

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on May 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, via phone
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via phone
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary, via phone

**Public Present:**

**Public Present via phone:**

Dave Hockaday	Silas Adams, WBC	Stacey Verboom
Rob Lewis		

**1. Public Comment**

None.

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

All members present with Director ACCIARI and legal counsel on the phone.

**3. Declaration of Directors Pursuant to NRS 539.117**

Secretary HALTERMAN advised Marcus Masini and Dennis Acciari retain their seats for District 1 and 5, respectively. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to accept the declaration of Directors for Districts 1 and 5; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**4. Oath of Office for newly elected Directors and presentation of Certificates of Election.**

President SNYDER read the Oath of Office out loud with Vice President MASINI and Director ACCIARI verbally accepting.

**5. The Board of Directors will organize and elect a President.**

Director GIORGI made a motion to retain the same President; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed with President SNYDER retaining his seat.

**6. The Board of Directors will organize and elect a Vice-President.**

Director GIORGI made a motion to retain the same Vice-President; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed with Vice President MASINI retaining his seat.

**7. The Board of Directors will organize and appoint a Secretary who need not be a member of the Board and who also may be the Treasurer.**

Director GIORGI made a motion to retain the same Secretary; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed with Secretary HALTERMAN retaining her seat.

**8. The Board of Directors will organize and appoint a Treasurer who need not be a member of the Board and who may also be the Secretary.**

Director GIORGI made a motion to retain the same Treasurer; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed with Treasurer NUTI retaining his seat.

**9. Consideration of Minutes of the April 7, 2021 Regular Meeting**

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

**10. Water Master's Report**

Joanne SARKISIAN reported the decree will go to Full on the Main, Tunnel and West effective 5/8 with the East remaining at an 1863. Director GIORGI asked if water will be stored in Topaz during full decree; Joanne confirmed. Joanne stated 375cfs was being released from Topaz today and 35.3cfs from Bridgeport. Including the upcoming weekend, the season's deliveries will total 20,541 acre-feet of decree and 1,016 acre-feet of storage. The numbers are still ahead in Topaz from the March numbers and, starting today, as much water will be stored as possible. Joanne stated running the well for June and July is not a certainty, but she will keep it running as long as possible.

**11. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of April 30, 2021:

Cash in Checking	\$ 228,903.74
Cash in Money Market	\$ 807,082.61
Cash in CDs	\$ 749,661.39
Total	\$1,785,647.74

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

***April 2021 Bills & Payroll***

<u>Check</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
121960	4/7/2021	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$ 907.60

121961	4/7/2021	VOID		VOID
121962	4/7/2021	Sticks and Stones Buildings	\$	27.00
121963	4/7/2021	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK	\$	10.99
121964	4/7/2021	MBK Engineers	\$	3,615.25
121965	4/7/2021	True Value	\$	15.99
121966	4/7/2021	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$	78.13
121967	4/7/2021	Power Plan	\$	703.21
121968	4/7/2021	Public Employees' Benefits	\$	870.23
121969	4/7/2021	Purchase Power / Pitney	\$	604.50
121970	4/7/2021	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$	129.64
121971	4/7/2021	NV Energy	\$	255.64
121972	4/7/2021	Southwest Gas Corporation	\$	234.00
121973	4/7/2021	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$	1,911.11
121974	4/7/2021	Desert Research Institute	\$	15,000.00
121975	4/12/2021	Nevada Employment Sec	\$	1,734.00
121976	4/12/2021	Xerox Financial Services	\$	376.83
121977	4/12/2021	Mason Valley Tire	\$	28.00
121978	4/13/2021	AFLAC	\$	35.70
121979	4/13/2021	Giomi, Inc.	\$	288.26
121980	4/13/2021	AT&T	\$	159.74
121981	4/13/2021	John Deere Credit	\$	119.90
121982	4/13/2021	PUMP CHECK	\$	1,415.86
121983	4/13/2021	Quill	\$	143.36
121984	4/13/2021	Reno Gazette Journal	\$	95.48
121985	4/13/2021	U.S. Geological Survey	\$	13,502.00
121986	4/13/2021	City of Yerington	\$	121.07
121987	4/28/2021	ABILA Dept 3303	\$	391.96
121988	4/28/2021	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	\$	113,280.00
121989	4/28/2021	Lyon County Recorder	\$	39.40
121990	4/28/2021	MBK Engineers	\$	2,311.00
121991	4/28/2021	MF Barcellos	\$	3,003.96
121992	4/28/2021	Power Plan	\$	17.34
121993	4/28/2021	Quill	\$	992.89

121994	4/28/2021	NV Energy	\$	3,575.81
121995	4/28/2021	Alhambra	\$	210.83
121996	4/28/2021	Standard Insurance Co	\$	234.52
121997	4/28/2021	Verizon Wireless	\$	403.01
121998	4/28/2021	Vision Service Plan	\$	186.05
121999	4/28/2021	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	32,827.47
122000	4/28/2021	HomeTown Health	\$	7,421.23
122001	4/28/2021	Desert Engineering	\$	340.48
122002	4/28/2021	Desert Research Institute	\$	17,831.58
PAYROLL	4/30/2021	APRIL PAYROLL	\$	39,747.49
<b>Total Bills &amp; Payroll</b>				<b>\$ 265,198.51</b>

Director GIORGI asked if the Pump Check payments were from the well; GM BRYAN confirmed they were for the replaced meter and for John Lee to come out twice. Director GIORGI questioned if everyone had paid for their well water; GM BRYAN advised everyone had paid.

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

**C. Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN reported Bridgeport is currently at 13,540 acre-feet (32%) and Topaz is at 18,380 acre-feet (31%). There is printed presentation from Tim Bardsley in the packet. Highlights include:

- The basin is currently at 60% of average for precipitation and the SWE is 38% of average.
- The peak was 68% of the median peak and was a couple days early. The current conditions are comparable to 2012/13.
- Current snowpack is similar to last year.
- Soil moisture is dipping back down to near record low and is similar to 2015.
- Average temp at Leavitt Lake was 50 degrees but it is expected to freeze again.
- No atmospheric river on the horizon.
- May-June forecast is dry and warm.
- There are charts that compare the observed and expected river flows.

GM BRYAN stated the shop crew has replaced failed culverts on the Masini Drain. The crew has been performing repairs and maintenance on the drains in town. Some residents near Kari Lane in Smith Valley were calling with concerns, so the crew burned in that area. Yesterday, the crew began working on repairs and maintenance at the Topaz diversion and dam.

GM BRYAN attended the first Nevada Supreme Court meeting on water adjudication on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was led by Chief Justice Hardesty and was very informative. It is a diverse group of people ranging from lawyers, judges, irrigation districts, and rural representation. The next meetings have been scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> at 1pm and August 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. The meetings are open to the public and GM BRYAN will keep the Board up to date.

GM BRYAN gave a legislation update.

- AB5 died in the Assembly.
- AB6 passed in the Assembly and has been heard by the Senate Committee.
- AB146 passed in the Assembly and Senate as amended.
- AB354 failed in the Assembly.
- AB356 was amended and passed in the Assembly and is currently at the Senate Committee.

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, GM BRYAN participated in an EAP workshop hosted by the Nevada Silver Jackets. The meeting was interesting as the expectations for the EAP in Nevada were discussed. The District's EAPs currently meet or exceed the Nevada requirements as California's requirements are much more in depth.

GM BRYAN received an email from Ken Tate from UC Davis. He is working with the Bridgeport Ranchers Association and there is a meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup> at 10am to discuss the e-coli standards in Bridgeport. The meeting will be at the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board in South Lake Tahoe, but GM BRYAN has emailed a web link to the Board for anyone who is interested in listening.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel FERGUSON reported the Federal Magistrate held a status conference on April 28<sup>th</sup> to address the Mineral County case as remanded. Two items that will be occurring came out of the status conference. The first was a request to try to put in place an electronic service mechanism like what is currently present in the US and Tribe litigation. The Federal Magistrate would like to have parties put that in place as soon as possible. Counsel will be submitting a draft order by June 2<sup>nd</sup>. The second item is that Mineral County's current complaint requests only for the reallocation of water rights which the Nevada Supreme Court said was not allowed. Mineral County will need to file a 2<sup>nd</sup> amended complaint that states any of their claims for water for Walker Lake do not involve reallocation of water rights. Their amendment is required to be filed by June 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

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

**F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

GM BRYAN reported the April 30<sup>th</sup> sign-up deadline has passed. The finalized agreements must be received by May 21<sup>st</sup>. Currently, there is 713.4554 acre-feet of water in the Program from 51 different users. Walker Basin Conservancy is 13 out of the 51 users and has contributed 527.6421 acre-feet to the Program. The only way the amount will change is if someone withdraws their application before May 21<sup>st</sup> or the District receives an application that is post marked prior to April 30<sup>th</sup>.

During last month's meeting, there was a request to have an item on the agenda to discuss the reimbursement and the Program continuing, but the reimbursement was received.

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

GM BRYAN read an email from Wyatt Fereday stating:

'Just a one update on my end. First, Kerry Garcia retired (well-deserved) on April 9<sup>th</sup>. We hope to fill his position within a few months. In the meantime, we are without our field presence, so we are relying heavily on groundwater users to report their meter readings to us on the website. Because of his retirement, we do not have the usual April pumpage totals to report. We appreciate you all spreading the word on the monthly self-reporting. I will be in the field ideally by mid irrigation season to check on meters that have not been reporting on, and then again at the end of the season to all sites that haven't reported. I wanted to say thanks to all who have sent in their meter forms and are now entering their monthly readings to the website.'

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

Silas stated the Conservancy put as much water into the Storage Water Leasing Program as possible. The in-stream flow program has delivered approximately 43.2 acre-feet into Walker Lake. Silas will have finalized numbers at the end of the season.

GM BRYAN questioned if there was any progress in hiring a new Director; Silas stated they are in the process of interviewing and will hopefully have a new Director in June.

**14. Consideration of petition defining the boundaries of and requesting the District Board of Directors to form Local Improvement District No. 5 to acquire, operate, maintain, repair, and improve the Simpson-Colony Ditch and Canal.**

GM BRYAN stated there is a copy of the petition, legal description, and maps in the Board packet. At least 50% of the votes were needed to sign the petition, 52.5% of the votes (68.3% of water righted acres) are represented in the signatures. The Colony Ditch had their meeting in March and unanimously voted to sign over the canal to the District. A resolution has also been drafted if the Board approves the item. The next step would be to hold an election where 2/3 of the water righted acres must be in favor of becoming a Local Improvement District.

Director GIORGI made a motion to approve the petition to form Local Improvement District No. 5 to acquire, operate, maintain, repair, and improve the Simpson-Colony Ditch and Canal and to authorize President SNYDER to sign the Resolution; Treasurer NUTI offered a second to the motion. The vote was called for and passed.

**15. Annual review on the performance of the Walker River Irrigation District General Manager Robert C. Bryan and consideration of possible adjustment in compensation.** Counsel FERGUSON requested the item be tabled until next month as the review was not completed yet.

**16. Director Comments**  
None presented.

**17. Public Comment**  
None presented.

**18. Adjournment**  
Vice President MASINI made a motion to adjourn; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 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