

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on September 7, 2022. 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 FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via zoom
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

**Public Present:**

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Carlie Henneman, WBC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
Don Smith		

**Public Present via Zoom:**

Wes Walker, MBK Engineers	Isaac Metcalf, NDOW	Dave Hockaday, BOCC
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**1. Public Comment**

None presented.

**2. Roll Call**

All members were present.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the August 8, 2022 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 9,617 acre-feet (23%) and Topaz was at 17,220 acre-feet (29%). The Tribe will be shutting off on the 16<sup>th</sup>. The inflow of both reservoirs is less than 40 feet and Joanne does not anticipate a big change in decree once the Tribe is off. Joanne is delivering 108 feet systemwide and once the Tribe is off, the flows will be reduced to minimum.

**5. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of August 31, 2022:

Cash in Checking	\$ 126,439.12
Cash in Money Market	\$ 537,828.52
Cash in CDs	\$ 757,568.24
Total	\$1,421,835.88

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

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Check Number</b>	<b>Post Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	100036	08/08/2022	\$429.00
Giomi, Inc.	100037	08/08/2022	\$26.38
Jim Menesini Petroleum	100038	08/08/2022	\$102.06
Lyon County Recorder	100039	08/08/2022	\$28.12
Lyon County Treasurer	100040	08/08/2022	\$46,000.00
Lyon County Treasurer	100041	08/08/2022	\$93,600.44
MF Barcellos	100042	08/08/2022	\$5,804.35
NAPA AUTO & TRUCK	100043	08/08/2022	\$453.98
NV Energy	100044	08/08/2022	\$6,032.12
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	100045	08/08/2022	\$125.69
Public Employees' Benefits Program	100046	08/08/2022	\$870.23
Purchase Power / Pitney	100047	08/08/2022	\$553.12
Sierra Office Solutions	100048	08/08/2022	\$56.55
Southwest Gas Corporation	100049	08/08/2022	\$40.48
Xerox Corporation	100050	08/08/2022	\$346.31
Ameritas Life Insurance	100051	08/29/2022	\$1,027.80
City of Yerington	100052	08/29/2022	\$111.32
Desert Research Institute	100053	08/29/2022	\$9,723.44
John Deere Credit	100054	08/29/2022	\$49.99
MBK Engineers	100055	08/29/2022	\$6,943.25
Nevada Energy Systems,	100056	08/29/2022	\$876.18
NV Energy	100057	08/29/2022	\$37.62
Quill	100058	08/29/2022	\$178.21
Sierra Office Solutions	100059	08/29/2022	\$45.47
Smith Valley Conservation District	100060	08/29/2022	\$4,002.00
Standard Insurance Company	100061	08/29/2022	\$248.78
USBWC	100062	08/29/2022	\$14,802.42

Vision Service Plan	100063	08/29/2022	\$186.05
Wells Fargo Card Services	100064	08/29/2022	\$1,436.89
Woodburn & Wedge	100065	08/29/2022	\$44,790.00
Xerox Financial Services	100066	08/29/2022	\$60.44
SV Conservation District	100067	08/29/2022	\$515.53
HomeTown Health	300002	08/31/2022	\$7,752.74
August Payroll		08/31/2022	\$42,053.06
<b>Grand Totals:</b>			\$289,310.02

President SNYDER asked what the payment to Lyon County Recorder was; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it is the annual well assessment as well as the amount that the US Forest Service and Yerington Paiute Tribe paid directly to the District. Because the USFS and YPT were originally assessed through the County, the payments should have gone to them, but since they were paid to WRID, WRID must pay the money to the County to have the tax roll corrected and then the County will pay WRID the exact amount of money back. President SNYDER asked if the Tribe was current; GM BRYAN stated they still owe for approximately 2 years. Treasurer NUTI asked if the District could take the water back; GM BRYAN stated the water cannot be taken back, but the Watermaster did deny them any water until they paid a significant amount this year. If the rest of the outstanding assessments are not paid by next year, their water will be denied again. GM BRYAN stated YPT advised that BIA was responsible for the assessments, so staff contacted BIA who confirmed that YPT has historically been and is currently responsible for the assessments. The District has made several attempts to work with YPT and Chairman Emm to get an agreement or payment plan in place for the outstanding balance, but they will not respond back to calls or emails.

Director ACCIARI 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 reported Topaz is at 17,220 acre feet (29%) and Bridgeport is at 9,617 acre feet (23%). The gage data is available in the packet. There is roughly 4,582 acre feet left to serve on the West, Main & Tunnel section and approximately 2,273 acre feet on the East. Everything is looking good and there should not be any concern on hitting the dead pool or minimum pool in either reservoir.

The shop crew is continuing to work on the drain repairs and maintenance. The crew recently went through the Saroni Canal with an excavator and a rake bucket from Peri’s to alleviate some of the moss. Only 1 mousing was performed on the Saroni this year. The District has been working with the Conservation District on spraying the drains. They sprayed the East Drain from the cemetery to Hwy 95a, the West Drain from the Colony through the Napa area, and spots on the Wabuska Drain.

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, there was a Mason Valley well users meeting. NDWR gave a presentation. It seemed to be a well-received meeting and a chance to ask questions and get answers. Part of what was suggested in that meeting was to set up a committee of well users within Mason Valley area. There are currently 8 people signed up and GM BRYAN will reach out to them next week to set up meeting to talk about the next steps.

On August 17<sup>th</sup>, GM BRYAN met with the new Acting Director of DCNR, Jim Lawrence. Jim was already a Deputy Director with DCNR so he was familiar with what is going on. There was conversation on creating the MOU and lots of interest in bringing in USGS gages. Jim was adamant in getting further information on the gages which GM BRYAN sent to him already. Jim has requested more information and that will be sent this week.

Over the last several weeks, GM BRYAN has attended County meetings regarding a couple of properties in Wabuska that are proposed solar sites. The Dan Morose property has the Wabuska and Old Wabuska drains on it. Any potential changes to this property must be evaluated for effect on the District infrastructure. The solar site will be selling energy back to NV Energy. There is a Greenlink proposal which will connect into a huge transmission line that connect Las Vegas, Reno, and Ely. That is a lengthy process and will not begin until 2028. President SNYDER asked about the solar site that is adjacent to our property; GM BRYAN stated it is going to be a solar and geothermal facility. There is a proposed solar data center to be built on the property. Lyon County has granted a special use permit on both properties and GM BRYAN will keep the Board notified of any changes. Vice President MASINI asked what the easement was on the Wabuska Drain; GM BRYAN stated it is 150 feet.

The Saroni Canal Local #4 Annual Meeting has been scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am at the Smith Valley Courthouse. The agenda will be posted later this week and the packet will be sent after that.

We were scheduled to have the FY22 financial audit, but the report was not ready. The auditors are planning to present at the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel FERGUSON stated he did not have anything to report.

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

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

**F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

Wes WALKER reported the SWLP began on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and ended in Bridgeport on August 10<sup>th</sup> and Topaz on August 11<sup>th</sup>. The last day of leased water at Wabuska was August 14<sup>th</sup>. Wes stated 914 of the 2,097 acre feet enrolled was delivered to Wabuska. The 44-45% of the program water delivered was in line with loss conditions. Director GIORGI asked how much of the 914 acre feet made it to Weber Reservoir; Wes stated that he did not have the exact numbers. Carlie stated a good amount makes it to Weber, but the problem is below Little Dam. There are a lot of problems in the lower sections. Carlie stated there has been approximately 2,300 acre feet at Wabuska but only 185 acre feet made it to Walker Lake. The amount is similar to last year but the water is disappearing in the Little Dame/Schurz section. The Conservancy is working with USGS to find out where the water is going. President SNYDER confirmed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the water that leaves Wabuska is reaching Weber; Carlie confirmed. Carlie stated less water is making it to Walker Lake even though more water is being sent.

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

No representative was present. Director GIORGI asked if they will be scheduling a big meeting soon; GM BRYAN stated they will most likely be scheduling the meeting for this fall.

**7. 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 Conservancy leased approximately 1,000 acre feet to 9 users. The Conservancy is hiring a Water Program Manager. President SNYDER asked what the salary range is; Carlie believes it is \$55-69,000. Treasurer NUTI asked if a degree is required; Carlie stated a bachelor's degree is preferred but they are looking for someone who is interested and motivated.

**8. Review and discussion of NV Energy's proposed purchase of 0.63 acres of a portion of Douglas County APN 1022-29-201-002 for Topaz substation upgrades, 0.24 acres of an easement for a distribution powerline, also on Douglas County APN 1022-29-201-002, 0.05 acres of an access and grading easement, also on Douglas County APN 1022-29-201-002, for a total purchase price of \$78,700.00 and direction to General Manager and legal counsel with respect thereto.**

GM BRYAN stated he has collaborated with legal counsel to create the re-alignment maps for the power line as requested in the previous meeting. The options have been submitted to NV Energy but they have not responded yet.

Director GIORGI asked if there was a due date for the project; GM BRYAN stated there was a due date originally for last year, then they were hoping for this November, but now it is as soon as possible.

Vice President MASINI made the recommendation to table the item as long as a decision is made next month; all were in agreeance.

**9. Director Comments**

None presented.

**10. Public Comment**

Don SMITH stated a lot of leased water has been sent to Walker Lake but seems to be lost somewhere between Wabuska and the Lake. Don requested to know why the District and other agencies are not concerned about finding out where that water is going. Don requested the topic be a monthly agenda item for the Conservancy to be accountable for where all the water is going. GM BRYAN stated there is currently a monthly agenda item for the Walker Basin Conservancy to give a report. Carlie HENNEMAN stated that USGS has assured her that the water is not lost; it is still in the system somewhere but they do not know where. Carlie offered to talk with Don after the meeting to answer questions.

**11. Adjournment**

Vice President MASINI 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

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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