

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on March 7, 2025. 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
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Carlie Henneman, WBC	Peter Stanton, WBC
Lauren Bartels, NDWR	Jodi Roan, NDWR	Malania Sagi, SVMVCD
Ed Ryan		

Public Present via Zoom:

Tim Bardsley, NOAA	Wes Walker, MBK	Tom Renner
Scott Parker		

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All 5 members were present.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the February 7, 2025 Regular Meeting

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

4. Recess as Board of Directors and convene as Board of Corrections for corrections of assessments pursuant to NRS 539.680

The Board of Directors recessed, and the Board of Corrections was convened at 10:05am. President SNYDER asked if there were any corrections requested; Secretary HALTERMAN stated she did not receive any before the meeting and none were presented today.

5. Adjourn as Board of Corrections and reconvene as Board of Directors

The Board of Corrections was adjourned, and the Board of Directors was reconvened at 10:06am.

6. Water Master's Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport was at 26,790 acre-feet (63% capacity) and Topaz was 33,290 acre-feet (55% capacity). The current snowpack is 83% SWE. Joanne stated 150cfs of decree is being delivered. The irrigation season started at an 1878 on the West and 1879 on the East but has changed to 1880/1881 due to the rain. Joanne is uncertain how long the decree will hold, but there is not a lot of demand right now. There is a USBWC Board meeting on March 20th. The Tribe will start on April 15th.

7. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of February 28, 2025:

Cash in Checking	\$ 167,634.08
Cash in Money Market	\$1,012,508.31
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 811,161.50</u>
Total	\$1,991,323.89

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

Cash Disbursement Journals

February 2025 Bills & Payroll

Payee	Check #	Date	Amount
Southwest Gas Corporation	300142	2/6/2025	\$ 503.21
Allied Sanitation and Septic Services	101400	2/6/2025	\$ 285.75
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. 1423	101401	2/6/2025	\$ 8,091.12
Jim Menesini Petroleum	101402	2/6/2025	\$ 248.67
MF Barcellos	101403	2/6/2025	\$ 5,715.35
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	101404	2/6/2025	\$ 170.07
Pape' Machinery Exchange	101405	2/6/2025	\$ 8,568.00
Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services	101406	2/6/2025	\$ 35.00
Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	101407	2/6/2025	\$ 52.37
Sierra Office Solutions	101408	2/6/2025	\$ 51.66
THE PARTS HOUSE	101409	2/6/2025	\$ 205.28
Wells Fargo Card Services Payment	101410	2/6/2025	\$ 4,036.30
Yerington Ready Mix	101411	2/6/2025	\$ 9,783.59
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	101412	2/13/2025	\$ 1,121.80
City of Yerington	101413	2/13/2025	\$ 98.16

JASON MILLIGAN	101414	2/13/2025	\$	2,320.00
Lyon County Recorder	101415	2/13/2025	\$	37.56
NV Energy	101416	2/13/2025	\$	277.30
Quill	101417	2/13/2025	\$	317.54
SCOTT ROBINSON	101418	2/13/2025	\$	2,320.00
Xerox Corporation	101419	2/13/2025	\$	210.14
Xerox Financial Services	101420	2/13/2025	\$	32.88
Public Employees' Benefits Program	101421	2/13/2025	\$	870.23
Desert Research Institute (2 months)	101422	2/13/2025	\$	31,878.69
PERS Administrative Fund	101423	2/13/2025	\$	24,553.61
USBWC	101424	2/13/2025	\$	58,091.31
Giomi, Inc.	101425	2/13/2025	\$	343.33
HomeTown Health	300143	2/27/2025	\$	7,357.83
Alhambra	300144	2/27/2025	\$	139.89
AT&T	300145	2/27/2025	\$	86.24
PrimePay	300146	2/27/2025	\$	448.10
Verizon Wireless	300147	2/27/2025	\$	322.63
Vision Service Plan - Nevada	300148	2/27/2025	\$	342.96
Sciarani & Co.	101426	2/27/2025	\$	27,000.00
Sunbelt Rentals	101427	2/27/2025	\$	6,954.89
The Ferraro Group	101428	2/27/2025	\$	7,500.00
JASON MILLIGAN	101429	2/27/2025	\$	1,405.00
SCOTT ROBINSON	101430	2/27/2025	\$	1,405.00
RICHARD RAMSEY	101431	2/27/2025	\$	555.75
Sierra Office Solutions	101432	2/27/2025	\$	82.30
Payroll		2/15/2025	\$	13,752.22
EFTPS		2/15/2025	\$	2,025.25
Payroll		2/28/2025	\$	23,127.10
EFTPS		2/28/2025	\$	4,267.81
			Total Bills & Payroll	\$ 256,991.89
			NFWF Submission	\$ (59,307.63)
			Total District Expense	\$ 197,684.26

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 stated there is a breakdown of the USGS gages in the packet. Topaz is currently at 33,270 acre-feet (55% capacity) and Bridgeport is currently at 26,840 acre-feet (63% capacity).

The shop crew completed the installation of the pipe in the drain through the City. There is more clean-up to complete, but the main tasks are done, and the drain is open. The crew has transitioned work to Smith Valley. They are getting the Saroni and Colony canals ready for water and doing some work at the Topaz diversion.

GM BRYAN stated the staff continues to work to mitigate the OSHA violations. We still have not received the official report but are trying to take care of the problems immediately. The power panel that was in the janitor closet has been moved to the hallway, the exit signs have been upgraded, and other small electrical fixes have been made.

At the February 20th Lyon County Commissioners meeting, the Conditional Use Permit filed by Libra Solar was discussed and approved. Libra Solar submitted a CUP request for a transmission line that will span from Wabuska through the valley and enter Mineral County near East Walker Road. At the meeting, several people spoke their disapproval, but ultimately the CUP was approved.

GM BRYAN has been following the legislative session and the water bills. A full list of water-pertinent bills is available upon request.

GM BRYAN reminded everyone of the March 12th NDWR well user meeting. The Smith Valley group will meet at 10am at the Smith Valley Library, and the Mason Valley group will meet at 2pm at the WRID office. NDWR will report on last year's pumping data, current water levels, and what to expect this year.

GM BRYAN introduced the draft budget for the FY2025-26 year. If there are any questions, contact GM BRYAN or Secretary HALTERMAN.

The Campbell Canal special election will be held at the WRID office on April 16th. GM BRYAN reminded users to get registered or update the registration if needed.

Director GIORGI asked if the solar company had contacted the District on crossing the High Ditch; GM BRYAN the culvert is in good shape, but he is more worried about the crossing at the Greenwood/Hall. GM BRYAN stated he will stay in contact with Libra Solar and will keep the Board updated. There are several area residents that are not in agreement with the project and the increased traffic on East Walker Road, but GM BRYAN stated Lyon County Road Department is working with Libra Solar and there is a proposal to pave East Walker Road up to the

intersection with Reese River Road across from the Pitchfork Ranch. Director GIORGI asked why the solar company had not contacted the ditch companies; GM BRYAN stated they are using the District to spearhead the communication and if there are any concerns, let him know. President SNYDER asked GM BRYAN if he had to sign off; GM BRYAN stated he would need to sign off on any building and he will get a sign off from all ditch companies as well.

Vice President MASINI asked if each of the NDWR presentations will be the same; GM BRYAN stated each presentation is tailored to each basin specifically and the presentations will be sent out after each meeting.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI said the litigation with the United States had two parts to it- the claims for Walker River Indian Reservation, which were resolved, and the other part deals with upstream allotments for the Bridgeport Indian Colony and some downstream allotments for the Army Depot. The United States and legal counsel are looking into what it will take to move the claims along. Counsel DePAOLI's recollection is that those issues are going to be much easier to resolve than the WRIR claims.

E. Stored Water Leasing Program update

Wes WALKER reported that yesterday wrapped up the 2024 season with the season-ending meeting. The District and MBK received the approval from NFWF to do an overall summary of all of the program years. It will summarize the process leading up to the program and each of the 5 individual years. MBK has met with users and agencies to get input. The goal is to have the report out in early May.

F. 2025 Election Update

Secretary HALTERMAN stated everything is the same as the last meeting. Nominations close on March 18th and registration closes on March 31st. There is one nomination for each District at this time. Secretary HALTERMAN will be confirming all of the registrars and inspectors just in case there is to be an election.

8. Presentation by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2025 irrigation season.

Tim Bardsley presented a slide presentation, highlights included:

- The water year started out dry in October, November and December were not too bad, January was not good, and February was quite good.
- There is a strong snowstorm expected next Monday through Thursday.
- The 15-day precipitation probability is wet across the 15-days, but the probability of over 4" is low.
- The 8-14-day temperature outlook is cooler than normal.
- The one-month outlook indicates cooler temperatures and equal chances for precipitation.
- The seasonal outlook shows equal chances for temperatures and precipitation.
- The snowpack is approximately 83% of median and 78% of median peak.

- The odd of reaching a normal peak SWE is a 25%.
- The low elevation snowpack is below normal.
- The soil moisture is a bit better than last year, but still lower than normal.
- The observed streamflow is significantly below last year, especially on the East Walker.
- The water supply outlook on the West Walker below Little Walker is 136kaf (84% of Mean, 99% of Median) and on the East Walker 42.9kaf (66% of Mean, 104% of Median).
- The expected runoff peak is end of May/early June depending on weather conditions.
- The drought status improved from Abnormally Dry to Class 1 Improvement.

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

Lauren BARTELS reminded everyone about the March 12th groundwater update meetings. The presentations will be available for anyone not able to attend.

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

Charlie HENNEMAN reported that the Conservancy closed a water-only deal in Smith Valley for 3.5 cfs and 79 acre-feet of storage.

11. Discussion and consideration of storage water allocation for the 2025 irrigation season.

GM BRYAN stated there was a breakdown supporting the allocation recommendation for each reservoir. GM BRYAN recommends not exceeding a 40% allocation for Bridgeport and 34-40% allocation for Topaz. The snowpack is leaner on the East, so the allocation is a little bit tighter on that side compared to the West. Director GIORGI asked if it is easier to calculate at 34 or 35%; GM BRYAN stated it did not make a difference. GM BRYAN stated he has worked with MBK on each of the allocations and is comfortable with the recommendations on each side. GM BRYAN also has confidence that there could be a future re-allocation if given the authority.

Director ACCIARI made a motion to set the allocation for Bridgeport at 40% and Topaz at 37% and to give the General Manager authority to issue a re-allocation at a later date; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

12. Discussion and determination of the season of delivery of storage water in 2025 as provided in Section 9.3 of District Regulation No. 9

GM BRYAN stated historically, the season started on April 1st. There is normally not a lot of demand in March.

Vice President MASINI made a motion to start the irrigation season on April 1st; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

13. Discussion and determination of the last date to allow irrigation season changes in place of use of storage water from reservoir to reservoir as provided in and required by Section 6.1 of District Regulation No. 6

GM BRYAN stated for the past three years, less than 500 acre-feet have been transferred each year.

Vice President MASINI made a motion to set the last date for reservoir-to-reservoir transfers as April 15th and the amount not to exceed 1500 acre-feet or a number comfortable with the General Manager and Water Master; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

14. Consideration for making available and delivering well water for the District Well under Nevada State Engineer Permit No. 25813, Certificate No. 8861 to lands within the District beginning April 1, 2025

GM BRYAN stated the current rate is \$25 per acre-foot. The District well will need to be re-drilled at some point and quotes ranged from \$80-150,000, so the Board may want to increase the rate and build up funds to offset the cost when it is time to perform the work. Secretary HALTERMAN stated the cost to run the well last year was \$14 per acre-foot, so there was some money retained in the fund.

Director GIORGI made a motion to run the well and to increase the rate to \$30 per acre-foot; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

15. Review and consideration of a District Board Resolution to: (1) approve Conditional Stipulations to resolve certain protest issues regarding Application Nos. 92893 through 92899, filed by the Walker Basin Conservancy with the Nevada State Engineer to change the manner of use and place of use of certain water rights or portions of certain water rights, adjudicated by the Walker River Decree from irrigation use to instream flow for wildlife purposes from their point of diversion to Walker Lake; and (2) authorizing the District legal counsel, in consultation with the District Manager to: (a) execute each Conditional Stipulation on behalf of the District; (b) file the Conditional Stipulations with the Nevada State Engineer; and (c) take all other reasonable actions as may be necessary to implement the Conditional Stipulations, including supporting approval by the Walker River Decree Court of modifications to the Walker River Decree consistent with the Conditional Stipulations and permits issued pursuant to them.

Counsel DePAOLI stated the initial applications were filed in July 2023 with the District protesting in September 2023. Because of the timeframe required of the State Engineer to act, last year there was a stipulation to the State Engineer to postpone to July 25, 2025. Legal Counsel and management have worked with and spoken to the Conservancy to resolve these and the Board has a proposed stipulation to resolve the protests. If the protests are not resolved, the applications will proceed to a hearing. The issues related to the appropriate point of non-diversion being that the existing diversions were in multiple places. The initial proposal was to use the Strosnider gage, but that is a fair distance from the diversion locations. A proposal was made to install a gage at the Santa Margarita bridge and use that as the point of non-diversion for all water rights. There is an agreement to have

the gage put in and be the point of non-diversion with the initial funding by the Conservancy and an expectation of State Parks to fund the gage going forward. If the funding does not pass, the parties will come together to find funding. If there is no gage, the water master is not required to administer the changes. Another issue was the consumptive use portion of the rights, the East Walker Hydrographic Basin determination has a 3.5-acre feet per acre limit as the consumptive use. That was looked at and it was thought that the area should be closer to Smith and Mason Valley, but the effort and cost would exceed the benefit of requesting a change. Another concern was the protection of the consumptive use component at the diversion. The water cannot be diverted by others but will suffer losses on its way downstream from the Santa Margarita bridge. The stipulation provides losses of the consumptive piece from the Santa Margarita bridge to Strosnider will be offset by the non-consumptive component. If it is exceeded, the consumptive use portion will suffer. The Walker River Accounting Tool will account the accounting. The rights will not be increased if there are accretions. In Counsel's judgement, the proposed resolution is acceptable. Counsel DePAOLI stated the stipulation is not a waiver of any rights or positions the District might want to take on future changes, it is not a precedent for future changes and if the SE approves new permits consistent with the stipulation, the District will be obligated to support the modification of the decree consistent with the permit.

A. Public Comment

None presented.

B. Board Discussion

Treasurer NUTI asked if all of the gates would be dismantled; Peter STANTON stated that it would be a question for the State because it is on State Lands, but he did not see why they would not be.

C. Board Action

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to approve the written resolution of the Walker River Irrigation District Board accepting the conditional stipulations resolving the protests of the Walker River Irrigation District to Walker Basin Conservancy's change applications 92893-99 and to approve the directives listed in Item 15; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

16. Director Comments

President SNYDER stated Senate Bill 172 is not a water bill but does pertain to labor. The bill is requiring farmers to pay overtime. President SNYDER stated they need all the help they can get to protest the bill. Vice President MASINI stated KOLO wants to do an interview regarding the bill. Treasurer NUTI stated Capitol Press had an article stating workers are upset because they are being held to 8 hours.

17. Public Comment

None presented.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director

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