

A special meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on June 23, 2022 at 9:00am at the Cottonwood Ranch in Yerington, NV. There was no quorum present.

Present:

Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Peter Stanton, WBC	Carlie Henneman, WBC
Dave Hockaday, LCBOCC	Karen Pedersen	Rick Poor, Streamwise
Jeff Hunewill, USBWC	Dale Borsini, USBWC	Bruce Park, USBWC
Gary Garms, USBWC	Aaron Cook, NVSP	Daniel Wassman, NVSP
Charlie Wells, NVSP	Kris Urquhart, NDOW	Cameron Moloney, NDOW
Jessica Strickland, Trout Unlimited		

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

No quorum was present.

3. Inspection and discussion of current existing habitat improvement rock structures at the Cottonwood Ranch and further discussion on similar proposed structures on the East Walker Fisheries Habitat Project near the elbow.

Jessica STRICKLAND with Trout Unlimited introduced herself and gave an overview of the organization. Trout Unlimited has partnered with many agencies, including irrigation districts, to install diversion and irrigation structures throughout the western states. Trout Unlimited partnered with Walker Basin Conservancy and Nevada Department of Wildlife to obtain funding for J hooks and W Weirs to be installed in the East Walker to improve fish habitat as well as decrease bank erosion. Jessica apologized for not realizing the Walker River Irrigation District and US Board of Water Commissioners would need to be involved in the process, but she guarantees the oversight will not be repeated in the future. Bruce PARK expressed his concern with the oversight and stated the US Board of Water Commissioners may be the deciding vote on if the project continues; Jessica apologized again and offered to work through any concerns the USBWC has.

Rick POOR of Streamwise introduced himself and explained his involvement in the existing structure on the Cottonwood Ranch as well as in the proposed East Walker project. Rick stated approximately 15 years ago he was approached by the landowner of the Cottonwood Ranch to install J hooks and W weirs in the river. Rick stated the proper permits were obtained and the structures were installed. He has installed nearly 400

structures and has participated in years of research and does not see any trend of the structures impeding flow nor increasing water losses. Rick stated the only way to show any negative effect of the structures is to have a baseline gaging study and install gaging above and below the project once it is installed. Using the existing structure for reference, Rick stated there is initially a pooling of water behind the boulders in the W weir, but studies on different structures showed that the minimal increase of pooling lead to increased absorption into the ground water and that benefitted in the end of the season when flows were decreased in the river. Jessica stated that Trout Unlimited has offered to fund 3 years of gaging including the installation, maintenance, and data collection. GM BRYAN stated the concern with that is USGS has become the standard in the valleys. GM BRYAN asked who would be collecting and analyzing the data; Jessica stated Trout Unlimited has a staff of 5 hydrologists that would perform all the gaging activities and anyone is invited to watch the installation and to be present when the readings are obtained. Karen PEDERSON asked if there had been any study on loss and recharge effect; Jessica stated there are studies for different projects, but no study has been completed on the East Walker. Rick POOR stated he could provided the studies performed on other projects. Karen stated the decree is set by the Federal Court and cannot sustain losses due to projects in the river. Jessica stated that if the project proceeds and data shows there are losses or negative impacts to the flows, the boulders could be removed and the riverbed would be returned to pre-project state.

Further project conversation ensued in small groups.

4. Public Comment

None presented.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:25am.

ABSENT

Jim Snyder, President

ABSENT

Marcus Masini, Vice President

ABSENT

Dennis Acciari, Director

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

David Giorgi, Director