

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on April 7, 2025. 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, via phone
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via Zoom

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Carlie Henneman, WBC	Kat Dow, WBC
Lauren Bartels, NDWR	Jodi Roan, NDWR	Adam Sullivan, NDWR
Ed Ryan		

Public Present via Zoom:

Isaac Metcalf

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All 5 members were present with Director GIORGI on the phone.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the March 7, 2025, Regular Meeting

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

4. Water Master's Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport was at 26,680 acre-feet (63% capacity) and Topaz was 33,130 acre-feet (55% capacity). The decree dropped today to an 1872 on the East and an 1873 everywhere else. The Tribe starts on April 15th and will be taking 30cfs. Joanne is delivering only a couple of feet of storage.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of March 31, 2025:

Cash in Checking	\$ 99,151.66
Cash in Money Market	\$1,086,391.96
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 813,260.82</u>
Total	\$1,998,804.44

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment
Cash Disbursement Journals
March 2025 Bills & Payroll

Payee	Check No.	Date	Amount
Verizon Wireless	300151	3/4/2025	\$ 322.63
Allied Sanitation and Septic Services	101433	3/7/2025	\$ 125.00
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	101434	3/7/2025	\$ 1,121.80
NV Energy	101435	3/7/2025	\$ 15.05
Plymouth Ditch Company	101436	3/7/2025	\$ 222.26
Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	101437	3/7/2025	\$ 185.34
Will Servoss	101438	3/7/2025	\$ 1,731.00
City of Yerington	101439	3/12/2025	\$ 120.50
Hunewill Construction Co., Inc.	101440	3/12/2025	\$ 1,742.50
Jim Menesini Petroleum	101441	3/12/2025	\$ 329.10
John Deere Credit	101442	3/12/2025	\$ 2.53
Lyon County Recorder	101443	3/12/2025	\$ 22.54
MBK Engineers	101444	3/12/2025	\$ 1,977.50
Mickey Mutual Ditch Co.	101445	3/12/2025	\$ 9.54
Municipal Treatment Equipment Inc.	101446	3/12/2025	\$ 3,613.13
NV Energy	101447	3/12/2025	\$ 255.93
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	101448	3/12/2025	\$ 691.33
Pape' Machinery Exchange	101449	3/12/2025	\$ 8,568.00
Public Employees' Benefits Program	101450	3/12/2025	\$ 870.23
Walker River Mechanical	101451	3/12/2025	\$ 100.00
Wells Fargo Card Services Payment Remittance Center	101452	3/12/2025	\$ 3,074.92
Woodburn & Wedge	101453	3/12/2025	\$ 42,920.51
Xerox Corporation	101454	3/12/2025	\$ 259.90
Xerox Financial Services	101455	3/12/2025	\$ 30.22
PERS Administrative Fund	101456	3/12/2025	\$ 11,454.28
Southwest Gas Corporation	300149	3/12/2025	\$ 349.98
AT&T	300157	3/13/2025	\$ 86.26
JASON MILLIGAN	101457	3/14/2025	\$ 2,385.00
SCOTT ROBINSON	101458	3/14/2025	\$ 2,385.00
Alhambra	300153	3/27/2025	\$ 44.95
Vision Service Plan - Nevada	300154	3/27/2025	\$ 171.48
HomeTown Health	300155	3/27/2025	\$ 4,429.92
HomeTown Health	300156	3/27/2025	\$ 2,927.91
AFC Industries	101459	3/28/2025	\$ 36.53
D & S Waste Removal	101460	3/28/2025	\$ 203.64
Desert Research Institute	101461	3/28/2025	\$ 15,072.12
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. 1423	101462	3/28/2025	\$ 2,820.00
H2O Trucking LLC	101463	3/28/2025	\$ 440.00

JASON MILLIGAN	101464	3/28/2025	\$	1,740.00
MBK Engineers	101465	3/28/2025	\$	4,749.25
MF Barcellos	101466	3/28/2025	\$	8,733.20
Nationwide Insurance	101467	3/28/2025	\$	570.00
New Gen Automotive	101468	3/28/2025	\$	182.85
Petty Cash	101469	3/28/2025	\$	234.55
Quill	101470	3/28/2025	\$	438.47
SCOTT ROBINSON	101471	3/28/2025	\$	1,740.00
Standard Insurance Company	101472	3/28/2025	\$	211.21
VOID	101473	3/28/2025	\$	-
The Ferraro Group	101474	3/28/2025	\$	7,500.00
USBWC	101475	3/28/2025	\$	55,441.11
Woodburn & Wedge	101476	3/28/2025	\$	35,207.00
Sunbelt Rentals	101477	3/28/2025	\$	4,111.44
Payroll		3/15/2025	\$	11,008.25
EFTPS		3/15/2025	\$	1,559.48
Payroll		3/31/2025	\$	32,393.08
EFTPS		3/31/2025	\$	8,195.04
Total Bills & Payroll			\$	285,133.46
NFWF Submission			\$	(52,239.94)
Total District Expense			\$	232,893.52

Vice President MASINI inquired about the Pape Machinery bill; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the \$8,568 is the monthly rental fee for the loader and if there is another bill, it was for a repair on the excavator. Vice President MASINI asked how many hours the loader is being used; GM BRYAN stated we have had the loader long enough to purchase two loaders. Most of the funding came from the grant, but the bill is consistently over \$8,000 per month, and when it is used on projects, it is used for a couple hundred hours per month. There is work to be done on the drains, but then it will be sent back to Pape. Vice President MASINI asked if we have had it rented the whole time; GM BRYAN stated it has been rented since the flooding in 2023. Treasurer NUTI asked if the District could buy the loader; GM BRYAN stated we would need to check with Pape. Vice President MASINI stated it seems like the loader is consistently being used. GM BRYAN stated the District borrowed loaders from Peri & Sons for the recent drain project. Vice President MASINI requested to see if the District could purchase the loader or get one comparable.

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN stated Topaz is currently at 33,140 acre-feet (55% capacity) and Bridgeport is currently at 26,680 acre-feet (63% capacity). There has not been a notable change to the pool since the beginning of the storage season. The district

well started on April 1st. GM BRYAN reminded everyone that when water is awarded, call for storage to use that water while it is available.

The shop crew is doing repairs and maintenance on the district drains, canals, and the Topaz Diversion. Hoping to get started on the drain project again to get the finishing touches completed. The District has also been working with Prime West Construction to replace the culvert at Hwy 208/Pursel Lane. It took about 5 years to get the permit. The concrete culverts have been delivered to the site and GM BRYAN is hoping to break ground within the next couple of weeks. The District will coordinate with the fire department, postal service, school district, and law enforcement. The through traffic detour will be Cremetti Ln to Mackenzie Ln, but the road will be open to local homeowners.

The District received the certified letter from OSHA on April 2nd. The letter had a full list of safety and health violations, but nearly all of them have been abated. GM BRYAN has gone over the list with legal counsel. The few items left to abate will be done when the electrician returns this week. OSHA did give us a fine, but if we do not contest the findings and agree to abate all of them, the total is reduced from \$13,476 To \$6,738. Although the OSHA representatives said there would be a 30-day allowance to fix everything, the letters have a deadline of April 18th.

On March 13th, the Nichol-Merritt Ditch Company board began the petition to become a Local Improvement District. Approximately 90% of the ditch acres have signed the petition. Sandy has been working on the map and the legal description, and the item will be on next month's agenda.

On March 12th, NDWR held its Smith and Mason Valleys well water update meetings. They discussed the spring-to-spring water levels, last year's pumping data, and this year's goals.

The legislative session is active. GM BRYAN provided a full list of bills in the packet and will keep the Board aware of the progress.

GM BRYAN stated there is a copy of a letter sent from the District to the ditch companies reminding them of burn permit requirements. MVFD reached out to the District to help remind everyone of the requirements due to a couple of recent brush fires caused by unattended ditch burning.

There is an NDWR pre-hearing on May 20th at 9am at their office in Carson. The State Engineer's Office will be here to discuss the Singatse Peak Services Applications 93718-93721 and 93723-93725.

Director GIORGI asked what the status of the Hwy 95a-East project was; GM BRYAN stated the District had not heard anything more than bids will be solicited and awarded this spring.

Vice President MASINI asked if there was going to be a re-allocation; GM BRYAN stated the basin is at 101% of median for the day but to watch the median trend start to dip down based on the date. Based on the latest ensembles from the river forecast centers, there is definitely a potential for a re-allocation if the runoff comes at the right time. The soil moisture is currently above normal. Depending on mother nature, GM BRYAN is hoping to see if the buffer will increase in May/June.

D. Legal Counsel’s Report

Counsel DePAOLI stated the discovery schedule in the Mineral County case for experts, lay witnesses, and depositions have been extended by 4 months, however the close of discovery deadline remains at March 20, 2026. In terms of the May 20th prehearing conference that Bert mentioned, an attorney-client information session will be scheduled to provide input on how legal counsel suggests the District approach the conference and anything that comes out of it.

E. Stored Water Leasing Program update

GM BRYAN stated based on the report given last month, MBK has been able to talk to the remaining people they were waiting for. GM BRYAN received a rough draft last Friday and hopefully the final draft will be ready mid-May.

F. Storage Water Transfers

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to accept the transfers for March 2025; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and the motion passed.

G. 2025 Election Update

Secretary HALTERMAN stated there was no opposition in either open District, so Vice President MASINI and Director ACCIARI retained their positions. The official swearing in and appointments will be held next month. The Campbell Canal Special Election is April 16th here at the District.

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

Lauren BARTELS stated the snowpack is looking better due to the recent storms. The Smith Valley pumping goal is still 21,600 acre-feet and the reported pumping is less than 1% but many wells have not been reported since December. The Mason Valley pumping goal is 84,200 acre-feet and current reported pumping is 5% of the goal with most of wells already reporting and almost all of the pumping is from Homestretch and the power plant. Lauren will continue to provide monthly pumping data, and the pumping web map is still available on the NDWR website.

Vice President MASINI stated there was an article circulating about Lyon Copper & Gold receiving their 6,000 acre-feet of water back and now that article has been removed from the website. Vice President MASINI asked if there was any information or comment available on that; Adam SULLIVAN stated he will address that topic in the public comment item.

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

Carlie HENNEMAN stated they are getting a little bit of water to Walker Lake. There has been 400 acre-feet at Wabuska, and 370 acre-feet have made it to the lake.

8. Consideration and action on proposed District Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, including the fixing of the charges and levying assessments for that fiscal year on the water right lands within the District, on lands with appurtenant stored water rights within the District, on water right lands within the Local Improvement Districts within the District, on water right lands held by the High Ditch within the District, on reserved water rights, presently or formerly appurtenant to water right lands within the District, and Equipment Rental and Interfund Rental rates.

GM BRYAN stated there are a couple changes to the letter. The NFWF grant will be ending on June 30, 2025, and there is no grant money carryover. GM BRYAN stated the District is actively pursuing grant opportunities. Treasurer NUTI stated the NFWF grant covered the funding for a lot of things and the funding must come from somewhere else; GM BRYAN stated the SCADA integrator has been contracted through DRI since 2012 and there is no funding for that position going forward. GM BRYAN stated there will be pain in the District unless funds are increased. GM BRYAN stated he would like to charge for things like water cards, copies, and other office tasks. GM BRYAN stated there are hundreds of hours being worked but not billed out and there will not be any more freebies. GM BRYAN stated he has a proposal on his desk that is taking a lot of staff and legal time to review but no money is coming in for reviewing the project. GM BRYAN stated that all of the private ditch companies who received modernization from the grant will no longer be able to have the maintenance, repair, or replacement covered by the District and grant funds. GM BRYAN is working with ITRC to get a report on the maintenance of the equipment for the ditch companies. Treasure NUTI stated he does not believe the District should absorb the costs of the Accounting Tool; GM BRYAN stated the District's engineers put it together and our staff and the Water Master input the data and that data helps track the water but also helps with the East Walker transfers. And with the change in the government, the USGS staff are not allowed to leave more than 2 hours away from their office so they will rely on the Accounting Tool as well. Carlie stated she made a note to follow up on the funding as that tool is very beneficial to the Conservancy. Treasurer NUTI stated a lot of the additional cost to the District is due to NFWF coming into the valley and should not burden the users because of it. Carlie stated the Conservancy is committed to keeping the Accounting Tool and will talk to GM BRYAN.

At this time, there is no recommendation to increase any rates this year and current assessment rates are:

- General \$13/acre
- Reservoir \$6/acre
- Equipment \$4.50acre
- Local #1 \$1/acre

- Local #2 \$2/acre
- Local #3 \$1.30/acre
- Local #4 \$20/acre
- Local #5 \$10/acre
- High Ditch \$10/acre

In the General and Equipment funds, the retirement expense has increased due to the contribution rates changing. Local #2 and Local #3 have seen a significant increase of solar power companies wanting to come into the valley and have burdened the District with reviewing solar farm plans. Every proposal needs to be reviewed by GM BRYAN, legal counsel, and our engineers. If the District does not participate in the review, our infrastructure will not be protected. Secretary HALTERMAN stated she is in communication with Lyon County on collecting an impact fee to cover all expenses involved in reviewing the solar projects and other large projects. GM BRYAN stated the hope is to bring the impact fee proposal to the Board at the June meeting.

GM BRYAN reviewed and explained the revenues and expenses provided in the packet. A cash balance projection was provided. President SNYDER confirmed that the projected cash balance was a loss at the end of next year; Secretary HALTERMAN confirmed it was a loss and explained that the projection is based on if every expense was spent to the fullest and every assessment was paid. Last year the cash balance did increase even though there were a few flood mitigation expenses.

Vice President MASINI questioned why the interfund equipment rental charges were significantly lower than the regular rental rate; GM BRYAN stated that was something set up many years ago. Vice President MASINI stated the rates need to be reviewed as it is not up to private ditch companies to pay for projects on the Saroni and the Colony and he was not aware that taking over a ditch resulted in private ditch companies paying for the district owned ditch projects. President SNYDER asked if the budget could be approved at this meeting and the rental rates be brought back at a later date; Counsel DePAOLI stated the overall budget could be approved and the motion could include modifying the rates at a future meeting.

President SNYDER stated it seems like the projected cash balance will be eating into the reserves and he is concerned about that. GM BRYAN stated three funds are assessed to all water right holders- General, Reservoir, and Equipment- so increasing one of those funds would be the best way to increase the revenue overall. President SNYDER asked what the increase would need to be to cover the projected loss; Vice President MASINI stated it would be approximately \$1.80 per acre. Joanne stated their assessment was increased \$0.50 per acre to bring it to \$4.00 per acre. President SNYDER asked if there was anything else that could be done to decrease the loss; GM BRYAN stated that the District assessments are the lowest in Nevada, but the US Board assessments were increased, and people may complain about that. Secretary HALTERMAN stated the General Fund cash balance did increase approximately \$140,000 last fiscal year. President SNYDER asked how much per acre that calculated to be; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it was approximately \$1.80 per acre. GM BRYAN stated the District will run based on what the Board approves; President

SNYDER wanted to point out that if the District is using reserves, it is not living within its means.

Vice President MASINI made a motion to approve the presented budget with the interfund rental rates being discussed at a later meeting; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and the motion passed with 4 in favor and 1 abstained.

Secretary HALTERMAN stated she will continue the analysis on internal bills to see where costs can be cut; President SNYDER stated that would be a good idea. GM BRYAN stated that is why a breakdown of the bills is provided each month.

16. Director Comments

None presented.

17. Public Comment

State Engineer SULLIVAN thanked the Board for allowing NDWR to use the room on May 8th at 1:00pm for a hearing on designation of basin water in the East Walker basin and a proposed meter order for that same basin. The meter order will be the same as the Mason Valley basin.

State Engineer SULLIVAN stated there is a hearing on May 20th at the NDWR office for the Singatse Peak change applications. There are a number of protestants and there are a number of issues that warrant a hearing. Half of the protested applications are on the order of 2,000 acre-feet that were previously forfeited. The forfeiture process is very confusion, unclear, and has a lot of room for interpretation so Adam believes the entire process warrants explanation and attention. The qualification for forfeiture of groundwater rights is that the rights must be certificated and not used for at least 5 consecutive years. There are a lot of protections built into the administrative and legal aspects, so complete forfeiture hardly ever goes through. In the Singatse Peak Services case, the State Engineer's Office had to enter into a settlement agreement that rescinded the forfeiture that was declared a few years ago and now they are addressing the change applications.

Adam discussed his concerns with the forfeiture process and explained that any water law change needs to come from the users; without input from whom the laws affect, the changes will not get any traction in legislation.

Treasurer NUTI requested to know what part of the valley the Singatse applications pertain to; Adam stated the pit, the MacArthur deposit, and the Bear deposit on the northwest portion of Mason Valley. Treasurer NUTI asked if the applications cover the dewatering; Adam stated the applications are to move the points of diversion from where they are now to the center of the pit. Vice President MASINI stated there is concern that the changes will drastically affect the surface water rights; Adam stated some of the protests are on the effect on existing water rights, and other protests are on ground water contamination from gold mining and mobilizing the contaminated groundwater. Treasurer NUTI confirmed that the State Engineer's Office does not address the contamination aspect, only the transfers; Adam confirmed that and added that there is overlap in public interest on contaminating

the river and canals and mobilizing the contaminated groundwater. Vice President MASINI requested clarification on the 6,014 feet that were given back to Singatse Peak; Adam stated that out of the 6000 acre-feet, about 2,000 acre-feet were forfeited about 4 years ago by the State Engineer's Office based on information submitted or not submitted, another approximately 2,000 acre-feet are in good standing, and the other approximately 2,000 acre-feet were sold and moved within the basin. The 2,000 acre-feet that were forfeited a few years ago were addressed in the settlement agreement and given back to Singatse Peak Services with the stipulation that none of the water can be sold and if it is not used, it is subject to forfeiture. Vice President MASINI asked if the 2,000 acre-feet that were sold will be given back to Singatse Peak Services; Adam stated they would not be given back and that with the 2,000 rescinded acre-feet plus the 2,000 acre-feet in good standings means the mine holds roughly 4,000 acre-feet of water. Vice President MASINI asked why the article was pulled from the website; Adam stated he did not know. Vice President MASINI asked if the State was involved in the water purchases in the NFWF grant; Carlie advised the State did give the Conservancy money to purchase groundwater rights.

Treasurer NUTI stated there is always a lingering concern that if groundwater is not used for 5 years, the user will lose the rights, but supplemental users are being told not to worry about that because they are encouraged to use surface water and not the groundwater. Adam stated the rules do need to be clearer. Statute says that after 5 consecutive years of non-use, the rights are subject to forfeiture, but there are ways to get time extensions. Adam stated he feels that if the water is not used and there is no intention on using the water, then the State does have a duty to act. Treasurer NUTI asked if the State would forfeit portions of unused rights if the user has become so efficient that the full duty is not used; Adam stated that the State will not forfeit portions of a right, and he believes the efficiency needs to be incentivized somehow.

Vice President MASINI asked if anyone was aware that Break-A-Heart was pumping water into the ponds in Wabuska to show usage; Jodi stated that is her basin and she was not aware of that happening. She stated Break-A-Heart relies on surface water primarily and when that is abundant, they do not pump water. She stated the last two years showed no change in the meter, but she will look into the question.

18. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director

DRAFT