

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on November 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
Marcus MASINI	Vice President
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director, via phone
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Counsel FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via zoom
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

**Public Present:**

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Kat Dow, WBC
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**Public Present via Zoom:**

Dave Hockaday, BOCC

**1. Public Comment**

None presented.

**2. Roll Call**

Director GIORGI and Secretary HALTERMAN were absent. Director ACCIARI was on the phone.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the August 30, 2023 Special Meeting**

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

**4. Consideration of Minutes of the October 9, 2023 Regular Meeting**

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

**5. Water Master's Report**

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport was at 29,000 acre-feet (68%) and Topaz was at 28,340 acre-feet (47%). The reservoirs are continuing to store water. The current release from Bridgeport is 20.2 feet and Topaz is 15.5 feet. Joanne is running stock water with 5 diversions in Smith Valley, 2 diversions on the East and 1 diversion on the Main for a total of 30 feet.

**6. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of October 31, 2023:

Cash in Checking	\$ 157,134.34
Cash in Money Market	\$ 861,436.46
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 757,568.24</u>
Total	\$1,776,139.04

**B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment  
Walker River Irrigation District  
October 2023 Bills & Payroll**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Check No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Petty Cash	100563	10/09/2023	\$ 598.92
Wells Fargo Card Services	100564	10/09/2023	\$ 15,000.00
Ameritas Life Insurance	100565	10/13/2023	\$ 1,086.70
City of Yerington	100566	10/13/2023	\$ 145.04
Desert Research Institute	100567	10/13/2023	\$ 17,804.77
Hunewill Construction Co.,	100568	10/13/2023	\$ 435.20
John Deere Credit	100569	10/13/2023	\$ 22.02
Lyon County Recorder	100570	10/13/2023	\$ 19.00
NV Energy	100571	10/13/2023	\$ 376.08
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	100572	10/13/2023	\$ 200.41
Pape' Machinery Exchange	100573	10/13/2023	\$ 32,796.55
Pitney Bowes Global	100574	10/13/2023	\$ 213.42
Purchase Power / Pitney	100575	10/13/2023	\$ 400.00
Quill	100576	10/13/2023	\$ 1,062.38
Sierra Office Solutions	100577	10/13/2023	\$ 72.86
Southwest Gas Corporation	100578	10/13/2023	\$ 52.71
THE PARTS HOUSE	100579	10/13/2023	\$ 24.19
Xerox Corporation	100580	10/13/2023	\$ 245.38
Xerox Financial Services	100581	10/13/2023	\$ 60.44
PERS Administrative Fund	100582	10/13/2023	\$ 10,672.01
Codale Electric Supply	100583	10/26/2023	\$ 9,723.19
Desert Research Institute	100584	10/26/2023	\$ 20,297.45
Hunewill Construction Co.,	100585	10/26/2023	\$ 1,769.09
JASON MILLIGAN	100586	10/26/2023	\$ 2,400.00
Jim Menesini Petroleum	100587	10/26/2023	\$ 1,076.15

MacLeod Watts Inc	100588	10/26/2023	\$	2,960.00
Mason Valley Tire	100589	10/26/2023	\$	114.00
MF Barcellos	100590	10/26/2023	\$	3,122.01
Mono County Tax Collector	100591	10/26/2023	\$	40,055.78
Municipal Treatment	100592	10/26/2023	\$	46,071.00
Power Plan	100593	10/26/2023	\$	4,882.14
SCOTT ROBINSON	100594	10/26/2023	\$	2,400.00
Sierra Rental and Transport	100595	10/26/2023	\$	5,780.00
Truckee Tahoe Lumber Co.	100596	10/26/2023	\$	5,328.00
USBWC	100597	10/26/2023	\$	62,946.39
White Cap Construction	100598	10/26/2023	\$	1,434.00
Woodburn & Wedge	100599	10/26/2023	\$	30,507.50
Petty Cash	100600	10/26/2023	\$	304.56
PAYROLL		10/15/2023	\$	7,320.87
Alhambra		10/06/2023	\$	189.86
Verizon Wireless		10/04/2023	\$	264.41
PrimePay		10/11/2023	\$	196.00
EFTPS		10/13/2023	\$	1,501.02
AT&T		10/16/2023	\$	72.78
NPAIP- Worker's Comp		10/20/2023	\$	4,618.25
Spectrum		10/30/2023	\$	232.50
NDEP		10/31/2023	\$	350.00
EFTPS		10/31/2023	\$	7,886.06
PAYROLL			\$	27,183.14
<b>Total Bills &amp; Payroll</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>372,274.23</b>

President SNYDER asked what was meant by NFWF reimbursement; GM BRYAN stated those are the amounts that are being submitted to NFWF for reimbursement of the Stored Water Leasing Program, Conveyance Loss Study, and Modernization. Treasurer NUTI stated it helps to know that the money is not coming out of the District’s accounts.

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

**C. Manager’s Report**

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 28,340 acre feet (47%) and Bridgeport is at 29,000 acre feet (68%). Both reservoirs have minimum releases and all stock water demands are being satisfied. GM BRYAN stated that quite a bit has been done to continue to lower or minimize the unnecessary pools. GM BRYAN has been in communication with MBK regarding the pool levels and will be meeting regularly

to discuss a comfortable pool level as the winter progresses. There is a concern that it will be a wet year, but GM BRYAN would like to err on the side of caution in case that does not prove true. The last storm brought 10 inches of snow to Leavitt Lake and 3-4 inches to a few other sites. There is another storm expected mid to late next week.

GM BRYAN advised that the independent ditch companies may want to pull their flap gates in order to not impound any more sediment or cause future problems.

The shop crew has been continuing with repairs and maintenance due to the heavy water year. The Desert Creek project is nearly finished- just needs some touch-up work at the Saroni Overpass but that work can be done closer to Spring. The Renner/Lateral B project has started and should be completed within the next week or two. The Campbell Split project has started with a little prep work. Once the Campbell is completed, the crew will begin the modernization at the Colony. There are still lots of other drainage and culvert areas that need to be addressed during the off-season but those jobs will be balanced around the larger projects and weather.

The annual Saroni Canal meeting was held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Everything went well and all topics were wrapped up in one meeting this year. The budget recommendations have been made and there is a list of things to take care of.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, GM BRYAN and Secretary HALTERMAN met with Lyon County Emergency Management and the Planning Department to investigate the possibility of becoming a Cooperating Technical Partner with FEMA. The partnership opens the door to a lot more flood mitigation funding but it also has a significant workload associated with it. Secretary HALTERMAN has reached out to the Carson Water Subconservancy to seek further commitment information and requirements before a decision is made. There is a chance that staff time could be reimbursed since the District would be working with the County. GM BRYAN stated the topic may need to come back to the Board to obtain direction on how to proceed.

GM BRYAN will be posting an agenda for a possible board quorum at the November 17<sup>th</sup> USBWC meeting. It has been discussed that the WRID board would like to have the opportunity to meet with the USBWC board. Counsel DePAOLI is working on the agenda and GM BRYAN will post it on Monday. GM BRYAN hopes the entire WRID board can participate as there has been a lot of discussion on repair, maintenance, and operation protocols of the USBWC. No action can be taken by the WRID board, but it would be beneficial to attend.

A couple months ago, UNR Professor Loretta Singeltary reached out to the District regarding doing a presentation on her students' snowpack project. They would like to do a presentation on the climate impacts and snow resiliency at the March meeting. Their presentation will include economic modeling progress and hydraulic

modeling progress. The presentation is estimated to be approximately 20-25 minutes with time for questions & answers.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel FERGUSON did receive the Mineral County expert reports in the C-128 litigation yesterday. They have not had a chance to review yet, but once they do, an attorney/client meeting may be scheduled if necessary.

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

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

**F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

GM BRYAN stated the checks have been printed and are being signed. The program money from NFWF has been deposited into our account. MBK is working with California on the upcoming potential water leasing program next year. MBK is waiting for USGS to finalize their revisional to final data for the past year and once it is completed, it will be distributed to all parties as per the process of previous years.

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

GM BRYAN read an email from AJ Jensby:

'Field work season is happening now with our inventory and fall water levels. Yesterday, 11/7 we measured all of our index sites with long periods of record and are seeing Spring 2023 to Fall 2023 rises in water levels which is great. We are very excited to see how the remaining wells measure around the region. It appears that the historic winter and diligent groundwater use is paying off this year. We look forward to sharing more good news at the December meeting and will be reaching out to Bert to schedule a meeting in the future. This year we may split our spring groundwater update meeting into two groups again, Smith and Mason.'

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

Kat DOW advised she had no updates.

**9. Review and consideration of proposal by California Department of Transportation to pay WRID \$4,350.00, plus interest from June 26, 2023, and a \$1,000.00 incentive fee as just compensation for taking of 1.11 acres of WRID property from APN 001-020-029-000 for emergency repairs on HWY 395 located 1.9 miles south of the California/Nevada State line.**

GM BRYAN stated Hwy 395 cracked and CalTrans performed emergency work just south of the state line. The majority of the work has been completed. CalTrans had the property appraised and they are asking the District to sign off on the agreement per their appraisal.

The appraisal was \$4,350 plus interest and if the agreement is signed prior to the deadline, they will pay an additional \$1,000. There are provisions stating the District is allowed to obtain their own appraisal, but due to past struggles in getting a commercial appraisal it may not be something the District wants to do. Counsel FERGUSON stated he is comfortable with the proposal and is available to answer any questions. Treasurer NUTI asked where the property is located; GM BRYAN stated it is the side of the hill. GM BRYAN put in a request for the material from the hill but did not hear anything back. They did request to pump water from the reservoir but ended up using David Park's well as they have done on previous projects. Treasurer NUTI confirmed the property could not be used for anything; GM BRYAN stated it couldn't be used for anything else. The appraiser is hard to find and they don't work for free. Counsel FERGUSON stated that if CalTrans did not agree with the District's appraisal, the process would be taken to litigation. GM BRYAN stated the District only received \$25,000 when CalTrans widened HWY 395 and that was a several mile span. Counsel FERGUSON stated that he was not certain if CalTrans would be responsible for attorney fees if the case went into litigation and the result was in favor of the District. Director ACCIARI stated the proposal is probably as good as we are going to get for that land.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to accept California's valuation of the property; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**10. Director Comments**

None presented.

**11. Public Comment**

None presented.

**12. Adjournment**

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to adjourn; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:28am.

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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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ABSENT  
David Giorgi, Director