

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on December 8, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by Vice President MASINI.

Staff Present:

Marcus MASINI	Vice President
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel
Stefanie MORRIS	Legal Counsel
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

Public Present:

Lauren Bartels, NDWR	Kat Dow, WBC	Nick Buckmaster, CDFW
----------------------	--------------	-----------------------

Public Present via Zoom:

John Peters, Mono County

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

President SNYDER was absent.

3. Consideration of Minutes of November 7, 2025, Regular Meeting

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

4. Water Master's Report

No representatives were present.

5. Staff Reports including, but not limited to, those items listed:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of November 30, 2025:

Cash in Checking	\$ 88,025.17
Cash in Money Market	\$ 2,350,857.44
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 831,143.70</u>
Total	\$ 3,270,026.31

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

Cash Disbursement Journals

November 2025 Bills & Payroll

Payee	Check #	Date	Amount
NOVUS Glass	101699	11/03/2025	\$ 491.00
PrimePay	300236	11/04/2025	\$ 273.19
MacCabe, Shawn	101700	11/07/2025	\$ 4,000.00
Ameritas Life Insurance	300238	11/12/2025	\$ 1,391.32
H2O Trucking LLC	300239	11/12/2025	\$ 550.00
Lyon County Recorder	300240	11/12/2025	\$ 32.17
MBK Engineers	300241	11/12/2025	\$ 2,469.00
Pitney Bowes Global	300242	11/12/2025	\$ 213.42
PrimePay	300243	11/12/2025	\$ 243.19
Public Employees'	300244	11/12/2025	\$ 870.23
PRIMO Brands	300245	11/12/2025	\$ 85.24
PRIMO Brands	300246	11/12/2025	\$ 150.27
PRIMO Brands	300247	11/12/2025	\$ 316.66
PERS Administrative	101703	11/12/2025	\$ 14,229.39
USBWC	101704	11/12/2025	\$ 27,206.65
PERS Administrative	101701	11/12/2025	VOID
USBWC	101702	11/12/2025	\$ 27,206.65
Giomi, Inc.	300248	11/14/2025	\$ 144.54
John Deere Credit	300249	11/14/2025	\$ 140.09
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	300250	11/14/2025	\$ 339.91
Quill	300251	11/14/2025	\$ 899.50
Wells Fargo Card	300252	11/14/2025	\$ 879.13
Xerox Corporation	300253	11/14/2025	\$ 267.19
Xerox Financial Services	300254	11/14/2025	\$ 30.22
City of Yerington	300255	11/14/2025	\$ 119.67
Jim Menesini Petroleum	300256	11/14/2025	\$ 349.08
MF Barcellos	300257	11/14/2025	\$ 2,301.49
NV Energy	300258	11/14/2025	\$ 44.96
NV Energy	300259	11/14/2025	\$ 196.99
Vision Service Plan - NV	300263	11/19/2025	\$ 209.86
HomeTown Health	300260	11/24/2025	\$ 1,969.00
HomeTown Health	300261	11/24/2025	\$ 5,909.00
John Deere Financial	300262	11/24/2025	\$ 6,567.83

CA Dept. Tax and Fee	101705	11/24/2025	\$	12,744.00
CD & POWER	101706	11/24/2025	\$	800.00
SV Conservation District	101707	11/24/2025	\$	11,627.22
The Ferraro Group	101708	11/24/2025	\$	7,500.00
U.S. Geological Survey	101709	11/24/2025	\$	18,753.00
Woodburn & Wedge	101710	11/24/2025	\$	27,741.79
Standard Insurance Co	101711	11/24/2025	\$	211.21
Payroll		11/30/2025	\$	10,495.49
EFTPS		11/30/2025	\$	1,778.06
Payroll		11/30/2025	\$	22,192.77
EFTPS		11/30/2025	\$	4,167.62

Total Bills & Payroll \$ 232,337.39

Treasurer NUTI inquired about the California Department of Tax & Fee bill; GM BRYAN stated the bill was for our California property taxes. Treasurer NUTI clarified that the property taxes were paid directly to Mono County. Secretary HALTERMAN stated the CDTFA bill was for the California water right management.

Vice President MASINI asked for clarification on the John Deere Leasing bill; GM BRYAN stated it was for the loader purchase. Vice President MASINI requested clarification on whether the loader was being purchased or leased; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the loader is being purchased on a 36-month term, but the lending agency's name is John Deere Leasing. Director ACCIARI asked how many hours were on the loader; GM BRYAN stated approximately 150 hours.

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN stated the current USGS gage readings were in the packet. Topaz was currently at 28,220 acre-feet (47% capacity) and Bridgeport was currently at 21,520 acre-feet (51% capacity). Since November 1st, 8,600 acre-feet has been stored in Topaz, and 4,970 acre-feet has been stored in Bridgeport.

The shop crew has continued with regular repairs and maintenance. They have been focused on the reservoirs for the past several weeks. The Bridgeport Outlet Tube inspection will be tomorrow, December 9th and will be discussed later in the meeting.

On December 2nd, GM BRYAN attended a public meeting regarding the Anaconda Clean-up progress. The meeting was informal and had a lot of posters with progress

pictures. The tailings have been capped, but the rest of the cleanup will take several more years to complete.

On December 4th, the Lyon County Commissioners voted to table the temporary transfer of City of Yerington groundwater for use on the Libra Solar project. The State Engineer is required to bring the transfer before the Board of Commissioners since the water is crossing county lines. The City of Yerington originally had an agreement with Nevada Copper, but with their bankruptcy, the agreement has been transferred to Southwest Critical Materials who have agreed to sublet the water to Libra Solar. The Copia Power project is now requesting a PUD permit and that item was approved to proceed to the next step. It will be discussed at a future meeting. GM BRYAN has been working with Copia Power and other representatives regarding the District infrastructure in the area.

At the turn of the New Year, Melania, the MV/SVCD manager will be leaving. Her replacement, LD Bowden, has accepted the job offer and starts just after the 1st of the year.

NV Safety Dams will be performing an inspection in Topaz on December 15th. They will be looking at the diversion, spillway, discharge tube, and the gatehouse.

The Hardesty permanent water transfer will be on the January agenda.

There will be a status conference for the Singatse Peak Services applications on January 29, 2026, at 10:00 am in the Tahoe hearing room at NDWR.

Treasurer NUTI confirmed the river pumps are metered and monitored; GM BRYAN confirmed. Vice President MASINI stated there will probably be more applications for river pumps as more people are wanting to use their water now. GM BRYAN stated the procedure for using the water is the same- must order 2 days out and the amount must be measurable. The River Rider is responsible for monitoring that water.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI had nothing to report.

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

Lauren BARTELS reported that the Smith Valley pumping did not change much from last year and is still around 23,000 acre-feet and their goal was 21,600 acre-feet. Mason Valley has pumped close to 78,000 acre-feet and the goal is 84,200 acre-feet.

Lauren stated a Walker Basin Field Tech has been hired and will be introduced at a future meeting.

Director GIORGI asked if there was a curtailment order for the Humboldt; Lauren stated there is supposed to be a draft soon and it will be published on the website for public viewing.

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

Kat DOW stated the Conservancy will be advertising the sale of 538 acres of land for sale. The land is part of the Willow Stay property and is for land only. The notice will be posted on the WRID bulletin board, on the Conservancy website, and in the papers. Vice President MASINI asked what the process would be; Kat stated it would be a bidding process, and they will need to evaluate each bid.

8. Update from CDFW and LADWP on the emerging Golden Mussel threat to water management and request the district participate in a regional prevention effort.

Nick BUCKMASTER introduced himself as the fishery specialist with California Department of Fish & Wildlife. Nick provided a presentation on Golden Mussels; highlights included:

- Golden Mussels showed up in the Sacramento River Delta approximately 1 year ago and have almost reached the Mexican border.
- Golden Mussels are tolerant of various waters, temperatures, and conditions, so they are much more difficult to manage than the Quagga or Zebra mussels. They could survive in all lakes and reservoirs in the area.
- 1 adult Golden Mussel can produce 1 billion offspring.
- Golden Mussels consume a large amount of algae.
- They encrust intakes, pipes, ropes, rudders, grizzlies, gates, ditch banks and are difficult to remove.
- Infestation could cause significant financial strain, recreational activities, and fish viability.
- There is virtually no way to eradicate the mussels once they are in a reservoir unless it is completely dried out for a length of time.
- They are transported primarily via waterways and vessels.
- Ways to prevent introduction to reservoirs/lakes:
 - o Watercraft inspection programs- ensure the vessel is clean, drained, and dry
 - o Watercraft decontamination
 - o Watercraft quarantine
 - o Reservoir closure
- The State of California along with multiple agencies are working together to find the best way to keep the mussels from being introduced to non-infested water.
- There are no mandates being forced, but it is highly recommended to work with the agencies in finding a way to prevent infestation.
- The proposed approach is:
 - o Engage counties on inspection requirements for trailered watercraft.
 - Look into 'stickering' program similar to Tahoe and Lake Counties
 - Color-coded stickers (changed monthly) affixed to trailers on all watercraft

- Risk management/mandatory education
- Scope regional inspection program.
 - Establish collaborative approach with land managers
 - Determine appropriate places for inspection stations
 - Locations proposed: Bridgeport, outside Mono Lake, and by Owens Lake
- Develop a budget.
 - Agencies have secured a large amount of grant funding.
 - Proposed staffing and implementation contract with ESF
 - \$60,000 annual labor and operating budget
 - Secure startup funds for decontamination units (most of the funding has been secured for this)
- Create an outreach team to build support and voluntary compliance.
 - Caltrot, TU, MLTPA, Bishop Paiute Tribe are working together
 - Focus on voluntary compliance as opposed to threat of enforcement.

Nick stated his request to the District is to restrict access points- preferably where there is a concessionaire or the County Sheriff could check for compliance and to enforce the stickering program if that is the way the group wants to go. Another ask is assistance with education- ask concessionaires and District to distribute information. Funding assistance is always accepted, but the biggest help at this point would be to consider restricting the access and assisting with education.

Nick stated if the mussels get into the Reservoirs, they will spread. They not only impact the reservoirs, but they will also cause problems with gates, pipes, ditch banks, etc. so the users will be impacted as well. The easiest way to avoid the problem is to work with the group, restrict access, and assist with education.

GM BRYAN stated he does not want the phone calls of the people upset that they cannot access the reservoir; Nick stated upset people are much less of a threat to the system than the mussels are going to be. If nothing is done, prepare for financial and infrastructure strain. GM BRYAN stated the District has attempted to restrict access at Topaz and people moved the barriers and shot the signs. He stated that NDOW regulates the water on Topaz and Douglas County operates the boat ramp, so the District has no say on what happens in Topaz. Nick stated there is another District owned boat ramp at Topaz and NDOW and Douglas County can be contacted regarding the topic. Secretary HALTERMAN stated Douglas County has been notified of the working group and stated they would like to be involved as well so they can implement whatever needs to be done to keep the mussels out of Topaz. GM BRYAN stated he cannot control the private landowners who launch boats on their property; Nick stated NDOW may be able to help with the enforcement of that situation. Director GIORGIO asked if the sticker program would be yearly; Nick stated if the vessel is only used in one location, the sticker would be good for the entire year, but if the vessel goes to a different location, another sticker and inspection would be necessary. Secretary HALTERMAN stated she has talked to Chase with the Bridgeport Marina, and he is willing to work with what the District/State requires. Nick stated he would be reaching

out to the owners of Twin Lakes as they are privately owned, but the mussels could be introduced there and then travel to Bridgeport.

Director GIORGI asked where the mussels originated; Nick stated they originated in China. They have infested South American waterways and found their way to the area here.

Vice President MASINI asked if people were willing to participate in inspection programs or if there was opposition; Nick stated there was a lot of pushbacks when LADWP started doing inspections, but since it has been about 20 years since then, people are generally accepting. The alternative approach is to completely close reservoirs and lakes and people are much more willing to comply with inspections and other requirements instead of facing closures.

GM BRYAN stated he does not see a way to keep people from putting their boat into Bridgeport at the north end (the bathtub); Nick suggested k-rails, sharp road turns, etc. to keep the trailers out of the unauthorized boat ramps/launching areas. He is not proposing keeping people out of the reservoirs completely, just to regulate where boats can be launched. GM BRYAN stated the public becomes a big problem for him when any changes are made and he does not like getting the phone calls from upset individuals. He stated it is too much of a liability if the District were to block emergency access and something bad were to happen. GM BRYAN stated the District will comply the best it can, but the risk and liability have to be considered. Nick stated the real risk is trailered watercraft; he is not implying that fishermen on foot cannot access the reservoirs. GM BRYAN stated if signs are installed, they will be shot at, and if any other structures are placed, they will be moved or stolen. Nick suggested preparing for a 200-300% increase to annual maintenance cost. Vice President asked if the mussels could survive on plastic pipes; Nick stated they can attach to nearly anything- plastic, concrete, dirt, etc.

Nick stated his primary job is not to deal with the mussels, but he is doing what he can, as well as the rest of the group, to educate water owners and to ask for assistance in preventing the mussels from being introduced into the 'clean' areas. It is inevitable that the mussels will be introduced at some point, but with proactive measures, infestation can be pushed out a long way.

Secretary HALTERMAN stated she has been working on a prevention policy manual that would address how the District would prevent the introduction of the mussels.

Stefanie stated she has a client that has power plants on the Stanislaus River in California who did a 30-day restriction and people were very mad, but there was not a choice to keep the mussels out of their infrastructure. They are now performing vessel checks as well. She stated it is difficult when the State does not do anything; Nick stated he is aware of the lack of assistance, but hopefully this effort creates a more active approach. GM BRYAN stated he will wait to see what John and Mono County want to do as he does not want the blowback from shutting down the reservoir. Nick stated he

believes Mono County is willing to work to prevent the mussels from coming to Mono County. GM BRYAN asked if there was a public phone number that the District could provide to upset individuals rather than having the District deal with them because he has a list of individuals in Bridgeport and Topaz that will be calling. John PETERS stated that Mono County obviously wants to maintain the recreation opportunities but also wants to protect the recreation. He will be meeting with other supervisors and administration to discuss options. Nick stated the safest thing to do is to shut down the reservoirs. Vice President MASINI asked if Bridgeport allows wakeboarding; GM BRYAN stated it is not against the rules, but it is not recommended. Nick stated there are a lot of fishermen that visit the Twin Lakes and Bridgeport frequently. GM BRYAN stated it does not make sense for the District to do anything at our reservoirs if there is the potential for the mussels to be introduced in the upper lakes; Nick stated that is why the group is working with Mono County as a whole. GM BRYAN stated fencing off the entire reservoir is not an option, the k-rails will be moved or stolen, and unless the State is going to enforce anything, he does not know what the District could do. Nick recommended shutting down the unauthorized/unmonitored boat ramps and talking with the concessionaires about prevention. Vice President MASINI stated, from a farmer's perspective, it makes sense to do what can be done to prevent the introduction into the system, so they do not travel downstream and cause problems at headgates and in canals. GM BRYAN stated the headgates are approximately \$30,000 each. Vice President MASINI stated the issue needs to be looked at seriously; GM BRYAN stated the District cannot do anything unless CDFW, Mono County, NDOW, and Douglas County to do something because the District has no authority. GM BRYAN stated the biggest things he deals with are not water-right related, but an inconvenience to recreational users and it is a very difficult position to be in. Nick stated as the landowner things can and should be done. GM BRYAN stated signs have been posted but they were shot up and/or stolen. GM BRYAN stated that aside from putting up thousands of feet of fencing that will be damaged, there is not anything that is feasible; Nick stated the cost would either be thousands of dollars for fencing, or \$30,000 for each headgate. GM BRYAN stated the District cannot obligate anything right now. Nick stated he was here to assist in the prevention as his jurisdiction is with the fisheries in Bishop. John Peters stated he is willing to assist in any way they can. GM BRYAN stated Mono County needs to reach out to Douglas County and NDOW to come up with a plan as the District has no authority to enforce anything.

Treasurer NUTI stated he appreciates the talk about collaboration, but tomorrow the District is going to spend \$130,000 to keep the flow static for the fish because CDFW will sue the District if the flow fluctuates; Nick apologized for the cost and inconvenience, but he has no control over the regulatory side of the situation.

- 9. Report concerning arrangements in place for December 9, 2025, inspection of Bridgeport Reservoir Outlet Tunnel as required by California Division of Safety Dams, including, but not limited to, equipment needed to meet special requirements of the relevant agencies in order to satisfy provisions of the California Water Right License, Bridgeport Operations Manual, and other relevant California law and the expected cost and expense thereof.**

GM BRYAN stated there is a breakdown of the Rain-for-Rent quote in the packet. California Safety Dams requires the District to shut the gate down and walk in through the downstream end of the inlet tube. The inspection takes roughly 30 minutes. The tube will be checked for structural integrity of the tube itself, cracks, seeps, and cement issues. Per the Bridgeport Operation Manual, certain California agencies must be notified of the inspection and flow change at least 30-days before the event. That letter was sent and the only agency to contact the District was California Department of Fish & Wildlife. CDFW referred the District to fish codes that require a constant discharge of 20cfs (30cfs in below zero weather), or the District would face a \$500,000 fine. To keep the discharge flow at 20cfs, the District contacted Rain-for-Rent for a quote on renting pumps and pipes. Due to the complexity of the request, the Rain-for-Rent representatives and engineers met at the dam before providing the quote. A subsequent letter was sent to all of the California agencies with the plan of action to maintain the discharge flow. GM BRYAN has not received any feedback from any other agency. ITRC and MBK engineers will be on site as well and will be giving a report on anything found during the inspection. If repairs are needed, the District will need to figure out how to fund them.

Director GIORGIO asked what would happen if the pumps did not perform correctly; GM BRYAN stated there is a backup pump on site just in case. The Rain for Rent personnel will be running the pumps the entire time. They have been setting up for 3 days and they will be on site tomorrow and will be dismantling the entire system once the gates are opened. Director GIORGIO asked if the setup would need to be rented again if a problem were found in the tube; GM BRYAN stated it would.

Vice President MASINI wanted it noted that he and Bert attempted to get local users to provide pumps and piping, but it was not feasible.

Vice President MASINI asked about the liability of having the equipment and people on the property; Secretary HALTERMAN stated a Certificate of Insurance had to be provided to Rain-for-Rent regarding property liability, the District employees are covered by the liability insurance, but other persons are either covered by their agency's insurance or there at their own risk.

10. Director Comments

None presented.

11. Public Comment

None presented.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

ABSENT

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director