | 1,243.37  |
| 4461 | 7/15/2016 | Damian Diaz Alvarado | 684.18  |
| 4462 | 7/15/2016 | Jessica A. Smith | 1,136.26  |
| 4463 | 7/15/2016 | Bridget A. Banta | 903.66  |
| 4464 | 7/29/2016 | Robert A. Arigoni | 1,281.42  |
| 4465 | 7/29/2016 | Bridget A. Banta | 832.81  |
| 4466 | 7/29/2016 | Robert C. Bryan | 4,929.71  |
| 4467 | 7/29/2016 | Jesus Cervantes | 1,187.78  |
| 4468 | 7/29/2016 | Omar C. Cortes | 1,262.17  |
| 4469 | 7/29/2016 | Oscar Cortez | 1,109.95  |
| 4470 | 7/29/2016 | Damian Diaz Alvarado | 673.10  |
| 4471 | 7/29/2016 | Joseph E. Huggans | 776.08  |
| 4472 | 7/29/2016 | James Martens | 950.36  |
| 4473 | 7/29/2016 | Jason R. Milligan | 1,847.91  |
| 4474 | 7/29/2016 | Ronald Murray | 1,239.20  |
| 4475 | 7/29/2016 | Jessica A. Smith | 1,036.00  |
| 4476 | 7/29/2016 | Donald Swan | 645.32  |
| 4477 | 7/29/2016 | Lupe Wagner | 969.16  |
|  |  | **Total** | **148,476.47**  |

Director LITTLE requested to know what the bill for the Lyon County Sheriff’s Office. GM BRYAN advised it is a garnishment for an employee.

Director LITTLE made a motion to pay the bills. Director NUTI seconded the motion. Director NUTI made a clarification that the payment for Woodburn and Wedge is for two months. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

 **Manager’s Report**

GM BRYAN advised WRID is scheduled to be finished with the audit in September. There are minimal complications and it seems to be going smooth. There was a technical glitch on the WRID database and there were a few assessments that were not billed. That has been corrected and will be cleared up quickly. A re-bill has been sent out along with communication with the payees.

The guys have been working on the Saroni Canal on the Albright takeout. It has been patched up and will need to be repaired. The district well was turned off July 21. It ran from April 1-July 21st and pumped 1648.1 ac ft. Our permit is for 3269 ac ft. We pumped about half of our permit.

July 12th, WRID had a meeting with Douglas County regarding Topaz Homeowner complaints and petitions. There is a packet and an item on the agenda.

July 14th, the district had a meeting with ITRC and working with NFWF for amendment to the grant we hold with NFWF to get the funding for the study. ITRC came together with NFWF and Farr West. It was a productive meeting and there is an agenda item we will discuss.

July 25th, GM met with DRI for the cloud seeding program. WRID’s permit expired in June. There is some solution left and permits are still in place. There will be a proposal for the September meeting to decide whether to run another year. The district has been involved in cloud seeding for decades and will be asking the state legislature to assist in the cost. GM BRYAN advised we do a lot of air seeding. The ground generators do not work as well as the aerial seeding in our basin.

July 28, Gordon and BRYAN met with the state engineer. They discussed the Wabuska drain and getting into the maintenance necessary. This morning WRID is running both machines to have access back and forth through our drain. It has been several years since that has been accessible.

Storage number update:

East yet to serve -7885.64 acre feet

West yet to serve-16,329.26 acre feet

 **Legal Counsel’s Report**

Gordon does not have anything to report.

 **Review and Approval of Monthly Storage Transfers**

Director NUTI moved to approve the transfers. Director ACCIARI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Update for NFWF and Walker Basin Conservancy**

Jeff Dengel reported for NFWF. Regarding storage water and setting up a leasing program for the unused storage water; the board has decided, due to timing, they want to leave the water in the reservoirs for the season. It will be about 2000 ac ft. from Bridgeport. We have used and will be using most of our storage water on the West for the Walker River Ranch revegetation program. Flying M has closed and NFWF did acquire the Flying M ranch. Flying M closed for $19.48 million. It included all the lands and base acres for the grazing allotment. Director LITTLE requested to know the percentage NFWF is at regarding their goal. Dengel advised about 40%.

**Update by Walker Basin Conservancy on status of Regional Conservation Partnership Program re-proposal.**

Jeff Dengel reported for WBC. He advised the RCPP conservation program proposal addresses ground water management and eco-system maintenance. There are opportunities to improve water management and ag practices. GM BRYAN advised WRID will help the individual users interested in the program. WRID will direct them for any questions and provide reports necessary for the funding process. Donette advised she and Director SNYDER were at the presentation for Fish Lake Valley and they showed a sprinkler head that can go from flood irrigation to sprinklers with a flip of the sprinkler. They were saving both electricity and water. Director SNYDER advised it was possibly the way to go for pivot irrigation. GM BRYAN advised he will go over the final version of the proposal with Dengel and then present it to the board.

**Second Amendment to Grant Agreement between NFWF and WRID**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised it would be an amendment to use the rest of the lease program to fund a study and report for hydrologic impacts, legal requirements, potential uses, management and benefits for one or more regulatory reservoirs within the district. There are 3 phases of the study. Consider and identify possible locations. Estimate appropriate size and potential costs. Estimate hydrologic impacts and how they would be managed collectively. The study would include any benefits and drawbacks along with legal requirements. There would be a need for water rights for such reservoirs. Once the drat is complete, input will be needed from several agencies; USBWC, the tribe, NDOW, the counties involved. The study would be finalized after all input is received. NFWF is agreeable to amend the grant agreement for this study as it could be beneficial to their leasing program and acquisitions. Gordon suggests, if board is agreeable to this, there would be a motion to allow the remaining funds to be used for a study on regulatory reservoirs in the WRID. Director GIORGI requested to know where the money will come from for the building of the reservoirs after the study is complete. Counsel DEPAOLI advised that is to be determined depending on the study. Director LITTLE advised he believes the regulatory reservoirs is a must. GM BRYAN advised the land is a big step as well. If someone is willing to donate the land for the reservoir that would help. The study can start September 1 if this is approved today. Jeff Dengel advised NFWF is talking about possible opportunities as we move through the study, and offered up possible locations for the reservoirs. Director LITTLE requested to know how big. GM BRYAN advised it would be smaller so as not to have to worry about Nevada Safety of Dams. They would be small reservoirs to deal with the bumps in the river.

Director LITTLE made a motion authorizing GM BRYAN to execute a second amendment to the grant agreement for the purpose to use approximately 202 thousand dollars for the support of an in depth study on regulatory reservoirs in the Walker River Irrigation District. Director NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Allowing Sign Posting at Topaz Reservoir to prohibit vehicular access to and overnight camping and campfires on WRID land APN 1022-00-002-009.**

A packet was provided with the agenda with photos showing trash, garbage and people camping overnight at the location. The people are driving their vehicles down and leaving trash behind. The homeowner’s association would like signs to be put up to prohibit vehicles from going down the road and to prohibit overnight camping along with campfires. Director LITTLE requested to know what GM BRYAN recommends. GM BRYAN advised he thinks the signs should be put up and Douglas County given the authority to enforce the prohibitions. He advised this is an issue that has been going on for well over a decade. Peter Knight from Douglas County Parks and Recreation advised they are in support of the signage.

Director NUTI made a motion to allow the GM to work with Douglas County to allow signage to prohibit vehicles, overnight camping and campfires from the APN. And to authorize Douglas County to enforce the prohibitions. Director LITTLE seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Introduction of Draft of Revised WRID Rules and Regulations and resolution related to Bylaws**

GM BRYAN handed out memo and package regarding the draft. He requested the board members to go over the draft and prior bylaws to be presented at a special board meeting.

Gordon advised exhibit A is the current booklet of by-laws, organization powers, penal code and rules and regulations. In the Memo, he provides and explanation of the by-laws. Exhibit B is the comparison to the 1986 Rules and Regulations. There is a lot of new and deletions. Trying to make the regulations conform to the current practice of the district. Two areas to take a careful look at is irrigation season changes to stored water and permanent changes to stored water. GM BRYAN advised he will schedule a special meeting sometime in September to go over this draft.

**Clarification of the GM Salary Increase**

Director LITTLE advised he believes the salary increase should be paid retroactively.

Director LITTLE made a motion to make the GM’s salary increase retroactive to May 2, 2016, GM BRYAN’s anniversary date. Director GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Director’s Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

Director LITTLE made motion to adjourn. Director ACCIARI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:20

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Jim Snyder, President David Giorgi, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer Dennis Acciari, Director

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David Little, Director