

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on July 7, 2023. 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
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager, via Zoom
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via Zoom

**Public Present:**

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Carlie Henneman, WBC	Kat Dow, WBC
AJ Jensby, NDWR	Jodi Roan, NDWR	Bill Kling, SV/MVCD
Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD		

**Public Present via Zoom:**

Wes Walker, MBK Engineers	Dave Hockaday, LCBOCC	Shawn Stavang
John Peters, Mono County	Jeff Freeman, NDOT	

**1. Public Comment**

None presented.

**2. Roll Call**

All 5 board members were present.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the June 7, 2023 Regular Meeting**

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

**4. Water Master's Report**

Joanne SARKISIAN reported that the reservoirs are continuing to store water. There was a change at the diversion to allow more water to go into the reservoir. The release at Topaz was 997cfs and Bridgeport release was 920cfs. Joanne was delivering 700cfs systemwide. Bridgeport Reservoir was at 56% capacity and Topaz was at 66% capacity. The current flow at the Snyder Bridge was 2200cfs. President SNYDER asked we were past the peak; Joanne stated yes.

**6. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of June 30, 2023:

Cash in Checking	\$ 87,954.00
Cash in Money Market	\$ 625,701.90
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 757,568.24</u>
Total	\$1,471,224.14

**B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment**  
**June 2023 Bills & Payroll**

PAYEE	CHECK #	DATE	AMOUNT
Ameritas Life Insurance	100427	06/14/2023	\$ 2,173.40
City of Yerington	100428	06/14/2023	\$ 134.00
Desert Research Institute	100429	06/14/2023	\$ 15,193.81
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	100430	06/14/2023	\$ 9,760.00
Giomi, Inc.	100431	06/14/2023	\$ 161.62
Jim Menesini Petroleum	100432	06/14/2023	\$ 801.06
John Deere Credit	100433	06/14/2023	\$ 3.50
Lyon County Recorder	100434	06/14/2023	\$ 45.00
Marianne Leinassar	100435	06/14/2023	\$ 500.00
Nevada Energy Systems, Inc.	100436	06/14/2023	\$ 1,130.00
NV Energy	100437	06/14/2023	\$ 326.03
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	100438	06/14/2023	\$ 313.11
Pape' Machinery Exchange	100439	06/14/2023	\$ 28,643.64
PERS Administrative Fund	100440	06/14/2023	\$ 10,236.83
Power Plan	100441	06/14/2023	\$ 1,998.51
Public Employees' Benefits	100442	06/14/2023	\$ 870.23
Purchase Power / Pitney	100443	06/14/2023	\$ 400.00
Quill	100444	06/14/2023	\$ 342.64
Southwest Gas Corporation	100445	06/14/2023	\$ 65.73
Sticks and Stones Buildings	100446	06/14/2023	\$ 144.85
THE PARTS HOUSE	100447	06/14/2023	\$ 25.49
United Rentals	100448	06/14/2023	\$ 1,379.37
Wells Fargo Card Services	100449	06/14/2023	\$ 3,782.34
Xerox Corporation	100450	06/14/2023	\$ 259.65
Hunewill Construction Co.,	100451	06/28/2023	\$ 6,915.13
MBK Engineers	100452	06/28/2023	\$ 18,731.50
MF Barcellos	100453	06/28/2023	\$ 7,235.67
New Gen Automotive	100454	06/28/2023	\$ 479.51

Pape' Machinery Exchange	100455	06/28/2023	\$ 34,396.62
PERS Administrative Fund	100456	06/28/2023	\$ 9,931.08
Raley's	100457	06/28/2023	\$ 209.40
Sierra Office Solutions	100458	06/28/2023	\$ 49.96
Wells Fargo Card Services	100459	06/28/2023	\$ 2,249.95
Woodburn & Wedge	100460	06/28/2023	\$ 32,289.00
USBWC	100461	06/28/2023	\$ 171.74
Cal Poly Corporation / ITRC	100462	06/28/2023	\$ 10,600.00
HomeTown Health	300027	06/14/2023	\$ 8,567.84
John Deere Credit	300028	06/14/2023	\$ 852.79
Paycor, Inc.	300029	06/14/2023	\$ 281.00
Spectrum Business	300030	06/14/2023	\$ 465.00
Verizon Wireless	300031	06/14/2023	\$ 296.54
Vision Service Plan - Nevada	300032	06/14/2023	\$ 372.10
Alhambra	300033	06/28/2023	\$ 262.29
Paycor, Inc.- Payroll & Taxes	EFT	06/14/2023	\$ 18,166.38
Paycor, Inc.- Payroll & Taxes	EFT	06/29/2023	\$ 43,940.44
Spectrum	EFT	06/29/2023	\$ 232.50
<b>Total Bills &amp; Payroll:</b>			<b>\$ 275,387.25</b>

President SNYDER asked if the Pape bill was for the rental machines; Secretary HALTERMAN confirmed.

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

**C. Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 39,430 acre-feet (66%) and Bridgeport is at 23,790 acre-feet (56%). The reservoirs are starting to store at a higher rate based on projections from California Nevada River Forecast Center & National Weather Service. From what the experts are saying, it would take quite a bevy of energy to kick up any further issues to where the District could not offset the issue with the remaining pool levels and releases. There will be an uptick in flows and the river will be running at elevated level into August. There is still 89 inches of snow and 56.3 inches of water at Leavitt. The April-July forecast is misleading because of the amount of water to come down after July. Based on operation plans, it is anticipated that both reservoirs should be near full by July 24-27<sup>th</sup>. The District will operate in a way to maintain them full as long as possible. As the decree slows down in August, the demand for storage water will increase and there may be a dip in the pool levels. Once the flood threat is completely mitigated, GM BRYAN will reach

out to State Engineer and advise that flood mitigation water is no longer needed. Once the decision is made, all ditch and river riders will be notified.

GM BRYAN provided a list of the USGS gages in the packet. Since March 1<sup>st</sup>, 370,400 acre-feet of water has been sent to Walker Lake. The Lake has risen 13.7 vertical feet and the amount of water sent has surpassed the 2017 amount by 22,700 acre-feet. More water will be sent under the current conditions and the water leasing program will send another 25,000 acre-feet later this year.

GM BRYAN provided a legislative update on water bills. If there are any questions or the bill needs to be printed, please contact him.

The Shop crew is continuing to assist Lyon County in restabilizing areas of concern. They are also performing scheduled repairs and maintenance on the drains, river, and ditches. Staff is compiling a list of areas of high concern or infrastructure that was damaged by the Spring Thaw.

GM BRYAN advised that staff is continuing to have weekly meetings with Lyon County Emergency Manage, MBK, National Weather Service, and the California Nevada River Forecast Center on current and predicted weather conditions and operations. The meetings will continue until the flows decrease and the need for weekly meetings is no longer.

In regard to the flood mitigation or repair reimbursements, staff are meeting with FEMA representatives to discuss what is needed. There is no guarantee that the District will receive cost assistance, but staff will continue to meet with them and provide information as needed.

On July 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm, JJ Goicoechea with the Department of Agriculture will be at Lucy Snyder's to discuss the spring thaw flood issues. GM BRYAN is not certain what the discussion will entail, but the Department of Ag has offered to assist local farms and growers impacted by the high flows. GM BRYAN will attend the meeting and will give an update at the next meeting.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel DePAOLI advised that the California Department of Transportation is going to begin doing emergency repair work on Highway 395 in the vicinity of Topaz on Monday morning. GM BRYAN and Counsel DePAOLI have been working with CalTrans and their attorneys. They want a right-of-entry agreement from the District because they are going to be taking 1.1 acres of the District's parcel in the vicinity of the problem. Rather than having to go to court to get entry that way, they wanted a right-of-way entry agreement. They have agreed to have the District on the contactor's liability insurance. CalTrans should be sending a right-of-entry agreement in the form of a letter to Counsel DePAOLI but will come back with a purchase proposal for the 1.1 acres at some time.

Director GIORGI asked if CalTrans provided a project plan; Counsel DePAOLI stated they sent something over that looks like they are going to move back toward the hill because of the large crack on the eastern edge of the roadway. Beyond that, it is unknown what they are going to do. The contract is fairly large at 8.45 million dollars. Mono County Representative PETERS stated they are going to straighten out that section of highway for a mile. They are not going to have a hard closure on the road and traffic will be controlled with lights and other measures. The contractor hopes to be completed by October but it is a huge project. Director GIORGI asked why the project was not done when the other part of the road was being worked on; Mr. PETERS stated there are a lot of theories as to why what failed, failed.

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

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

**F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

Wes WALKER reported that the program is moving forward. USGS, Walker River Paiute Tribe, Walker Basin Conservancy, and the other agencies have completed the plan of release. The releases are planned to begin at both reservoirs in mid-August. There are constraints on how much can be released at times, but the releases should continue through mid-October. The maximum 25,000 acre-feet of water has been enrolled with approximately 11,000 acre-feet from Bridgeport and approximately 14,000 acre-feet from Topaz. On the regulation side, the approval from California has been obtained, the release plan will be filed next week and then there will be a 30 day review period. The Walker River Court entered the order to modify the decree this week, the temporary permits will be submitted to the State Engineer within a week, and everything is on track for a start date in August.

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

AJ JENSBY reported that he will be out of the office on paternity leave starting next Wednesday. He requested that meter readings still be submitted monthly even if the wells are not being used. Jodi Roan has been hired in AJ's previous position and will be doing the field work.

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

Carlie HENNEMAN reported that Walker Lake has risen over 13 vertical feet which has surpassed the amount from 2017 through 2019. The level is at the 2013 pre-drought level. The Conservancy has been doing educational programs in the schools and Boys & Girls Club. Field trips have been to East Walker and throughout Mason Valley to talk about the basin.

**9. Annual review on the performance of the Walker River Irrigation District General Manager Robert C. Bryan and consideration of possible adjustment in compensation.**

Counsel DePAOLI stated he sent a summary of the evaluation to all the Board members but would provide a summary for the meeting. The ratings were based on the following scale: 5= excellent, performs exceptionally; 4= good, performs adequately; 3= satisfactory, meets expectations; 2= fair, performs unsatisfactorily and requires supervision; and 1= unsatisfactory, fails to perform. GM BRYAN was rated as follows:

- Job Knowledge: 5; continues to excel in all areas
- Interactions & Communications: 4.8; great communication skills, brings stakeholders together
- Decision Making: 5; no comments
- Planning & Organization: 4.8; well organized, plans and multi-tasks well
- Public Relations: 5; always prepared, is respected in community
- Work Environment & Safety: 4.8; no comments
- Overall Performance: 5; no comments
- o Area of Strength: dedicated to his job, consistent
- o Area of Improvement: none listed
- o Goals: none listed
- o Salary Increase: range from 3-7%, average 5.25%, recommended effective date was May 2, 2023.

Treasurer NUTI stated GM BRYAN is doing a good job; all members were in agreeance especially in tough circumstances. President SNYDER recommended a 10% salary increase for one more year then bring to single digits next year. Director ACCIARI stated GM BRYAN worked a lot with Lyon County and Peri & Sons and basically saved the City of Yerington. The community is unaware of the work put in to keeping the town from flooding.

Director GIORGI made a motion to increase the GM salary by 10%; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**Director Comments**

Treasurer NUTI stated he is glad Smith Valley is steeper and the water flows through. Director ACCIARI stated GM BRYAN has a good crew that works together. Vice President MASINI recommended that once the incident is over GM BRYAN's crew need to be taken care of. There were staff in equipment that had never being in equipment before. Vice President MASINI recommended looking at how many hours the employees worked and doing something for them. President SNYDER agreed.

**10. Public Comment**

None presented.

**11. Adjournment**

Vice President MASINI made a motion to adjourn; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:38am.

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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

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