

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on November 8, 2021. 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, via phone
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via phone
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

Public Present:

Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Silas Adams, WBC	Carlene Henneman, WBC
Peter Stanton, WBC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD	Wyatt Fereday, NDWR
Mike Scott, NDWR	Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	AJ Jensby, NDWR
Carole O'Banion		

Public Present via phone:

Wes Walker, MBK	Adam Sullivan, NDWR	Dave Hockaday
Chris Smallcomb, NWS	Tim Bardsley, NWS	Frank

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call

Director Acciari was intermittently on the phone.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the October 7, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

4. Water Master's Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport is currently at 18% capacity with 21 cfs being released and Topaz is currently at 23% capacity with 2.5 cfs being released. There is some water coming in the back side as there is 13cfs at Hoye. Since November 1st, 961 acre-feet have been stored in Bridgeport and 2103 acre-feet have been stored in Topaz. Joanne is running 30 cfs of stock water system wide. Director GIORGI asked if there was stock water on the Fox; Joanne stated Paul Sciarani has been receiving stock water on the Fox since Thursday and there should be water in the drain. Director GIORGI stated no water has hit

the drain yet. Joanne advised she would go check the drain and find out why there is not water.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of October 31, 2021:

Cash in Checking	\$ 194,658.98
Cash in Money Market	\$ 659,173.93
Cash in CDs	\$ 749,661.39
Total	\$1,603,494.30

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

<i>October 2021 Bills & Payroll</i>			
<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
122206	10/7/2021	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 1,027.80
122207	10/7/2021	Ferguson Enterprises	\$ 9,736.60
122208	10/7/2021	Sticks and Stones	\$ 40.95
122209	10/7/2021	MBK Engineers	\$ 16,637.76
122210	10/7/2021	Mono County Tax	\$ 38,509.84
122211	10/7/2021	Public Employees' BP	\$ 870.23
122212	10/7/2021	Purchase Power / Pitney	\$ 453.00
122213	10/7/2021	NV Energy	\$ 253.28
122214	10/7/2021	Southwest Gas	\$ 38.62
122215	10/7/2021	Desert Engineering	\$ 2,536.76
122216	10/7/2021	BLACKBAUD INC	\$ 9,642.40
122217	10/7/2021	Mason Valley Tire	\$ 131.00
122218		Printer Malfunction	Spoiled/VOID
122219			
122220			
122221			
122222			
122223			
122224	10/12/2021	AT&T	\$ 156.69
122225	10/12/2021	John Deere Credit	\$ 45.01
122226	10/12/2021	Associated Concrete	\$ 1,372.87
122227	10/12/2021	Lyon County Recorder	\$ 67.96
122228	10/12/2021	O'Reilly Automotive,	\$ 493.13

122229	10/12/2021	Pitney Bowes Global	\$ 15.77
122230	10/12/2021	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$ 40.38
122231	10/12/2021	NV Energy	\$ 37.40
122232	10/12/2021	Alhambra	\$ 1,274.65
122233	10/12/2021	USBWC	\$ 44,009.91
122234	10/12/2021	Wells Fargo Card	\$ 6,965.91
122235	10/12/2021	Xerox Financial Services	\$ 260.43
122236	10/12/2021	City of Yerington	\$ 136.37
122237	10/12/2021	Connolly Crane Service	\$ 708.75
122238	10/27/2021	AFLAC	\$ 35.70
122239	10/27/2021	ABILA Dept 3303	\$ 195.98
122240	10/27/2021	Giomi, Inc.	\$ 469.86
122241	10/27/2021	Hunewill Construction	\$ 479.55
122242	10/27/2021	Associated Concrete	\$ 1,374.19
122243	10/27/2021	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK	\$ 180.19
122244	10/27/2021	MF Barcellos	\$ 4,040.88
122245	10/27/2021	Power Plan	\$ 1,890.62
122246	10/27/2021	Quill	\$ 111.46
122247	10/27/2021	Sciarani & Co.	\$ 11,000.00
122248	10/27/2021	NV Energy	\$ 2.86
122249	10/27/2021	Standard Insurance	\$ 241.03
122250	10/27/2021	Vision Service Plan	\$ 186.05
122251	10/27/2021	Woodburn & Wedge	\$ 52,842.50
122252	10/27/2021	Xerox Financial Services	\$ 164.10
122253	10/27/2021	HomeTown Health	\$ 7,421.23
122254	10/27/2021	Desert Ready Mix	\$ 1,944.94
122255	10/27/2021	Desert Research Inst	\$ 18,646.27
122256	10/27/2021	Reno Gazette Journal	\$ 753.00
122257	10/27/2021	Stanislaus Farm Supply	\$ 257.04
122258	10/27/2021	PERS Administrative	\$ 8,610.95
PAYROLL	10/28/2021	OCTOBER PAYROLL	\$ 43,468.66
		Total Bills & Payroll	\$ 289,780.53

President SNYDER questioned the Blackbaud bill; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the new accounting software is from Blackbaud and it is an annual expense. The expense will decrease because the implementation and training were part of this bill. President SNYDER asked how many employees were being trained; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it is just her for now, but once the software is built and active, there can be 3 employees trained.

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 13,500 acre-feet (23%) and Bridgeport is at 7,658 acre-feet (18%). Since last month's update, 8,840 acre-feet has been added in Topaz and 3,463 acre-feet has been added in Bridgeport. The last storm resulted in significant increases in the reservoir and helped the soil moisture.

The shop crew is working on the second WaterSMART grant. They finished pouring at Wedertz #5 and are now pouring on the Cardone and the floor on the Straub. Once that is finished, they will do some burning and grooming at the end of the canal.

At the end of the season last week, all the SCADA sites were winterized. The batteries were taken care of, and sensors were removed and brought back to the yard. The data is currently being processed by the engineers. Hopefully the breakdowns will be ready for the December meeting. ITRC is trying something different than previous years and GM BRYAN will report to the Board when the data is available.

Last Friday, GM BRYAN attended the US Board of Water Commissioners meeting. During the meeting, there was discussion on getting gaging back in Bridgeport Valley at the Buckeye, Robinson, and other sites. Commissioner Hunewill reported he is looking into a company other than USGS and will report back to Joanne who will do a compare/contrast with USGS pricing. The gages will be beneficial to the District for tracking purposes. There was discussion about the study and conveyance losses on the East Walker. DC&R has not gotten back to the District or USBWC. There is a lot of concern of getting something done at Flying M where there was a river channel displacement issue. The Commissioners and the District are going to continue to work to get something back from DC&R.

On October 12th, the Saroni Canal Meeting was held. The recommendation for the assessments and repairs & maintenance were made.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI reported the District and other parties within the District participating in the Mineral County case filed a motion to dismiss on October 28th. They must reply by March 31st.

E. Review and approval of monthly storage transfers.

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

F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Wes WALKER reported that MBK has submitted the end of program year reports. The petition for the third and final year will be submitted to the State of California

at the end of this week. Once the California approvals are obtained, the process will continue with the State of Nevada.

G. FY2020-2021 Audit Update

Secretary HALTERMAN reported the auditors have requested some clean up entries be completed, and they will be sent back today. The audit must be done by November 30th, and the hope is to present at the December meeting.

6. Report from and direction to Manager concerning results of video of District Well, and findings, and recommendations of Carson Pump LLC, which include, well brushing, a second video after the brushing, new bowl assembly, another 60 feet of column and replacement of the oil tube and shaft.

GM BRYAN stated there are pictures of the actual bowls in the packet as well as quotes on what is recommended. Last month Carson Pump ran a camera down the well and found some problems. They have given the District a list of what they would propose to have done as well as some of the costs associated with that repair. They also gave another estimate on further repairs that would make the well run even more efficient. The recommendation from a different company a couple months ago was based purely on water samples, but once a video was taken, the recommendation became more structural. GM BRYAN is looking for approval from the Board to move forward with the work. Vice President MASINI confirmed the new estimate is the route the District should go; GM BRYAN stated he is much more comfortable with the new proposal being that an actual video was taken, and the bowls were pulled. If work is done based on the water samples, there will still be problems soon. Director ACCIARI asked how much the Carson Pump estimate is; GM BRYAN stated it is \$34,609 without the second video which was less than \$1,000. Director ACCIARI made a motion to proceed with the work on estimate; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. Treasurer NUTI asked if the \$34,000 included the patch and the brushing; Sandy stated it is for extending the pipe, doing the patch, and replacing the bowls. Counsel DePAOLI requested clarification as the \$34,600 is for the bowls, the brushing & rehab, and second video appears to be \$82,088. Sandy stated the original estimate was the \$82,088, but the revised estimate to fix the patch, replace the bowls, and extend the pipe is \$34,600. GM BRYAN stated the higher estimate was based on the water quality problem, but they are now taking a different route based on the video. Counsel DePAOLI stated he wanted to clarify just in case more quotes are needed. Total between \$50-100,000, the District would need 2 quotes, if the total is below \$50,000, the one quote is fine. There may be two projects- the fixing then the brushing- but that can be decided later. Treasurer NUTI stated the District has \$6800 in cost at this time, to put the bowls back will be another \$6800, and then the work on the estimate. Vice President MASINI understood the estimate as it includes re-installing what was taken out, installing the extra 60', and charges relating to the patch work. GM BRYAN stated he will request a new quote that breaks down the charges more clearly. GM BRYAN asked if there is another company the Board would like to get pricing from; the Board recommended staying with Carson Pump if no other quote is needed. GM BRYAN stated he will get an updated quote and will work with Counsel DePAOLI on the quote requirement. Treasurer NUTI requested to ensure the remobilization is included in the bid and asked if there will be a bill from the company that does the patch; Sandy stated Carson Pump included the patch in their estimate so if there

is a subcontractor, it is covered in the Carson Pump estimate. Secretary HALTERMAN stated the District is tax exempt so that charge will be removed from the estimate making the total \$32,440.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY introduced AJ Jensby who will take over Mike Scott's position. AJ came from NDOW and has experience working with guzzlers and ditch riding. Mike will be the Basin Specialist in the Winnemucca area. The end of year meter readings and fall water levels are being taken now. Smith Valley has been completed and, unfortunately, the preliminary data shows the level is down as much as 20-24 feet compared to last year. The Spring-to-Spring levels are a better depiction of the aquifer since it has time to recharge a little. Wyatt stated he could get the Mason Valley numbers to the Board before next meeting. Mason Valley does tend to recharge better than Smith Valley so it will be interesting to see what the numbers are next Spring. The pumping numbers will be entered over the next few weeks.

Adam SULLIVAN stated he is concerned with the rate of decline being only two years into the drought. In the previous drought, it took 3-4 years to get to this rate of decline. Adam is looking forward to working with Bert on the conveyance losses. Adam will follow up with the director regarding the study on the East Walker.

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

Peter STANTON thanked the Board for approving the Stipulation last month. The Conservancy has 10 volunteers from the National Civilian Community Corps helping them and the Boys & Girls Club. The Conservancy is in the middle of their Fall fundraising campaign and will be planting approximately 15,000 plants on Rafter 7, Pitchfork, and Flying M.

9. Presentation and discussion by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2022 irrigation season.

Chris SMALLCOMB presented a PowerPoint. Highlights included:

- Started the water year off with an atmospheric river in October
- There is a modest storm coming in through Tuesday, but nothing close to the storm two weeks ago. This storm will be mostly wind in the Basin with decent snow up high.
- Outlook is leaning toward dry to normal precipitation over the next 10-14 days
- Around November 20th, there is a possibility of a storm later in the month, but the signal is still far out
- November 30th-December 3rd signal shows weak, wet storms north of the Basin
- Year is expected to be weak to normal La Nina- slightly cooler than normal
- Winter of 2016-17 was in the zone of a weak La Nina
- Wet Octobers have historically indicated an active winter
- Soils are wet from recent storm
- There is flood risk in the recent burn scars

Tim BARDSLEY presented a PowerPoint. Highlights included:

- Observed water year was the 5th worst for the West Walker and 4th worst for the East Walker
- The recent storm October 23rd-25th started this water year on a good note
- One big storm will not end the drought, but it did bring record wet conditions
- West Walker spiked to 3,000 cfs at one point and just touched the flood stage. It is in line with the 2017 observed flow
- Currently at near record for the Walker River Basin for early precipitation and SWE
- Preliminary WY2022 forecast is:
 - o West Walker 223kaf, 114% mean, 124% median
 - o East Walker 95.3kaf, 94% mean, 129% median
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10. Presentation and discussion by Rick Stone from RHS Consultants on aircraft Cloud Seeding.

Rick STONE from RHS Consultants gave a presentation on aircraft cloud seeding. Highlights included:

- Super cooled water drops are below freezing but they are not frozen yet
- Naturalized nuclei seeding material is applied to the super cooled water drops which freezes them resulting in more snow
- Aircraft can produce 500-2500 acre-feet of water per unit hour; ground generators can produce 6-60 acre-feet per unit hour
- The best spot for seeding on the Walker is the east side of Yosemite
- Wet storms result in better seeding and more snow
- Upwind seeding is more effective than downwind seeding as the storms are usually dry once they are over the ridge
- Flares are used on the aircraft to keep the seeders from icing

Treasurer NUTI asked what the effectiveness of aircraft is over ground seeding; Rick stated the effectiveness of aircraft seeding is 10-15% more snow than a ground generator which is about 2-5% effective.

President SNYDER asked what the next step would be; Rick stated the sooner the aircraft is out, the better. GM BRYAN will work with Rick on obtaining a quote. Rick stated it may be beneficial for the District to work with other agencies, so the flight costs are reduced. Treasurer NUTI asked what the average cost was per storm; Rick stated it is \$4,000 per hour which includes the aircraft rental, people involved, chemicals, etc. With the flex in costs, a more current price would be \$6-8,000 per hour. But piggybacking with other agencies would decrease the cost significantly as the flight costs could be shared. Rick stated there are three water districts that seed and are close enough to the Sierras, so when they are flying, it would be a good time to seed for the Walker. GM BRYAN stated that if the Board is interested in a program, the District can reach out to other irrigation districts, state & local governments, and NRCS for funding support. There have also been private individuals who have expressed the intent to donate toward a program. Vice

President MASINI stated a special assessment could be considered as well and it may be beneficial to have the USBWC do the assessment since their assessment base is basin wide.

11. Director Comments

None presented.

12. Public Comment

Carole O'BANION requested to know how to get a copy of the Simpson-Colony By-laws; GM BRYAN stated the can be obtained from the ditch company or can be emailed from District staff again. Carole stated she would like a printed copy for her records.

13. Adjournment

Director GIORGI made a motion to adjourn; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director