

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on December 9, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by Vice President MASINI.

Present:

Marcus MASINI	Vice President
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary

Public Present:

Wyatt Fereday, NSE	Sarah Fichtner, NSE	Silas Adams, WBC
Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Kaitlin Constantine, Summit
Wesley Walker, MBK	Lee Bergfeld, MBK	Kip Allander, USGS
Steven Fulstone		

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

President SNYDER and Director ACCIARI were absent.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the November 7, 2019 Regular Meeting

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

4. Water Master's Report

Water Master SARKISIAN advised water is being stored in both reservoirs at an average of 100 acre-feet per day. Bridgeport is currently at 19,280 acre-feet (46%) and Topaz is at 23,820 acre-feet (40%). Bridgeport is at minimum release of 20.2 and Topaz at 9. We are getting snow and are at 147% of average in the basin.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of November 30, 2019:

Cash in Checking:	\$ 171,702.14
Cash in Money Market	\$1,316,277.40
Cash in CDs	<u>\$1,082,598.12</u>
Total	\$2,570,577.66

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

November 2019 Bills & Payroll

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
121166	11/7/2019	AT&T Mobility	\$ 116.14
121167	11/7/2019	Mason Valley Quicknet	\$ 410.00
121168	11/7/2019	NV Energy	\$ 267.23
121169	11/7/2019	Southwest Gas	\$ 132.15
121170	11/7/2019	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$ 5,073.27
121171	11/14/2019	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 907.60
121172	11/14/2019	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	\$ 178.95
121173	11/14/2019	Giomi, Inc.	\$ 229.83
121174	11/14/2019	AT&T	\$ 153.50
121175	11/14/2019	John Deere Credit	\$ 43.34
121176	11/14/2019	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK	\$ 354.52
121177	11/14/2019	Lyon County Recorder	\$ 28.20
121178	11/14/2019	MF Barcellos	\$ 2,641.92
121179	11/14/2019	True Value	\$ 12.87
121180	11/14/2019	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$ 262.76
121181	11/14/2019	Public Employees' Benefits	\$ 870.23
121182	11/14/2019	Purchase Power / Pitney	\$ 169.97
121183	11/14/2019	Quill	\$ 405.86
121184	11/14/2019	California Dept. of Water	VOID
121185	11/14/2019	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$ 485.26
121186	11/14/2019	Alhambra	\$ 48.66
121187	11/14/2019	Verizon Wireless	\$ 463.90
121188	11/14/2019	Woodburn & Wedge	\$ 25,099.20
121189	11/14/2019	City of Yerington	\$ 258.97
121190	11/14/2019	Desert Research Institute	\$ 13,421.03
121191	11/14/2019	Sierra Office Solutions	\$ 84.79
121192	11/22/2019	California Dept of Tax and	\$ 9,183.25
121193	11/25/2019	PERS Administrative Fund	\$ 6,980.88
121194	11/25/2019	USBWC	\$ 161,415.76
121195	11/25/2019	ABILA	\$ 177.75
121196	11/25/2019	Nevada Employment	\$ 14.64
121197	11/25/2019	Quill	\$ 158.44
121198	11/25/2019	Sciarani & Co.	\$ 10,000.00
121199	11/25/2019	NV Energy	\$ 13.27
121200	11/25/2019	Standard Insurance	\$ 242.47
121201	11/25/2019	Tyres International	\$ 441.29
121202	11/25/2019	Vision Service Plan -	\$ 333.73
121203	11/25/2019	HomeTown Health	\$ 5,818.13

121204	11/25/2019	MARINA MARSHALL	\$	12,108.39
PAYROLL		NOVEMBER PAYROLL	\$	33,487.54

Total bills & payroll \$ 292,495.69

Vice President MASINI inquired about the Sciarani & Co bill; GM BRYAN advised it is the second half of the audit payment.

Director GIORGI 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 reported that Topaz is at 40% capacity with 23,800 acre-feet and Bridgeport is at 45% capacity with 19,260 acre-feet. Since November 1st, we’ve stored 5,550 acre-feet in Topaz and 6,000 acre-feet in Bridgeport.

The shop crew has been working on the Saroni Pipeline Project. They have completed prep work and changed landscape but are now moving pipe to the project location. The crew has be re-routed to the East Drain to replace the culvert under the railroad. The crew has until the end of the week to complete the project as there will be trains coming through.

On November 18th, GM BRYAN met with MBK, WBC, USGS, DRI and NDWR to discuss the technical aspects of the Stored Water Leasing Program.

California Safety Dams performed an inspection of Bridgeport on November 19th. Everything went relatively well, but two gates are slipping and are not operational. The stems are spinning due to the lock nut slipping and not catching the stem to raise and lower the gate. The final report has not been received, but we sent photos showing the gates are open. Nevada Safety Dams will be doing the inspection on Topaz tomorrow.

At last month’s meeting, it was brought up that the City of Yerington wanted to switch ownership of the sign on the northwest corner of the property. The City Council decided to not put the topic on the agenda at this time and will let us know when they want to address it.

On November 22nd, GM BRYAN and Secretary HALTERMAN met with NRCS staff to get a better understanding of our role in the Watershed grant. The meeting was very helpful to meet the staff in person and discuss the grant in more detail. There is a meeting Friday December 13th here at the District to ‘kickoff’ the grant. The representatives from NRCS, ITRC and WEST Consulting will be here to discuss the next steps. A public meeting will be scheduled after Friday’s meeting to allow the public and cooperators to ask questions.

In the packet there is a flyer for the property to the south of the office (400 N Main St). Over the course of the past several decades, the District has looked at the

options of expanding the property. The District has outgrown the current footprint and a list of the current challenges are provided in the packet. The staff met with the realtors and did a walk through last week. The lot is comparable to what the District has now, the building is very rough, but the location is prime. The Armory is deeded to the City and, unless the City does not want the building, it is not an option for the District. The biggest issue that the District faces right now is the inadequate storage of historical maps and documents. Currently, the maps are stored in the office, in the shop and in the two storage trailers in the yard. The State has been gracious enough to scan the maps, so some of them are at their office still. Vice President MASINI inquired whether both buildings were included in the purchase of the lot; GM BRYAN stated yes- the property includes both buildings and the lot goes from WRID property on the north to the NDOT yard on the south side. There are many options with the lot, but the building seems to be in bad shape. The tire company and a karate shop are current tenants. If the Board would like, an appraisal could be obtained, and a tour can be set up if requested. Director GIORGI inquired what the mine (Nevada Copper) was doing with the property in Wabuska; GM BRYAN stated the Special Use Permit has been issued, but no permanent work has been started. Director GIORGI asked if a payment has been made; GM BRYAN stated yes. Treasurer NUTI inquired if there is a benefit to staying in the City versus being in the County; GM BRYAN stated the main benefit is being centrally located. Prior administration considered purchasing property on Hudson Aurora, but it was never finalized. GM BRYAN stated the owner of 400 N Main would consider trading land. The District owns land in various places throughout the District.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI reported he has no information on a hearing in the Supreme Court on the Mineral County matter. He expects to hear something after the 1st of the year. Regarding the Tribe US litigation, there is a meeting tomorrow with their counsel to continue to work on the schedule which at this point is going out two years or longer. There is a status conference on December 18th. Once there is a better feel for scheduling, Counsel DePAOLI will set up an attorney/client meeting to go over what has happened and what is going to happen. It does appear there will potentially be activity once the schedule is worked out.

6. Presentation and update by MBK on 2019 WRID Storage Water Leasing Program

Wes WALKER presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Accounting Tool. WRID, WBC, USBWC and MBK worked together to make the Accounting Tool work to track the Program Water. Wes explained how the Accounting Tool worked. The Tool showed losses from the Reservoir to the District boundaries per USGS gage sites. Treasurer NUTI questioned the accuracy of the gages when creeks enter the river system as there is a 'zero' loss on the East Walker River; Wes advised they can only use the numbers available at the reservoirs and gage sites. GM BRYAN stated the creeks are used to supplement the decree just as it would if there were no Program Water, therefore the 'zero' loss on the East Walker is due to the creeks entering the system and making up for the losses. GM BRYAN stated on a low water year, the losses would be more evident. Wes presented graphs on daily

releases and losses throughout the program. After the losses were subtracted, 13,400 acre-feet made it to Wabuska (76% of total released volume). Wes advised working with multiple agencies improved communication and coordination, identified the loss areas of the system and resulted in a data set for the 2019 operations. Lee stated this pilot year was a great way to identify what changes/improvements must be made to the Tool for the upcoming years.

7. Presentation and update by USGS on 2019 Lower Conveyance Agreement and deliveries to Walker Lake

Kip ALLANDER presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Lower Walker River Accounting System. The Lower Walker River Accounting System was originally developed in 2014 to implement a conveyance agreement between Walker River Paiute Tribe, Bureau of Indian Affairs and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to track the Program water from the Wabuska Gage to Walker Lake. The major principles of the System are based on the USGS daily flow and the Weber Reservoir levels. For the Program water, the gains and losses were equally shared between the Tribe and the Program. Program water that entered the reservoir was released the next day with a shared amount of gain/loss. Treasurer NUTI asked who tracked the water once it left Weber Reservoir; Kip advised the System and Walker Basin Conservancy tracked the water until it was delivered to Walker Lake. The System is completely automated and is updated daily. The numbers are publicly available on the USGS website along with the Walker River Basin hydro mapper. Kip reported 14,385 acre-feet was delivered to Walker Lake. Director GIORGI inquired how much the lake level increased due to the Program water; Kip advised approximately ½ foot in elevation.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY reported increasing groundwater levels have helped maintain deliveries to Walker Lake. Two weeks ago, Wyatt and Kerry measured ground water levels. Generally, the levels are up approximately 2 feet and they are expected to rise more over the winter. There were approximately one dozen wells still pumping, so the Fall measurements are not as reliable as the spring measurements will be. Wyatt will update the Board on the Spring to Spring measurements. The only place where the levels did not rise was north of Artesia Lake, but it is not surprising as the river does not flow through the area and the pivots pump from that location. Total pumping through October for Mason Valley was 21,272 acre-feet and Smith Valley was 15,286 acre-feet for a total of 36,558 acre-feet but that does not include some of the smaller irrigation wells or the wells that were still pumping. Director GIORGI inquired if there were letters sent out for over pumping; Wyatt advised there were approximately 10 over-pumping letters, 12-15 supplemental enforcement letters and at least 10 meter letters sent.

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

Silas ADAMS reported on December 2nd they will close on an acquisition of 10.26 cfs and 234.89 acre-feet. They are happy to have the acquisition complete as it has been in the works for a couple of years.

10. Report and approval concerning necessity to immediately perform engineering, obtain materials and conduct work necessary to repair and maintain the outlet gates and related appurtenances located at Bridgeport Reservoir (the “Bridgeport Outlet Gates Rehabilitation Phase 1 Project”)

GM BRYAN stated there is a memo from ITRC to take the approach of the Bridgeport Gatehouse differently than Topaz. Instead of replacing the entire stem structure, the memo suggests leaving the stem and only modifying the lock structure in the Gatehouse. Instead of allowing the stem to rotate, an encased lock nut would be installed resulting in lifting the stem in its entirety. The gates have been inspected and the gates and stems are not compromised and do not need to be replaced. Based on the initial report, the material for the retro was roughly \$67,000. An updated quote for the gate pieces rose approximately \$1,000. GM BRYAN recommends the report is followed closely since the modification will be filed in Nevada and California. Phase 1 will fix the current problem, but for the future, we will apply for grants to replace the gas powered generator with electric and automate the gates like Topaz. GM BRYAN has reached out to Southern California Edison for quotes on getting electricity to the Gatehouse, but no one has returned the call. Alternative powered options are not feasible as restrictions have been placed on propane and solar does not provide enough strength to operate the gates. Treasurer NUTI asked if the gates can be operated manually; GM BRYAN stated yes, the gates will have a hand wheel for manual operation. Director GIORGI asked if any work must be done in the discharge tube; GM BRYAN stated Phase 1 does not include any underwater work, but if needed, we would use the divers that were used in Topaz. Vice President MASINI inquired about the price for Phase 1; GM BRYAN stated we would need to get two bids and, so far, there is not a cost estimate available. Treasurer NUTI questioned whether Phase 1 would make all 6 gates operable; GM BRYAN stated all the gates would be operational upon completion of the phase. Director GIORGI questioned what fund the money would come out of; GM BRYAN advised funds from the Reservoir Fund will be used. Secretary HALTERMAN stated there are grant opportunities currently available, but they are not funded until mid to late next year and no work can be completed until the funds are awarded and a NEPA study is performed. GM BRYAN stated Phase 1 can be completed with Reservoir Funds and future phases can be funded by grant money. GM BRYAN also stated future phases allow for full automation. Treasurer NUTI asked what the Reservoir Fund balance currently is; Secretary HALTERMAN advised there is approximately \$800,000 in the fund. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to accept the ITRC report; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

11. Authorize the District Manager to enter into the necessary agreements with Contractors, Municipal Treatment Equipment, Inc., and Civil Engineer Stuart Styles / ITRC-Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, in order to perform the engineering, obtain the materials, and conduct the work necessary to complete the Bridgeport Outlet Gates Rehabilitation Phase 1 Project

GM BRYAN stated he will solicit bids from Syblon Reid and one other company per NRS. He will also consult with Legal on the appropriate steps for completing the project. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to proceed with Phase 1 as per the ITRC Report; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

12. Director Comments

None presented.

13. Public Comment

None presented.

14. Adjournment

Director GIORGI made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

ABSENT
Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

ABSENT
Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director