

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on May 8, 2023. 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
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Counsel DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via Zoom
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Kat Dow, WBC	Carlie Henneman, WBC
AJ Jensby, NDWR	Tom Young, NDOT	Aaron Cook, NV State Parks
Shawn Horton, NV State Parks		

Public Present via Zoom:

Shawn Stavang	Steven Fulstone	Wes Walker, MBK Engineers
Smith Valley CAB	(775) 200-4888	

1. Public Comment

Secretary HALTERMAN read the following letter from Judy Harker:

‘To: Walker River Irrigation District volunteers

From: Judy Harker, 47 Terrell Lane, Wellington NV 89444]

Re: Your work on channeling Red Canyon Creek—THANK YOU!

My house is probably the closest one to Red Canyon. I was out of town on a trip when you began your work, and I had no idea what was going on. It wasn’t until this past weekend that I thoroughly explored the extent of the creek overflow and how close I came to having it flow onto my property and potentially into my buildings. The left photo below shows the creek at the culvert at the mouth of Red Canyon just after our last snowfall (3/30/23). The flow shown is all on the road, overflowing the culvert. This was eroding two of the jeep trails that go east and northeast from the culvert. Locally we call them “North creek road” because goes east on the north side of the creek, and “No Exit Road” because it goes northeast and winds up at my neighbor’s property about a mile away. Most flow here was along No Exit Road.

We walk our dogs in this area every morning. Today (4/30/23), my neighbors and I traced the overflow erosion from just south of my house all the way to the culvert--or rather the channel where the culvert was. In the photo on the right, you can see the erosion cut and mud wash in the foreground and my brown roof between the pinions in the background. The direction of flow was straight to my house. And from looks of things, this was not just a trickle. My best estimate from the house to the closest evidence of overflow water is about 175 yards. I am completely sure that I would have been flooded if you had not acted exactly when you did. To my WRID neighbors and friends, you have my deepest, heartfelt gratitude. And I'm also sure that other homes and properties in my neighborhood would have been damaged, too. THANK YOU from everyone on Terrell Lane!

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All 5 board members were present.

3. Declaration of Directors

Secretary HALTERMAN advised Jim Snyder, David Giorgi, and Richard Nuti ran unopposed and retained their seats for District 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

4. Oath of Office for newly elected Directors and presentation of Certificates of Election.

Secretary HALTERMAN read the Oath of Office out loud with President SNYDER, Director GIORGI, and Treasurer NUTI verbally accepting.

5. The Board of Directors will organize and elect a President.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to nominate Jim SNYDER as President; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

6. The Board of Directors will organize and elect a Vice-President.

Director GIORGI made a motion to nominate Marcus MASINI as Vice-President; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

7. The Board of Directors will organize and appoint a Secretary who need not be a member of the Board and who may also be the Treasurer.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to nominate Jessica HALTERMAN as Secretary; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

8. The Board of Directors will organize and appoint a Treasurer who need not be a member of the Board and who also may be the Secretary.

Director ACCIARI made a motion to nominate Richard NUTI as Treasurer; Vice-President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

9. Consideration of Minutes of the April 7, 2023 Regular Meeting

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

10. Water Master's Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport is at 2,000 acre-feet (4%). Over the weekend, the water dropped below the USGS gage at 3,200 acre-feet so Joe took an elevation picture this morning and it indicated the 2,000 acre-feet volume. The release has been slowed and is at 805cfs but will be decreased to 550cfs throughout the day. That level will be maintained by matching inflow and outflow. Topaz is at 10,660 acre-feet (18% capacity). The decreased releases on the East will help with the flooding on the upper ranches and throughout the State Park lands. The delivery is 852cfs system wide with 422cfs of decree and 430cfs permit water. Users were using the drains to alleviate pressure on the main river, but that has become a problem as the river below Wabuska has not been maintained and cannot hold the volume of water. Joanne is asking that users only order what they can use and not spill into the drains. Treasurer NUTI asked what the Sweetwater and Rough Creek are adding to the system; Joanne stated it is about 100cfs.

11. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of April 30, 2023:

Cash in Checking	\$ 111,442.42
Cash in Money Market	\$ 757,367.08
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 757,568.24</u>
Total	\$1,626,377.74

**B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment
Walker River Irrigation District
April 2023 Bills & Payroll**

Payee	Check #	Date	Amount
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	100352	4/12/2023	\$ 1,086.70
Cal Poly Corporation / ITRC	100353	4/12/2023	\$ 31,786.47
City of Yerington	100354	4/12/2023	\$ 83.73
Jim Menesini Petroleum	100355	4/12/2023	\$ 1,837.27
John Deere Credit	100356	4/12/2023	\$ 17.18
Lyon County Recorder	100357	4/12/2023	\$ 32.73
Marriott Construction Services	100358	4/12/2023	\$ 12,122.00
NV Energy	100359	4/12/2023	\$ 420.54
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	100360	4/12/2023	\$ 207.21
Pitney Bowes Global Financial	100361	4/12/2023	\$ 213.42
Public Employees' Benefits	100362	4/12/2023	\$ 870.23
Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	100363	4/12/2023	\$ 604.50
Quill	100364	4/12/2023	\$ 381.47
Rick Blakely	100365	4/12/2023	\$ 4,055.00

Southwest Gas Corporation	100366	4/12/2023	\$	424.71
THE PARTS HOUSE	100367	4/12/2023	\$	12.58
Wells Fargo Card Services	100368	4/12/2023	\$	2,382.49
Xerox Corporation	100369	4/12/2023	\$	420.80
Xerox Financial Services	100370	4/12/2023	\$	60.44
PERS Administrative Fund	100371	4/13/2023	\$	10,237.13
Alhambra	300023	4/26/2023	\$	124.90
HomeTown Health	300024	4/26/2023	\$	8,567.84
Verizon Wireless	300025	4/26/2023	\$	296.54
Vision Service Plan - Nevada	300026	4/26/2023	\$	186.05
Allied Sanitation and Septic	100372	4/26/2023	\$	131.25
Battle Born Media LLC	100373	4/26/2023	\$	3,375.00
Giomi, Inc.	100374	4/26/2023	\$	117.32
Hunewill Construction Co., Inc.	100375	4/26/2023	\$	1,642.94
MBK Engineers	100376	4/26/2023	\$	5,540.00
MF Barcellos	100377	4/26/2023	\$	9,245.02
Nevada Energy Systems, Inc.	100378	4/26/2023	\$	1,960.00
Pape' Machinery Exchange	100379	4/26/2023	\$	44,246.22
Quill	100380	4/26/2023	\$	533.73
Reno Gazette Journal	100381	4/26/2023	\$	3,245.70
Standard Insurance Company	100382	4/26/2023	\$	304.06
True Value	100383	4/26/2023	\$	162.61
U.S. Geological Survey	100384	4/26/2023	\$	21,418.00
USBWC	100385	4/26/2023	\$	52,440.34
Woodburn & Wedge	100386	4/26/2023	\$	47,092.50
Xerox Financial Services	100387	4/26/2023	\$	30.22
Payroll		4/30/2023	\$	49,831.81
Paycor Fees		4/30/2023	\$	221.00
Paycor Tax Fund		4/30/2023	\$	12,060.40
NPAIP Worker's Comp		4/30/2023	\$	4,810.50
			Total Bills & Payroll	\$ 334,840.55

President SNYDER inquired about the Pape bill; GM BRYAN stated it was for the rental equipment. Vice-President MASINI inquired about the Marriott Construction bill and asked if there would be another bill coming; GM BRYAN stated that is for the work performed on Desert Creek and the Saroni Canal and that is the only bill expected for that project as the other work was on Red Canyon and that bill will go to the County. Secretary HALTERMAN stated there are charges for 'Paycor Tax Fund' that should be renamed to IRS for payroll taxes.

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN stated Topaz is at 10,660 acre-feet and will continue to be drawn down. A copy of the current forecast presentation was provided in the packet. Highlights included:

- The flows at the Mason Gage are now expected to be 3,700cfs during the forecasted peak flow period.
- The 50% exceedance for Topaz and Bridgeport was provided. The max flow below Topaz is targeted at 3,000cfs and is trickier to balance with the natural channel and other tributaries. In Bridgeport, the pool is as low as it can get and the inflows and outflows will be matched.
- The second week in June is expected for the West Walker followed by the East Walker about a week later. The good news is that peak is expected to decline on the West just about the time the siphons are expected to start on the East.
- The April through July streamflow forecast is 272kaf on the East and 458kaf on the West. Both projections are above the actual streamflow in 2017.
- GM BRYAN has received several uncomfortable phone calls from people out of the area over the low reservoir pools and the burden on recreation. Some questions are also being presented on why the pools are low when there is so much water; GM BRYAN stated he has been informing the public that the operations performed are to protect the infrastructure.
- There will be a warmup this weekend, but because it has been so cold, it will take a lot of sun and warmth to ramp up the runoff.
- The soil moisture is slightly above average.
- The SWE is still at record levels for this time- still 404% of average for the day.
- The SNOTEL site information was provided along with columns for the elevation, snow depth, change in 24 hour period, and water content. In 2017, there was enough water to fill each reservoir 6 times, this year there is enough water to fill Topaz 10 times and Bridgeport 8 times. GM BRYAN provided a historical comparison of the same time period from 1991-2020. At Leavitt Lake, there should historically be 55.8 inches of SWE and there is 114 inches; Leavitt Meadows should be melted and there is still 17.4 inches of water; Lobdell should have 2.9 inches and there is 42.4 inches of water.
- There is a lot of flooding on State Lands on the East Walker, but if that flooding did not occur, the main stem would have hit moderate or major flood stage.

GM BRYAN and staff have continued to have meetings with NWS, NOAA, MBK, Lyon County, and BIA. Everyone is in constant communication. GM BRYAN has been pushing out notices when changes happen.

The shop crew worked extensively in Red Canyon in Smith Valley over the last few weeks. Because of the high flows, there has been significant flooding on High

Ditch. At one point, the District nearly lost the river into the ditch. State Parks worked with District and their help allowed it to get it patched up. GM BRYAN is seeing issues with the drains due to the higher flows and work is being done.

On Tuesday April 25th, there was a town hall meeting with COY, LCEM, NVDEM, and WRID. There was a decent attendance and a presentation was given to the community in hopes of conveying the seriousness of the amount of water. Even with the meeting, there are still a lot of naysayers. People are not seeing the flooding that is occurring.

In the packet, GM BRYAN provided a list of water related bills. The bills that have gone through the Assembly are now in the Senate and vice versa. There are a few bills being closely watched, especially AB387 which is the conjunctive management of waters.

President SNYDER confirmed that approximately 20-25% of what is expected to flow on the East has and only 10% of what is expected has flowed through the West; GM BRYAN confirmed and added that the runoff has not been as significant on the West as it has on the East. There was more low elevation snow on the East. Vice-President MASINI stated there is still a heavy amount of snow at the tree line in Bridgeport.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

GM BRYAN spoke to Counsel DePAOLI who stated the only update he had was that the NV Energy documents had be signed and the District has already received a check for the purchase.

E. Review and Approval of Monthly Storage Transfers

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

Vice-President MASINI asked when the reservoir to reservoir transfer cutoff was; Sandy NEVILLE advised May 31st.

F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Wes WALKER advised the applications are due this Friday 5/12 and the agreements are due by the end of the month. There are currently a little over 9,300 acre-feet enrolled and that does not include the WBC contribution. The State of California approval was obtained and the Nevada approval will be obtained after the cutoff date.

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

AJ JENSBY reminded users to try not to use supplemental groundwater this year. The declines from last year were expected and the department expects to see big increases this

year. AJ advised to keep doing meter reads and reporting every month even if they are not being used.

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

Carlie Henneman stated the lake has gone up approximately 5 feet. USGS was saying it may rise as much as 20 feet this year. The Conservancy did close on an acquisition of 1.5cfs in the past month. President SNYDER asked where the acquisition was; Carlie stated it is on the south end of Mason. Vice-President MASINI asked how much the lake raised in 2017; Carlie stated it went up almost 12 feet in 2017 but kept rising to approximately 16 feet by the end of 2019. President SNYDER asked when it was historically this high; Carlie stated around 2012 or 2013 but their goal is 2000.

14. Consideration and action on proposed District Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, including the fixing of the charges and levying assessments for that fiscal year on the water right lands within the District, on lands with appurtenant stored water rights within the District, on water right lands within the Local Improvement Districts within the District, on water right lands held by the High Ditch within the District, on reserved water rights, presently or formerly appurtenant to water right lands within the District, and Equipment Rental and Interfund Rental rates.

GM BRYAN stated per the last meeting, an Option B was created. Secretary HALTERMAN has not received any public comment or input. Option B was created with a \$1 increase in the General, Reservoir, and Equipment Funds. Secretary HALTERMAN stated the option/versions do not need to be approved as a whole document; each fund can be approved individually. Secretary HALTERMAN also stated the Option B cash balance estimate will result in a positive cash balance at the end of 2024. Secretary HALTERMAN advised no flood mitigation expenses were included in any of the cash estimates or budget versions. GM BRYAN stated the District is attempting to get some reimbursement from FEMA and is working with Lyon County and Nevada Emergency Management. President SNYDER asked if the damage to the equipment on Fox Ditch was included in the reimbursement request from FEMA; GM BRYAN stated it is not included as the Fox is a privately owned ditch. Secretary HALTERMAN advised the paperwork for the damage on the Fox was reported to Lyon County Emergency Management. Treasurer NUTI asked if the damage on the Saroni from the Desert Creek incident will be covered; GM BRYAN stated it is included in the request because the District owns the Saroni. Treasurer NUTI stated is a problem to keep working in areas that are not being reimbursed; GM BRYAN stated there is a hazard mitigation plan that is being updated at the County level to obtain funding for these areas. Vice-President MASINI reiterated that the WRID Board needs to work with the USBWC since they can assess the entire basin. GM BRYAN stated Red Canyon and Desert Creek are decree rights but WRID is doing the work. Vice-President MASINI stated WRID is footing the bill for the decree right holders at the expense of the District. GM BRYAN stated he can make a request to get on the next USBWC agenda.

Based on their last budget meeting, they have a surplus and now would be a good time to pitch in. Their acre base is approximately 133,000 acres where the District is 80,000 acres. Vice-President MASINI stated WRID keeps adjusting it's budget but nothing is happening on the federal level. GM BRYAN stated there is a lot of disconnect on who is responsible for the river gate cleaning, weir cleaning, etc. The request always comes to the District, but no one is willing to take responsibility for the bill. Treasurer NUTI stated the Desert Creek channel is a decree right but the channel goes through farms and ranches that use it as a drain. He stated he pays for his section of the channel to keep it operable, but others need to do their part. GM BRYAN stated the County Road Department has been assisting us with a lot of work and we are using them to haul equipment. GM BRYAN stated it would be nice if the City and County would assess for flood mitigation since the District is not a flood control district. Treasurer NUTI reiterated Vice-President MASINI's comment on raising WRID assessments to cover expenses that aren't District related; GM BRYAN stated the commissioners could be talked to.

Director GIORGI stated he was not at the last meeting and asked what the request was for another option; President SNYDER stated the cash balance was going backward and he wanted to see it go up.

Treasurer NUTI recommended to consider Option B in whole; President SNYDER agreed. Director GIORGI agreed that would be the best way to go since things can go bad fast. Treasurer NUTI stated the Reservoir Fund is the only fund that has a good cash balance, but the spillway needs to be fixed.

Vice-President MASINI made a motion to accept the Option B budget as presented; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

15. Director Comments

None presented.

16. Public Comment

None presented.

17. Adjournment

Vice-President MASINI made a motion to adjourn; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:05am.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director

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