

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on March 7, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by President Jim SNYDER.

**Present:**

Jim SNYDER	President
David GIORGI	Vice President
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Marcus MASINI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel

**Public Present:**

George Lindesmith	Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Taylor Thomas, USBWC
Chad Walling, NSE	Sarah Fichtner, NSE	Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD
Paul Kinsey, NNG/DEM	Rob Lewis	Steve Tomac, WBC
Cindy Tibbals	Gary Godde	Silas Adams, WBC
Tim Bardsley, NOAA		

**1. Public Comment:**

None presented.

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

All five board members present.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the February 7, 2018 Regular meeting.**

Vice President GIORGI advised it was nice to receive the minutes early. Vice President GIORGI made a motion to accept the minutes; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**4. Water Master's Report:**

Water Master SARKISIAN reported both reservoirs are storing approximately 300-400 acre-feet daily. Bridgeport is currently at 79% capacity and Topaz is at 65% capacity. Joanne is communicating with the weather service and monitoring the reservoir levels.

**5. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI gave the Treasurer's report as of February 28, 2019:

Cash in Checking:	\$ 262,424.04
Cash in Money Market	\$ 965,792.32

Cash in CDs	<u>\$1,242,660.75</u>
Total	\$2,470,877.11

Treasurer NUTI reported he and Secretary HALTERMAN have been researching options to move the CD accounts to obtain a better interest rate. Treasurer NUTI stated more information will be presented at the next meeting. GM BRYAN reminded that the past few audits have recommended moving the CDs.

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

Director MASINI requested a breakdown of the Wells Fargo credit card be included in the monthly bills. Director MASINI made a motion to approve the bills for February 2019; Vice President GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**February 2019 Bills & Payroll**

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
120627	2/7/2019	AFLAC	\$ 35.70
120628	2/7/2019	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	\$ 848.70
120629	2/7/2019	Giomi, Inc.	\$ 555.72
120630	2/7/2019	AT&T Mobility	\$ 174.30
120631	2/7/2019	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	\$ 371.04
120632	2/7/2019	Mason Valley Equipment	\$ 103.46
120633	2/7/2019	MF Barcellos	\$ 3,748.26
120634	2/7/2019	True Value	\$ 230.78
120635	2/7/2019	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$ 95.52
120636	2/7/2019	Public Employees' Benefits	\$ 1,606.58
120637	2/7/2019	Quill	\$ 370.60
120638	2/7/2019	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$ 756.93
120639	2/7/2019	NV Energy	\$ 237.76
120640	2/7/2019	Alhambra	\$ 555.15
120641	2/7/2019	Southwest Gas Corporation	\$ 336.79
120642	2/7/2019	Wedco Inc.	\$ 433.89
120643	2/7/2019	White Cap Construction	\$ 191.03
120644	2/7/2019	Flowquip Mining & Industrial	\$ 7,500.00
120645	2/7/2019	Snyder Livestock Company	\$ 757.18
120646	2/7/2019	PERS Administrative Fund	\$ 7,094.37
120647	2/13/2019	CODALE ELECTRIC SUPPLY	\$ 87.97
120648	2/13/2019	AT&T	\$ 137.30
120649	2/13/2019	John Deere Credit	\$ 121.18
120650	2/13/2019	Lyon County Recorder	\$ 25.50
120651	2/13/2019	MBK Engineers	\$ 292.50

120652	2/13/2019	Mickey Mutual Ditch Co.	\$	21.20
120653	2/13/2019	Smith Valley Irrigation	\$	1,054.92
120654	2/13/2019	City of Yerington	\$	121.07
120655	2/13/2019	Sierra Office Solutions	\$	252.61
120656	2/13/2019	Petty Cash	\$	438.75
120657	2/26/2019	Associated Concrete Pumping	\$	2,478.16
120658	2/26/2019	Mason Valley Quicknet	\$	410.00
120659	2/26/2019	MBK Engineers	\$	4,597.50
120660	2/26/2019	Reno Gazette Journal	\$	21.84
120661	2/26/2019	NV Energy	\$	23.71
120662	2/26/2019	Standard Insurance Company	\$	248.20
120663	2/26/2019	U.S. Geological Survey	\$	9,642.67
120664	2/26/2019	Verizon Wireless	\$	493.40
120665	2/26/2019	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	\$	144.27
120666	2/26/2019	Wedco Inc.	\$	60.12
120667	2/26/2019	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$	26,476.39
120668	2/26/2019	Xerox Financial Services	\$	139.44
120669	2/26/2019	HomeTown Health	\$	5,248.78
120670	2/26/2019	Desert Research Institute	\$	8,880.74
120671	2/26/2019	Great Basin Consulting Group	\$	8,215.00
120672	2/26/2019	Yerington Ready Mix	\$	6,305.26
PAYROLL		FEBRUARY PAYROLL	\$	33,656.27
<b>TOTAL BILLS &amp; PAYROLL</b>			<b>\$</b>	<b>135,598.51</b>

**C. Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN advised the current reservoir pools are:

Bridgeport 33,320 acre-feet (79% capacity)  
 Topaz 38,390 acre-feet (64% capacity)

USGS gages from the confluence to Wabuska are provided in the Board packet.

GM BRYAN advised the shop crew has completed the Campbell diversion repair/maintenance and the East Drain culvert replacement. The crew is currently working on pouring concrete at the Lekumberry property on the Plymouth. The Plymouth project and a few other small projects should be done within the next few weeks.

GM BRYAN reported Lyon County released a press release regarding the sedimentation problem. Last week, GM BRYAN met with the City of Yerington and Lyon County regarding the expected peak runoff. The biggest issue is not the high flows like in 2017, but the amount of sediment in the river corridor. During one of the recent storms, there was approximately 200cfs in the main portion of the river and there was only 6" of freeboard on the Lagomarsino. The City of Yerington has offered land to store the sediment removed in 2015. The City and the County

are working on transporting the sediment currently on the banks to the City's land. The plan is that by April 1<sup>st</sup>, WRID will be able to begin removing sediment from the river corridor. The County Manager will be speaking to the County Commissioners to contribute money to offset some of the sediment removal costs that WRID will incur.

GM BRYAN stated the District received authorization to proceed with the Saroni and Plymouth pipeline projects. BOR reported that the District passed the SHPO review this morning. GM BRYAN stated he is undecided on whether to proceed with the Saroni project or to hold off because of the potential high flows. If the project is delayed, a cover for the pipe will need to be purchased to protect it from sun damage.

GM BRYAN advised the District applied for a Watershed Study Grant through NRCS and was awarded \$300,000 to begin the study. GM BRYAN has been in contact with Dr. Styles of ITRC and will continue to work with him through the process. NRCS will be scheduling a phone call soon to discuss the particulars of the study. Last month, Greg Chico flew from the Wabuska Gage area through the south end of Bridgeport Valley, Antelope Valley, Smith Valley and portions of the drains. The purpose was to have a baseline of what the river looked like with 30 cfs; the footage revealed a disconcerting amount of sediment. The main purpose of the Watershed Study is to focus on the sediment source(s) and problem areas.

GM BRYAN reported the 2019 Northern Nevada Streamflow, Reservoir and Weather Forecast meeting will be held at the Nevada State Engineer's Office on Tuesday March 12, 2019. It is scheduled to run from 10:00am to 12:00pm.

Vice President GIORGI asked if the long reach was working; GM BRYAN stated it is working fine.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report:**

Counsel DePAOLI advised AB30, AB51 and AB62 were heard last week but there has been no action taken on any of them. The '3M' bill and the conjunctive management bills were not well received. SB140 was heard last week and would provide to allow the State Engineer to reserve 10% of ground water in a ground water basin to not be appropriated. SB236 has not yet been heard. SB236 would allow someone to change the point of diversion, if the new place of diversion is on the same property and within 300 feet of the old place of diversion, and not need to apply for a change application. SB232 will be heard this afternoon. TCID asked Senator Settlemeyer to sponsor the bill. Essentially, it broadens the current provisions in statute that treat trusts as a natural person and allows trustees to do anything the natural person can do within an irrigation district. TCID would like to add a provision that would allow the trustees to designate a beneficiary to act on behalf of the trust for purposes of voting, petitions, etc. It is a technical change which will allow more flexibility for trusts and what the trustees can do.

Counsel DePAOLI reported there is now a clear determination that the litigation brief will be due April 12. The reply briefs will be due 30 days thereafter; it is expected that more time will be requested and granted.

Counsel DePAOLI stated there is a schedule for the remand of the Tribe & U.S. claims for additional water for the WRPT reservation. Over the next 2 years through June 2021, Counsel DePAOLI will be learning more about what those claims are, the District may have the opportunity to file motions, dispose of all or some of the claims, conduct discovery, and, potentially, see an opportunity to resolve them.

**E. 2019 Election Update**

Secretary HALTERMAN reported there are nominations in each of the open districts. The last day for nominations is March 13<sup>th</sup> and the last day for registrations is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**6. Recess as Board of Directors and convene as Board of Corrections for corrections of assessments pursuant to NRS 539.680**

The Board of Directors recessed and convened as the Board of Corrections at 10:15am. President SNYDER called for any corrections; none were presented.

**7. Adjourn as Board of Corrections and reconvene as Board of Directors.**

The Board of Corrections adjourned and reconvened as the Board of Directors at 10:16am.

**8. Presentation and discussion by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2019 irrigation season.**

Tim BARDSLEY reported a lot has changed within the last month. Snowpack for the Walker River Basin is 170% and 155% of its normal peak. The lower level snowpack is close to 2017, but the upper level snowpack is no where near the 2017 levels. Flood risks are a concern especially if a warm atmospheric weather pattern presents. If the spring is wet and cold, the flood concern could be later in May. The 'Freakout' chart shows the flood concern is May/June/July. Tim presented charts that compared 2017 precipitation and snowpack levels with 2019 levels. The current levels are elevated but are lower than 2017. The current soil moisture comparison with 2017 shows significantly less soil moisture. The only site in the Walker Basin that shows higher levels than 2017 is Leavitt Meadows. The major difference in snowpack between 2017 and 2019 is that there is significantly more snow in the lower elevations and the upper elevation snowpack is not as dense. The April-July water supply forecast estimates the 247,000 acre-feet in the West Walker; 2017 was 410,000 acre-feet. The April-July water supply forecast estimates the 122,000 acre-feet in East Walker; 2017 was 204,000 acre-feet. BARDSLEY presented a chart that indicated a moderate flood stage was likely at the Mason USGS gage with the current sedimentation load; if the sedimentation load is decreased, it is likely the flood stage risk will be lower. USGS is working on updating sites that will send timed data once the water levels get to a predetermined limit. Some sites will send data every 5 minutes once the river hits flood limits.

Treasurer NUTI asked if there was a way to find out how much each gage site represents the overall Walker Basin figures; BARDSLEY advised there is a way to look at the model data, but he would have to send it to GM BRYAN later. GM BRYAN stated he would forward the information to the Board once he receives it. BARDSLEY stated their models take the readings from each site and generate one number, but it can be broken out into what percentage each site represents in the basin.

**9. Update from the Division of Water Resources regarding groundwater pumping and upcoming field work schedules.**

Sarah FICHTNER advised they are working on pumping inventory for 2018. The preliminary number for Mason Valley is 56,600 acre-feet and Smith Valley is 23,300 acre-feet of pumped water. To compare, 2017 numbers were 30,400 acre-feet in Mason Valley and 14,200 acre-feet in Smith Valley. 2016 pumping numbers were 71,000 acre-feet in Mason Valley and 28,000 acre-feet in Smith Valley. Kerry Garcia will be in the field next week doing pump readings. Chad WALLING stated the DWR is in the works of developing a mapping application that uses data from WRID to display it on a parcel based aerial map. Chad will hopefully have more to report in April. Chad stated he is open to having discussions regarding the flood risks such as 2017. GM BRYAN stated he will be in contact with NDWR when the discussions begin.

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

Silas ADAMS stated the Conservancy is hiring 15 AmeriCorps members next week and expects to hire 25 more in May. The Conservancy has an opening for an Operations Coordinator.

**11. Update by Bridgeport Ranchers Organization (BRO) on activities related to the Bridgeport Watershed Approach.**

No representatives were present.

**12. Discussion and consideration of storage water allocation for the 2019 irrigation season.**

GM BRYAN provided a normal breakdown of the allocation in the Board packet. Angela with MBK provided notes based on information from the weather service and her evaluation of what is expected. GM BRYAN advised he recommends a 100% allocation with a re-allocation as needed. Based on the current capacity levels, there is space for 9,035 acre-feet in Bridgeport before the siphons kick on and 21,610 acre-feet in Topaz before the water goes over the spillway. Based on experience from 2017, there is approximately ½ the amount of snow in the mountains, but the reservoirs will be operated at a safe level. Discussions will be held regarding the high flows, and at a certain point, the discussion group will

expand. President SNYDER asked if there were reasons why more water is not being released from the reservoirs. GM BRYAN stated there a few reasons why more water cannot be released at this time. The density of the snowpack at Leavitt Meadows decreased with the last storm; another cool down is expected; at 200 cfs in the river, we were close to breaching at the Lagomarsino; there is too much sediment in the system, and higher flows would push more down the system. The weir is open in effort to sluice as much material through as possible, but cleaning must occur. Once Bridgeport gets to approximately 7500 acre-feet of available space, GM BRYAN will have to increase the release. President SNYDER inquired if something can be done with the sediment before higher releases are done; GM BRYAN stated he hopes so. Director MASINI inquired if sediment has always been a problem; GM BRYAN stated several years ago, dozers could go in the river and clear the sediment almost every year. With new laws and regulations, the Army Corps of Engineers won't allow that to happen. Also, the river is not the District's jurisdiction, so it's not as easy to put machines in and take sand out.

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to set the allocation at 100% for the East and West; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**13. Discussion and determination of the season for delivery of storage water in 2019 as provided in Section 9.3 of District Regulation No. 9.**

GM BRYAN recommended to stay with April 1<sup>st</sup> as the date to deliver storage water. Director MASINI made a motion to keep the date as April 1<sup>st</sup>; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**14. Discussion and determination of the last date to allow irrigation season changes in place of storage water from reservoir to reservoir as provided in and required by Section 6.1 of District Regulation No. 6.**

GM BRYAN stated with 100% allocation on both sides, there is no issue with the transfers, but a date needs to be set. GM BRYAN recommended a date in May. President SNYDER asked if the transfers could go into June; GM BRYAN stated the latest the Board has gone is the end of May, but it is up to the Board. Director MASINI stated last year was April 15<sup>th</sup>, but there was not a significant snowpack. Director ACCIARI made a motion to set the last date to transfer of May 31<sup>st</sup>; Director MASINI offered a second. A vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**15. Consideration for making available and delivering well water for the District Well under Nevada State Engineer Permit No. 25813, Certification No. 8861 to lands within the District beginning April 1, 2019.**

GM BRYAN stated he visited with Chad WALLING regarding the State Engineer's position on the well. Chad stated the State Engineer cannot treat the District any different than any other water user. The permit has its terms and can be used according to the terms. GM BRYAN stated in heavy water years, the District typically does not use the well. Director MASINI stated in 2017 it was used for a period. Treasurer NUTI stated he would like to see it available for the new lands only users. GM BRYAN stated the topic can be

re-evaluated monthly if needed. Vice President GIORGI asked if it is possible to find out who would want the water and see how much would be needed; GM BRYAN stated a list could be presented in the same manner as the storage balance transfers and can be evaluated. Treasurer NUTI asked if the well could be turned on later; GM BRYAN stated it could be turned on at any time during the permitted time. GM BRYAN stated it could be added to the agenda to discuss under the staff reports. Treasurer NUTI made a motion review the topic monthly; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

**16. Discussion and consideration to appoint a committee to plan a Centennial Celebration for the Walker River Irrigation District to be held on Friday, April 19, 2019.**

GM BRYAN stated the Walker River Irrigation District was organized on April 14, 1919 and approved & recognized April 15, 1919. In reflection of the last 100 years, he would like to have a celebration on Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>. GM BRYAN stated the Board could appoint a committee or assign the staff to organize the event. The staff is in the works of getting donations, tents, food, chairs, etc. There is money in the budget to cover expenses. Director ACCIARI stated the Board would like to help. Treasurer NUTI made a motion that the staff continue with organizing the event; Director MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

Vice President GIORGI suggested sending invitations to past directors as well.

**17. Director Comments:**

None presented.

**18. Public Comment:**

Ed RYAN stated the dredge pump has been ordered and should arrive mid-May. It is anticipated the dredge will be operational by the end of May.

**19. Adjournment:**

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Director MASINI offered a second. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:22 AM.

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Jim Snyder, President

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David Giorgi, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer

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Dennis Acciari, Director

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