

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on July 8, 2024. 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	Vice President
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Counsel DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via Zoom
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

**Public Present:**

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Carlie Henneman, WBC	Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD
David Sceirine	Lauren Bartels, NDWR	

**Public Present via Zoom:**

Angela Bezzone, MBK	David Hockaday, LCBOCC
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**1. Public Comment**

David Sceirine state the Campbell Ditch is thinking about installing a Replogle flume on the east side of the Campbell Ditch. Their plans include putting in recording and telemetry devices and David is looking to the Board for a commitment to allow Bert to assist with the project. In previous projects, WRID installed telemetry at the Split and the Main. David wanted to clarify that the Campbell Ditch will be financially responsible for the entire project and will be willing to do a down payment or do pre-payments. The Campbell Ditch would like to use the District’s engineers to ensure all of the telemetry is compatible with the work the District has completed. President SNYDER asked if this would need to be agendized, GM BRYAN stated right now it does not, but if something comes up that does need board approval, it will be put on an agenda for discussion.

David Sceirine has concerns about the new water sale in south Mason Valley. In his opinion, from the beginning, NFWF had stipulations stating they were going to keep farming whole in the valleys and no farmers would be harmed. Once one-third of the decree rights are purchased, the storage rights and farming will be affected. David stated the more water NFWF owns, the more voice they have in how the District is run. David stated he is not concerned with exactly how the water is delivered as there are safeguards in place, but he thinks there is the possibility that NFWF will be such a large user in the system and the way the political systems are set up, liberal attitudes are of concern. David requested that the Board consider that because the more water NFWF owns, the bigger the voice is. Carlie stated the Conservancy is always open to discuss concerns.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Vice President MASINI was absent.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the June 7, 2024 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 was at 37,430 acre-feet (88% capacity) and Topaz was at 52,340 acre-feet (87% capacity). Joanne stated the decree came off of Full on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and has been reduced every other day since. Joanne reported the systemwide delivery is 548cfs including 234cfs of storage and 300cfs decree. Joanne is making the deliveries the best she can and reminded everyone that there is a lot of transportation loss and is up to 30% in some ditches.

**5. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of June 30, 2024:

Cash in Checking	\$ 126,151.95
Cash in Money Market	\$ 795,687.45
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 757,568.24</u>
Total	\$1,679,407.64

**B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment**

**Cash Disbursement Journal**

**June 2024 Bills & Payroll**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Check #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
PrimePay	300086	6/10/2024	\$ 208.00
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	101001	6/12/2024	\$ 902.80
City of Yerington	101002	6/12/2024	\$ 138.07
Giomi, Inc.	101003	6/12/2024	\$ 855.03
Hunewill Construction Co.	101004	6/12/2024	\$ 1,017.60
Jim Menesini Petroleum	101005	6/12/2024	\$ 892.67
John Deere Credit	101006	6/12/2024	\$ 6.49
Lyon County Recorder	101007	6/12/2024	\$ 38.83
NV Energy	101008	6/12/2024	\$ 274.67

Public Employees' Benefits	101009	6/12/2024	\$	870.23
Purchase Power / Pitney	101010	6/12/2024	\$	463.24
Quill	101011	6/12/2024	\$	427.27
Smith Valley Conservation	101012	6/12/2024	\$	19,287.81
Southwest Gas Corporation	101013	6/12/2024	\$	67.86
Sticks and Stones Buildings	101014	6/12/2024	\$	302.23
THE PARTS HOUSE	101015	6/12/2024	\$	110.99
Wedco Inc.	101016	6/12/2024	\$	330.61
Xerox Financial Services	101017	6/12/2024	\$	30.22
AT&T	300087	6/13/2024	\$	86.16
PERS Administrative Fund	101018	6/13/2024	\$	11,111.78
MF Barcellos	101019	6/13/2024	\$	3,144.91
True Value	101020	6/13/2024	\$	218.81
Xerox Corporation	101021	6/13/2024	\$	265.97
JASON MILLIGAN	101022	6/14/2024	\$	1,355.00
SCOTT ROBINSON	101023	6/14/2024	\$	1,355.00
JASON MILLIGAN	101024	6/27/2024	\$	2,240.00
Mason Valley Tire	101025	6/27/2024	\$	172.00
MBK Engineers	101026	6/27/2024	\$	4,921.50
Nevada Energy Systems, Inc.	101027	6/27/2024	\$	4,037.00
NV Energy	101028	6/27/2024	\$	3.34
PERS Administrative Fund	101029	6/27/2024	\$	10,381.36
Raley's	101030	6/27/2024	\$	238.80
SCOTT ROBINSON	101031	6/27/2024	\$	2,240.00
USBWC	101032	6/27/2024	\$	4,354.10
Wells Fargo Card Services	101033	6/27/2024	\$	2,751.15
Woodburn & Wedge	101034	6/27/2024	\$	42,032.25
Payroll		6/15/2024	\$	7,778.73
EFTPS		6/15/2024	\$	1,143.14
Payroll		6/30/2024	\$	30,903.17
EFTPS		6/30/2024	\$	7,283.06
<b>Total Bills &amp; Payroll</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>164,241.85</b>
<b>NFWF Submission</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>21,129.97</b>
<b>Total District Expenses</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>143,111.88</b>

Director GIORGI asked what the payment from NFWF was; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it was reimbursement for the June 2023 expenses. Director GIORGI made a motion to approve the bills; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**C. Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN stated Topaz is currently at 87% capacity with 52,360 acre-feet and Bridgeport is currently at 88% capacity with 37,430 acre-feet.

GM BRYAN is continuing to meet with MBK at least once per week to track the decree. The decree is expected to decrease drastically with the hotter temperatures. As the decree falls out, the storage demand increases.

The shop crew is continuing to work on the drains and a little bit at the reservoirs.

On June 10<sup>th</sup>, GM BRYAN met with NFWF to discuss the remaining funds on the NFWF grant. There is roughly \$10 million. Provided a letter with bullet points on what the funds are currently being used for such as the Stored Water leasing Program, Conveyance Loss Study, and the modernization project. Even after those projects, there is still a significant amount of money left in the account and GM BRYAN is working to keep that money directed to the District. One of the points made was that water users have become accustomed to the District operating in a certain way, but that way includes water card changes, a SCADA integrator, and funded maintenance for the private ditch company modernization components. GM BRYAN will keep the Board updated on any changes. The funding expires on September 30, 2025.

President SNYDER asked what kind of action would be required and who makes the decision; GM BRYAN stated the money was earmarked in Congress and unless the funds can be used in spirit of the original wording, the money cannot be used. GM BRYAN heard there is a Farm Bill being worked on that may assist in the effort, but it is unknown for certain at this point. GM BRYAN stated if the money is not obtained, next year's budget will need to be altered significantly. President SNYDER asked what the impact would be; GM BRYAN stated easily \$1 million dollar would need to be added.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, GM BRYAN met with Professor Robin Eppard with WNC and her students. They are doing a study on Pinion Jays and some of the vegetation on the District's 100 acres on the north end of Topaz Reservoir. This project has been going on for several months. They will give the District information on what the results are. There is speculation that the Pinion Jays will be listed as an endangered species. Director GIORGI asked where the property was; GM BRYAN stated it was off of Topaz Park Road just off of Hwy 395. They are indexing all wildlife on the property as well.

This week and next week, ITRC staff will be here doing the conveyance loss study and other surveying. They will be surveying for the NRCS pipe project on Cottonwood Drain and the Napa Drain.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel DePAOLI reported that on July 1<sup>st</sup> the United States, the Walker River Paiute Tribe, and the Nevada Department of Wildlife, filed a motion with the federal court to ask them to approve the settlement regarding the water rights for the Walker River Indian Reservation. The responses are due September 30<sup>th</sup>, and depending on the responses, replies are due October 30<sup>th</sup>. President SNYDER asked if it is expected that everything will be wrapped up at the October date; Counsel DePAOLI stated it depends on what sort of responses there are and what the court will do from there. If there is opposition, the court will probably set a hearing of some kind; if there is not anything, the court may want to have a hearing anyhow or decide to grant the request.

**E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

Angela BEZZONE reiterated that there is approximately 15,600 acre-feet enrolled in this year's program with approximately 7,200 acre-feet from Topaz and 8,400 acre-feet from Bridgeport. MBK is currently preparing the release schedule for the plan to be submitted to California. They have provided the State of California with a draft, as they are waiting for final approval from the Court. Angela stated that hopefully the draft will speed up the 30-day review, so once the final approval is given, releases can start as early as next week. This is the last year of the program and at the end of this year, MBK will prepare a summary report of the 5-year pilot program. Treasurer NUTI asked how much of the enrolled water is farmer owned and how much is from the Conservancy; Angela stated about 10,000 acre-feet is from Walker Basin Conservancy and the remaining 5,600 acre-feet from individual farmers. Director GIORGI asked for the breakdown between the reservoirs on the 5,600 acre-feet; Angela stated she did not have that breakdown, but she would follow up with an email.

**F. Storage Water Transfers**

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

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

Lauren BARTELS reminded everyone to report the meter readings even if the wells are not being used. NDWR staff will be out twice per month to get readings on wells that are not being reported.

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

Carlie HENNEMAN reported that 4,200 acre-feet of water has made it to Walker Lake and has dropped off significantly. There is only 5cfs of water in Wabuska. The Conservancy is also working to see if the NFWF funding date can be pushed out further.

**8. Director Comments**

None presented.

**10. Public Comment**

None presented.

**11. Adjournment**

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:32am.

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Jim Snyder, President

ABSENT  
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Marcus Masini, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer

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Dennis Acciari, Director

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David Giorgi, Director