

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on April 7, 2020. 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, via phone
Marcus MASINI	Vice President, via phone
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director, via phone
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager, via phone
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via phone
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary

**Public Present:**

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC     Taylor Thomas, USBWC

**1. Public Comment**

None presented.

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

All members present with President SNYDER, Vice President MASINI, Director GIORGI, GM BRYAN and Counsel DePAOLI on the phone.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the March 9, 2020 Regular Meeting**

Director GIORGI requested to change ‘the’ to ‘that’ on page 5; Director GIORGI made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**4. Water Master’s Report**

Water Master SARKISIAN stated 200 acre-feet is currently being delivered (178 acre-feet decree and 14.6 acre-feet storage). April 1<sup>st</sup> was the first storage delivery. The Tribe is on and will be turned off on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The decree is holding but is slow. The Main and East have been increased to an 1874. Treasurer NUTI inquired what West decree was; Joanne stated 1864. Vice President MASINI inquired about the low lying snow on the East; Joanne stated it is starting to be seen in the system. 135 cfs is all that is being released from the reservoirs but 192 cfs is being served with the addition from the tributaries. Bridgeport is currently at 30,290 acre-feet (72%) and Topaz is currently at 34,510 acre-feet (58%).

**5. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of March 31, 2020:

Cash in Checking:	\$ 283,719.39
Cash in Money Market	\$1,064,531.85

Cash in CDs	<u>\$1,082,598.12</u>
Total	<u>\$2,430,849.36</u>

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

*March 2020 Bills & Payroll*

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>		<u>Check Amount</u>
121321	3/3/2020	Ferguson Enterprises,	\$	70,560.00
121347	3/12/2020	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$	907.60
121348	3/12/2020	Ferguson Enterprises,	\$	28,224.00
121349	3/12/2020	Frontier	\$	284.71
121350	3/12/2020	Grainger	\$	59.70
121351	3/12/2020	Hunewill Construction	\$	261.09
121352	3/12/2020	AT&T	\$	153.02
121353	3/12/2020	AT&T Mobility	\$	115.93
121354	3/12/2020	John Deere Credit	\$	105.22
121355	3/12/2020	Mason Valley Quicknet	\$	410.00
121356	3/12/2020	Nevada Energy Systems,	\$	524.03
121357	3/12/2020	Nevada Public Agency	\$	500.00
121358	3/12/2020	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$	83.11
121359	3/12/2020	PDM Steel Service	\$	1,145.00
121360	3/12/2020	Plymouth Ditch Company	\$	222.26
121361	3/12/2020	Power Plan	\$	3,167.87
121362	3/12/2020	Public Employees'	\$	870.23
121363	3/12/2020	Purchase Power / Pitney	\$	301.50
121364	3/12/2020	Schneider Electric USA,	\$	2,256.00
121365	3/12/2020	NV Energy	\$	333.69
121366	3/12/2020	Alhambra	\$	26.94
121367	3/12/2020	Southwest Gas	\$	393.29
121368	3/12/2020	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$	1,273.36
121369	3/12/2020	City of Yerington	\$	121.07
121370	3/12/2020	Allied Sanitation and	\$	80.00
121371	3/12/2020	Sierra Office Solutions	\$	117.64
121372	3/12/2020	WEST Consultants, Inc.	\$	7,621.58

121373	3/12/2020	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	6,573.93
121374	3/29/2020	AFLAC	\$	35.70
121375	3/29/2020	Nationwide Insurance	\$	400.00
121376	3/29/2020	Giomi, Inc.	\$	239.91
121377	3/29/2020	Marianne Leinassar	\$	500.00
121378	3/29/2020	Sticks and Stones	\$	216.85
121379	3/29/2020	Lyon County Recorder	\$	30.40
121380	3/29/2020	Mason Valley Equipment	\$	10.50
121381	3/29/2020	MBK Engineers	\$	3,008.50
121382	3/29/2020	Quill	\$	909.38
121383	3/29/2020	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$	1,016.62
121384	3/29/2020	NV Energy	\$	16.32
121385	3/29/2020	Verizon Wireless	\$	491.97
121386	3/29/2020	Vision Service Plan	\$	162.25
121387	3/29/2020	Xerox Financial Services	\$	139.44
121388	3/29/2020	HomeTown Health	\$	6,569.33
121389	3/29/2020	Desert Research Institute	\$	27,079.11
121390	3/29/2020	Robbie Davis	\$	200.00
PAYROLL		MARCH PAYROLL	\$	38,540.13
			<b>Total Bills &amp; Payroll</b>	<b>\$ 206,259.18</b>

Vice President MASINI inquired about the payment of the Ferguson bill; GM BRYAN stated the Plymouth project is completed and water is flowing. Secretary HALTERMAN advised an invoice has been sent to the Plymouth Ditch for their part and a reimbursement request has been sent to BOR for the remainder. A portion of the bill will also be sent to David Little. Vice President MASINI made a motion to pay the bills; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**C. Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN advised Topaz is currently at 34,510 acre-feet (58%) and Bridgeport is at 30,290 acre-feet (72%). Over the past month, all pan and trans-evaporation was offset. With the recent storms, 20" of snow was added to Leavitt Lake. NRCS gave updates but not much changed. As of last week, the basin was at 53% of average but new numbers indicate it may be closer to 60% of average. Out of the 110" of snow in Leavitt Lake, there is approximately 37" of water. It is concerning that some of the slopes in the upper reaches are bare.

Due to the government and federal restrictions, office staffing has been scaled back. The office is closed to the public, but the day-to-day operations are continuing. We are deemed an essential business, so field work is resuming. Some staff is working modified hours in the office, some staff are working from home but are available via email and phone.

As of April 1<sup>st</sup>, the District well has been running. It has been pumping between 7 and 8 cfs. There was a robust list for the draw, so the users who did not get drawn in April will be added to the list for May.

The shop crew has been doing drain repair and maintenance. They have completed the work on the west fork of the river in Smith Valley as well as several miles on the Colony. Brush up work in Hoye Canyon and the Saroni has been done. A safety valve still needs to be installed by Mr. Burns' house.

We received the permit extension from NDWR on the Hoye Permit.

Secretary HALTERMAN has been working with Ellen from Gordon's office on the revisions to the Policy Manual. Because of the conditions of the meeting, the agenda item has been put on hold for a month or two.

As a result of the Governor's restrictions and the President's guidelines, the Flow Measurement class has been postponed. Dr. Styles was willing to do the class on his personal dime but decided to err on the side of caution with the pandemic. As soon as we have a new date scheduled, we will let everyone know.

Gordon and GM BRYAN have been working with Harold Morris of Morris Engineering on 17 Pete Hendrichs Road. Agro Properties is wanting to put in a box culvert for a truck route off Pete Hendrichs to their property. They are also proposing to put a parking lot, driveway and a water line all within the District's 100' deeded easement on the lateral drain. GM BRYAN would like to get Board approval to go forward with an easement agreement. There are problems with other agencies as well, but GM BRAYN has been working with all agencies involved. GM BRYAN will have draft agreement language available for next month. Director GIORGI inquired where the access pipe would be located; GM BRYAN stated they wanted it across from the access to Brackenbury's, but the County has concerns with them also wanting it to be a truck access. The County required them to move the access further to the north, which works better for flow constraint and helps with the right-of-way permit. They proposed a box culvert and the District is not going to let them waiver from that. Director GIORGI confirmed the property is part of the City of Yerington; GM BRYAN stated the property is part of the City, but the road is the County.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel DePAOLI had nothing to report.

**E. Review and Approval of the Monthly Storage Transfers.**

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

**F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

GM BRYAN stated the petitions have been filed with California Water Control Board, but nothing has been heard yet. There is an item later in the agenda for discussion.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY emailed his update. Because of the pandemic, they have not been able to go into the field to do water measurements. The next three Conservancy permits are ready for review at the Nevada State Engineer's level and he will report next month.

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

GM BRYAN stated Silas had no updates. With the pandemic, they are working remotely.

**8. Consideration and action on proposed District Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021, including 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 served by the High Ditch within the District, and Equipment Rental and Interfund Rental rates.**

GM BRYAN stated one thing different this year from last years is that the draft budget was distributed last month and has been available for review during the past month.

Recommendation:

- General Fund \$9.05 per acre; slight increase due to normal rising costs of insurance, legal, etc.

- Reservoir Fund \$4.10. No significant changes made to the O&M budget. The upgrade on the Bridgeport Reservoir must be completed by June 2021. We have been unable to contact contractors, but we are still trying.

- Equipment Rental Fund \$2.20 per acre; there is a slight increase due to the hiring of another equipment laborer. This is year 3 of setting aside \$93,000 for a new heavy excavator. The current quote for a heavy excavator is \$285,000; if approved, we will place the order for the new excavator.

- Local Improvement Districts: Local #1 \$1.00 per acre, Local #2 \$1.00 per acre, Local #3 \$1.30, and Local #4 \$11.00 per acre with a \$10.00 per acre special assessment per the Saroni Advisory Board. No changes have been made to the O&M budgets for any of the LIDs.

- Water Distribution Fund \$10.00 per acre. No changes have been made to the O&M budget.

Treasurer NUTI inquired about the EAP line item in the Reservoir fund; GM BRYAN stated the EAP is not completed yet. We are at a standstill with needing California to approve the plan. If there are changes required, there will be a fee from MBK.

Vice President MASINI inquired about the low budget amount for consulting/engineering in the General Fund as last year was above budget; GM BRYAN stated MBK was utilized for more projects this year and consulting/engineering for the City of Yerington Sewer Project was an unexpected bill.

Vice President MASINI questioned the vehicle upgrading; GM BRYAN stated all the full time shop crew needs to be in a full size vehicle due to pulling the fuel trailer. GM BRYAN plans to move Jesse out of the 3500 full size truck and put him into the current GM truck. Ditch Riders will remain in smaller trucks. Last year, a Ford Ranger was purchased through the NFWF grant for the field worker and a Chevy Colorado was purchased via the Equipment fund for Ditch Riders.

Director GIORGI asked how many years were left on the Bridgeport Pasture Lease; GM BRYAN stated it was signed in 2018 for five years with a five year renewal option. GM BRYAN stated the Bridgeport Rancher's Organization is still working with NRCS on getting reports. There have been no updates from NRCS since the last time they were here at a meeting.

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

**9. Discussion and consideration to move forward or postpone a second pilot year for the WRID Storage Water Leasing Program for water season 2020.**

GM BRYAN stated the petitions were filed with the California Division of Water Resources, but there has been no word on approval. With the restrictions in place, it is unknown if the approvals will be granted within a timely manner. Once the approvals are given, the District still needs to get the final approval from the Nevada Division of Water Resources, get correspondence out to the users and work with MBK for release plans. Last year at this time, we had all approvals and were receiving payments from users. With the office closed, the public would not be able to come in person anyway. Because of the uncertainty, GM BRYAN would like to move forward with the approval process, but not run the program this year. GM BRYAN has been in contact with NFWF, who is eager to proceed but are understanding of the constraints. NFWF is not concerned with a bad water year and its impact on the Program. GM BRYAN stated he has concern with running the Program on a bad water year and does not want to risk the relationship with the State Engineer and Nevada Division of Water Resources. Treasurer NUTI asked Counsel DePAOLI if he foresees legal problems with WBC or NFWF if the Program is postponed; Counsel DePAOLI advised if the process to have the program is delayed, the District cannot leave the users hanging. Users must decide to use their storage water or not. The California order is good for one year from the last approval to do the program, so hopefully the District would be able to submit to the State Engineer next year. GM BRYAN stated

by postponing this year, there is more time to communicate with the State Engineer's Office to ensure we are not doing this Program maliciously and want to work with them to run the Program. President SNYDER inquired when the process for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year would need to be started; GM BRYAN stated only one year can be applied for at a time, but once the next year is completed, the District will file for the final year. There were a few very minor changes for the second year application, but they were all completed.

Vice President MASINI confirmed the reason for the delay in approvals is due to the pandemic and once everything is opened, they will be backlogged; GM BRYAN confirmed.

Vice President MASINI asked if the appraisal for the Program would be affected if the Conservancy leases the water back to the users this season; GM BRYAN stated as long as none of the conditions are changed, the appraised value of \$147/acre-foot would not change. Vice President MASINI asked what the Conservancy leased their water back to the farmers for; GM BRYAN stated \$35/acre-foot.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to postpone the Leasing Program until the 2021 season; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**10. Director Comments**

Vice President MASINI asked if there were figures on the volume at this point; GM BRYAN stated the one month offset was beneficial, but not beneficial enough to make a re-allocation at this point. The offset of the figures is approximately 300 acre-feet per reservoir. We are also running the exchange for the District well water. The peak flow time is usually April to June/July. How the system responds to higher temperatures will determine the future adjustments. GM BRYAN stated if it is something that needs to be discussed monthly, an agenda item can be added.

Director GIORGI asked if there were lists of users who want to buy or sell water yet; GM BRYAN stated no one has called to say anything yet, but it is possibly because they are waiting to see if the Leasing Program is going to happen.

**11. Public Comment**

None presented.

**12. Adjournment**

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Vice President MASINI offered a second. Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM.

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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

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