

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on September 7, 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
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via phone
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

**Public Present:**

Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Silas Adams, WBC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
Wyatt Fereday, NDWR	Mike Scott, NDWR	Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC

**Public Present via phone:**

Wes Walker, MBK	Dave Hockaday
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**1. Public Comment**

None presented.

**2. Roll Call**

All members were present.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the August 9, 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 there was currently 6,216 acre-feet (15% capacity) in Bridgeport and 6,499 acre-feet (11% capacity) in Topaz. There is just under 1,300 acre-feet to serve from Topaz and 2,300 acre-feet to serve from Bridgeport. The releases are currently 86cfs from Bridgeport and 66cfs from Topaz. There were conveyance issues because no one was calling for their storage, but more people are ordering storage now and the conveyance is much better.

Vice President MASINI asked Silas ADAMS how much Conservancy water was left in each reservoir to be served; Silas stated he believed all the water was out of Topaz and approximately 100 acre-feet was left in Bridgeport. Vice President MASINI stated he was only asking to anticipate if there was going to be a large amount of water called for at the end of the season. Silas stated there were some smaller allotments near the weir that may be called for, but he did not anticipate any large draws.

**5. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of August 31, 2021:

Cash in Checking	\$ 130,738.04
Cash in Money Market	\$ 643,114.99
Cash in CDs	\$ 749,661.39
Total	\$1,523,514.42

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

***August 2021 Bills & Payroll***

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
122128	8/2/2021	USBWC	\$ 81,976.82
122129	8/9/2021	Sticks and Stones	\$ 65.90
122130	8/9/2021	Edney Tree Service	\$ 1,800.00
122131	8/9/2021	MF Barcellos	\$ 1,761.44
122132	8/9/2021	True Value	\$ 19.99
122133	8/9/2021	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$ 159.78
122134	8/9/2021	PDM Steel Service	\$ 1,011.00
122135	8/9/2021	Power Plan	\$ 589.55
122136	8/9/2021	Public Employees' Benefits	\$ 1,740.46
122137	8/9/2021	Purchase Power / Pitney	\$ 201.00
122138	8/9/2021	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$ 45.01
122139	8/9/2021	NV Energy	\$ 420.10
122140	8/9/2021	Southwest Gas	\$ 39.18
122141	8/9/2021	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$ 755.92
122142	8/9/2021	Truckee Tahoe Lumber	\$ 5,687.66
122143	8/11/2021	AFLAC	\$ 35.70
122144	8/11/2021	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 9,200.00
122145	8/11/2021	Giomi, Inc.	\$ 105.90
122146	8/11/2021	AT&T	\$ 151.76
122147	8/11/2021	John Deere Credit	\$ 171.86
122148	8/11/2021	Lyon County Treasurer	\$ 3,760.08
122149	8/11/2021	City of Yerington	\$ 283.45
122150	8/27/2021	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 1,027.80

122151	8/27/2021	ABILA Dept 3303	\$	195.98
122152	8/27/2021	Grainger	\$	121.88
122153	8/27/2021	Lyon County Recorder	\$	67.05
122154	8/27/2021	Quill	\$	187.01
122155	8/27/2021	Alhambra	\$	75.89
122156	8/27/2021	Standard Insurance	\$	241.03
122157	8/27/2021	Vision Service Plan -	\$	186.05
122158	8/27/2021	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	50,448.05
122159	8/27/2021	Xerox Financial Services	\$	305.50
122160	8/27/2021	HomeTown Health	\$	7,421.23
122161	8/27/2021	Desert Research Institute	\$	18,816.81
122162	8/27/2021	Briggs Manufacturing, Inc.	\$	13,690.96
122163	8/27/2021	VOID		VOID
122164	8/27/2021	Mason Valley Tire	\$	25.00
122165	8/27/2021	WEST Consultants, Inc.	\$	54,938.61
122166	8/27/2021	VOID		VOID
122167	8/27/2021	VOID		VOID
122168	8/27/2021	Hector Figueroa	\$	675.00
PAYROLL	8/31/2021	AUGUST PAYROLL	\$	40,586.16
<b>TOTAL BILLS &amp; PAYROLL</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>298,992.57</b>

Vice President MASINI inquired about the Ferguson bill; GM BRYAN stated the purchase was for pipe on the Saroni and the David Little project.

Vice President MASINI 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 reported Topaz is at 6,499 acre-feet (11%) and Bridgeport is at 6,216 acre-feet (15%). Joanne and GM BRYAN are continuing their bi-weekly meetings with Wes and Angela from MBK to track the losses through the end of the season. The forecasted reservoir pools that Angela presented last month are still good targets. GM BRYAN stated both reservoirs are expected be above the minimum pools at the end of the season. Joanne and GM BRYAN had a meeting with MBK this morning and everything looks to be on track. The demand has been up and down with users putting up crops. As of today, there is 1,289 acre-feet to serve from Topaz for the West, Tunnel and Main sections and 2,333 acre-feet to serve from Bridgeport for the East and Tunnel sections. GM BRYAN stated there has never been a year where the allocation was at net zero. The remaining reservoir balance will be stored for next year.

GM BRYAN stated the District is still doing what it can to track losses throughout the system. There are steady losses on the East portion from Bridgeport to

Strosnider at approximately 50%. There are also significant losses from the confluence to the weir, from the weir to Miller Ln and from Miller Lane to Wabuska. The East Walker Conveyance Report has been submitted to NSE and DC&R, but the District has not heard anything from the agencies yet.

On August 12<sup>th</sup>, the Bridgeport Reservoir Tender reported a vortex at the gatehouse. On August 18<sup>th</sup>, MBK, California Safety Dams, and WRID staff performed a dye test that revealed a leak going into one of the siphon tubes on the southeast corner of the gatehouse. It was determined there was no threat of failure as result of the leaking, but repairs are necessary, and no timeframe was settled on. The pool level will need to be low, and GM BRYAN hopes the District will not get into the position of having to voluntarily lower the pool. The District has set up a game plan to submit to California Safety Dams that includes getting an excavator in to pull back some material so that core samples can be obtained, and a metal plate can be welded into place. Concurrent to temporary repairs being performed, the District will have a structural engineer put together a report with permanent recommendations. The permanent recommendations will be reviewed by California Safety Dams and hopefully the repairs will be done over the next few years. Director GIORGI asked if the damage was caused by age; GM BRYAN stated the engineers indicated it was caused by a bad batch of concrete as some concrete is not showing any signs of damage and some areas are.

The District received a notice from the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board that the samples taken from Bridgeport Reservoir had an increase of harmful algae. The risk was raised from caution to danger and humans and animals should not swim in or drink the water. The District is working with LWQCB and Mono County Health Service to do the required postings. LWQCB asked the District to obtain samples from Topaz as well, but those were negative.

GM BRYAN is still in the process of talking with the real estate agent for the property next door (400 N Main St). The owner is not interested in exchanging land but is interested in talking with the District. GM BRYAN will keep the Board updated with any changes.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

No legal report was available.

**E. Review and approval of monthly storage transfers.**

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

**F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

Wes WALKER stated the Program has been completed. The releases from Bridgeport ran from August 10<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup> and from Topaz from August 13<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup>. There was a total of 703 acre-feet enrolled in the Program and 255 acre-feet made it to Wabuska, which was in line with the more optimistic side of

what was anticipated. Looking at the Lower End Conveyance Tool, it appears approximately 15 acre-feet made it to Walker Lake. All the reporting requirements are being completed now. The pilot program is a learning experience. The releases were minimal on the first couple of days, but GM BRYAN suggested to release more of the water at one time, which made the deliveries a little better. Vice President MASINI asked Silas how many acre-feet made it to Weber; Silas advised approximately 114 acre-feet made it to Weber Reservoir. The losses between Wabuska and Weber are nearly 40%. Vice President MASINI asked how the water distribution works with the Tribe. Silas stated WBC has a conveyance agreement with the Tribe to release everything minus natural losses. Treasurer NUTI asked if the Conservancy should show interest in working with the Tribe to clean the river corridor to minimize losses from Weber to Walker Lake; Silas stated it could potentially be beneficial, but finances are always a restriction, and it is ultimately up to the Tribe.

**G. FY2020-2021 Audit Update**

Secretary HALTERMAN advised the audit is progressing. There has been communication between WRID and the auditors and the presentation should be in October or November.

Secretary HALTERMAN stated she completed the new software research and selected a software called Blackbaud. The software is capable of handling what the District currently has and 3x more. Secretary HALTERMAN will continue the process of finalizing the paperwork and report back to the Board.

**H. Current Drought Conditions for WY 2021 Presented by MBK Engineers**

Wes WALKER stated they are continuing to track losses and operations in the system. Losses have remained steady over the last few weeks. They are in line with 2014-15. Climatically it looks like it will remain above average temperatures over the next few weeks, potential for monsoonal precipitation this weekend. Generally, the longer term outlook is above average temps over the next few months.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY introduced Mike Scott as the replacement for Kerry Garcia. Mike has been with NDWR for 5 years in the Drilling Department and has field experience. Wyatt stated he will have an update on the water levels soon as they will be doing their fall measurements toward the end of the year. Last year the levels were down approximately 5-7 feet, and he expects the levels to be lower this year. The pumpage totals will probably within the top 3 years but Wyatt will have better numbers after the season. Wyatt expressed appreciation for those who are logging in and submitting their pumping numbers. Wyatt and Mike did spot checks 6 weeks ago on the meters of users who had not submitted data. GM BRYAN requested Wyatt check in with Adam Sullivan on potentially giving an end of season update. There was a concern with the current water situation and the effects of next year's pumping.

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

Silas ADAMS stated the new Executive Director starts on September 28<sup>th</sup> and he will hopefully be at the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The online water value calculation tool has had good participation so far.

**8. Director Comments**

GM BRYAN stated the internal control policies will be on the October agenda. Secretary HALTERMAN will email the documents for review. Treasurer NUTI suggested the policies be implemented and then revised as needed.

**9. 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 was adjourned at 10:38am.

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Jim Snyder, President

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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