**December 20, 2016**

A special meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on December 20, 2016. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM at the district board room, 410 N Main St, Yerington, Nevada by Vice President Dave GIORGI.

**Present:**

Jim SNYDER President

David GIORGI Vice President

Richard NUTI Treasurer

David LITTLE Director

Bridget BANTA Secretary

Robert BRYAN General Manager

Robert MARTINEZ Water Master

Gordon DEPAOLI Legal Counsel

**Public Present:**

Steven Fulstone Joy Morris

**Public Comment:**

GM BRYAN advised he was approached by giga city, they are an internet fiber optic provider. They have offered WRID to be a partner with them to use our facilities and able to stream video from all the automated sites and improve the connectivity of the district. They have given WRID a quote and it is more than WRID is currently paying for the internet service. Currently there is issues with the connectivity and the gates will not move if the connection is interrupted. Director LITTLE requested to know what Gigacity gets out of the deal. GM BRYAN advised they would have access to our fiber optic line. He advised they will have an opportunity to use some of our towers in Smith Valley and at the WRID office. Director LITTLE suggested GM BRYAN come back with a smaller offer. Counsel DEPAOLI requested to know what the agreement would be. GM BRYAN advised for 3 years and then the contract would have to renew.

**Roll Call and Determination of Quorum:**

There are 4 members present. Director Dennis ACCIARI absent.

**Review and discussion and possible approval and/or revision of October 3, 2016 draft Revised Walker River Irrigation District Rules and Regulations Governing the Distribution and Use of Water and resolution related to Bylaws of Walker River Irrigation District.**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised he would go over the changes from the last meeting and point them out to the board.

**Section 5.9 Notice of Turn-Offs.**

GM BRYAN advised the main person affected would be the water master. Water Master Martinez advised it depends on the amount. If it’s too late of notice, especially on the main, the water will go past the weir and cause issues. He would like to see at least 24 hours. President SNYDER requested to know if the user will be charged for the water if it is less than the hours written in the regulation. GM BRYAN advised no. The directors agreed on 24 hours’ notice.

**Section 6.2 Applications for Irrigation Season Changes to Stored Water.**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised he added the word business after 10.

**Section 6.5 Changes to Land Without an Appurtenant Surface Water Rights.**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised the board decided not to allow water to go to land without water rights. Director LITTLE advised this is a huge advantage to allow water to be moved around. GM BRYAN advised there is not a user number to associate with the non-water righted ground, therefor no way to log correct water usage.

**Section 6A.7 Approval or Rejection.**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised he added section (f): *Any supplemental groundwater right appurtenant to the existing place of use as been finally approved for use at the new place of use.* Director LITTLE requested to know how this will affect NFWF and the leasing of water. GM BRYAN advised it would still be within the district boundaries. Counsel DEPAOLI explained the regulations under the court rules, WRID only has the authority to deal with the changes that are strictly within the district boundaries and does not have a change of use. WRID would have to obtain California’s okay and this rule does not apply to NFWF, it would apply farmer-to-farmer. The state engineer is the one to decide where supplemental water rights will be moved. Director LITTLE confirmed the section could be changed later if the board so decided to. Counsel DEPAOLI advised that was correct.

**Section 9.3 District Stored Water**

*The commencement of the season for the delivery of storage water shall be established by the Board of Directors of the District at its regular monthly meeting in March of each year, and shall end on October 31st.* Vice President GIORGI confirmed the dates can be changed if they chose. GM BRYAN advised that was correct.

**Section 11.2 District Reports to Water Users**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised if someone sees a problem in their water use, they have 30 days to contact the district to get the issue resolved.

**Regulation No. 13A Allocation of Ditch Capacity in District Owned Ditches for Delivery of District State Certificated Surface Water**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised he added the section to the regulations to read: *When District State Certificated Surface Water is in priority of delivery, and capacity in District owned ditches is limited, the capacity allocated to each water user shall be the quotient of that water user’s total water right acres served by that ditch divided by the total water right acres served by that ditch.*

GM BRYAN explained this only pertains to the Saroni and High ditches. Steven Fulstone advised there are times when the Saroni cannot handle all the demand on it. He stated historically, they would always allow the decree, and if there is not enough room for the Newlands, they would prorate it by the number of acres or rotate the water. Decree comes first and the storage users would have to decide to rotate amongst each other in the ditches. Counsel DEPAOLI advised when the state certificated water is in priority for diversion, he would think people would be taking that water before they would be calling for decree. That is how he wrote this regulation. Director LITTLE suggested the regulation is not necessary at this point. There is too much controversy to write this in the regulation. Steven Fulstone advised this regulation may cause more confusion than it is worth. Treasurer NUTI agreed to leave the regulation out. President SNYDER advised he doesn’t believe the district should get involved in telling a ditch company how to run the ditch. He advised they always work it out amongst themselves. Director LITTLE advised if the farmers cannot get along, they need to simply follow water law.

**Section 11.3 Information Obtained From Chief Deputy Water Commissioner.**

Water Master Martinez brought the wording up on the section and has an issue with “*District will obtain...”*  He suggested the wording be changed to “*District shall request….”* The directors all agreed to the wording.

Counsel DEPAOLI advised he thinks there should be a table of contents added to the beginning of the rules and regulations. If the board is in a spot where the directors can approve the regulations from the December 13 2016 draft and with the additions and the deletion of 13A and section 11.3. Director LITTLE made a motion to approve the December 13, 2016 draft with the addition of 24 hours in 5.9 and the deletion of regulation of 13a and the change in 11.3. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Consideration and approval of resolution extending the effectiveness of Regulation 14, Temporary Changes to Stored Water Rights for Beneficial Use at Walker Lake for a specific period of time.**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised back in 2011, the district appointed a committee to work on a regulation to implement the leasing program. There was $25 million allocated for the leasing program which turned out to be limited to stored water. The committee working with the district came up with regulation 1. The regulation was approved on January 6, 2012. It essentially says the regulation would expire in 5 years from the time the regulation was approved unless the board voted to extend the regulation. After the regulation was approved, to implement we must change the manner and place of use. A temporary change was filed to make that happen with the California Water Resources Board. WRID does not need it to be permanent because it is a temporary leasing program. Permanent change would require an environmental impact statement and would be a lengthy expensive process. The court did not approve the program and is on appeal and the decision will not be made until late next year. There is a grant in place with NFWF for the lease program and an amendment with the water measure and control program and the ongoing reservoir study through this grant. NFWF thought they could establish a $150 per acre foot lease price. The leasing program is completely voluntary. NFWF and the water users will want to take another look at the price prior to agreeing on a price. Counsel DEPAOLI advised the time needs to be extended on the leasing program if the board will allow it. He advised he believes NFWF would like to be finished by 2024. Joy Morris advised the grant from reclamation expires September 2024. Director LITTLE suggested the date be extended to the date NFWF will need it by. President SNYDER agreed. Treasurer NUTI asked if any of the changes in the rules and regulations would affect regulation 14. Counsel DEPAOLI advised the only change in regulation 14 was the movement of the definitions. Director LITTLE made a motion to extend the date to September 30, 2024. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. The regulation was extended.

**Director Comments:**

Treasurer NUTI requested to know if it was possible to get a report on the Saroni and where the projects stand. GM BRYAN advised he will give an update in the next meeting. He has a meeting scheduled with TCID and the aqualast representative on January 5, 2016. He is waiting for Stewart Styles to get back to him regarding the capacity of the Saroni and the size of the pipe to be needed. GM BRYAN advised if they can go from the bend to the washout bridge. Treasurer NUTI advised if they can put a pipe in that section, the problem is solved forever. GM BRYAN advised he would like to set up an advisory board meeting regarding the pipe.

Director LITTLE requested to know when the next regular meeting will be. GM BRYAN advised it will be Monday, January 9.

**Public Comment:**

Joy Morris advised of an update, beginning January 1st all the Walker Basin on the ground will be taken over by the Walker Basin Conservancy. She advised the director of that project is Jeff Bryant. She advised herself and Ashley Dowding will be employed at the Walker Basin Conservancy. She advised Jeff Dengle has moved on and his last day is today. He has accepted a job in Washington State. All the on the ground staff will be employed by the Walker Basin Conservancy. Vice President GIORGI asked if the Conservancy will oversee the acquisitions. Joy Morris advised eventually. GM BRYAN requested to know if the agenda item should be changed. Joy Morris advised it should be changed to updates on the Walker Basin Restoration Program.

**Adjournment:**

Director LITTLE made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.

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Jim Snyder, President David Giorgi, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer David Little, Director

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Dennis Acciari, Director