

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on February 8, 2021. 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, via phone
Marcus MASINI	Vice President
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via phone
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
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Public Present via phone:

Silas Adams, WBC	Dave Hockaday	Ryan Stanton, DC Parks
Tom Renner	Chase Pasley	Tim Bardsley, NOAA
Wes Walker, MBK	Don Smith	Ike

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All members present with President Snyder and Counsel FERGUSON on the phone.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting

Treasurer NUTI requested a correction on page 5 from ‘information’ to ‘informing’.

Director GIORGI made a motion to accept the minutes with the correction; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

4. Water Master’s Report

Joanne SARKISIAN stated there is currently 13,190 acre-feet in Bridgeport (31%) and 13,380 acre-feet in Topaz (23%). The SWE is currently at 70% of average, but on February 1st it was 75%. The February 1st number is what is being used to set the Tribe’s date as April 15th. Joanne has been talking with ditch companies on shutting off the stock water. The Ditch Rider meeting is set for February 23rd.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of January 1, 2021:

Cash in Checking	\$ 187,535.89
Cash in Money Market	\$ 712,235.67
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 749,661.39</u>
Total	\$1,649,432.95

Secretary HALTERMAN advised there is approximately \$518,000 outstanding in grant reimbursements and approximately \$147,000 due from ditch companies, leases, etc. President SNYDER asked if all of it was collectable; Secretary HALTERMAN advised it is all collectable.

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

January 2021 Bills & Payroll

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>		<u>Check Amount</u>
121816	1/12/2021	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$	907.60
121817	1/12/2021	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	\$	351.89
121818	1/12/2021	AT&T	\$	151.25
121819	1/12/2021	AT&T Mobility	\$	116.29
121820	1/12/2021	Mason Valley Quicknet	\$	305.00
121821	1/12/2021	True Value	\$	27.78
121822	1/12/2021	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$	9.97
121823	1/12/2021	Public Employees' Benefits	\$	1,740.46
121824	1/12/2021	Quill	\$	370.73
121825	1/12/2021	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$	70.90
121826	1/12/2021	Schneider Electric USA,	\$	980.00
121827	1/12/2021	Sciarani & Co.	\$	15,000.00
121828	1/12/2021	NV Energy	\$	260.42
121829	1/12/2021	Alhambra	\$	148.11
121830	1/12/2021	Southwest Gas Corporation	\$	441.70
121831	1/12/2021	Standard Insurance	\$	242.47
121832	1/12/2021	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$	2,775.32
121833	1/12/2021	Allied Sanitation and Septic	\$	80.00
121834	1/14/2021	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	8,295.72
121835	1/14/2021	City of Yerington	\$	122.90
121836	1/14/2021	Desert Research Institute	\$	14,409.36
121837	1/14/2021	Charter Communications	\$	222.32

121838	1/14/2021	Yerington Ready Mix	\$	2,482.58
121839	1/28/2021	ABILA Dept 3303	\$	186.64
121840	1/28/2021	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	\$	189.72
121841	1/28/2021	Giomi, Inc.	\$	245.55
121842	1/28/2021	Sticks and Stones Buildings	\$	474.39
121843	1/28/2021	Lyon County Recorder	\$	47.75
121844	1/28/2021	Mason Valley Quicknet	\$	2,935.44
121845	1/28/2021	MBK Engineers	\$	2,833.00
121846	1/28/2021	Nevada Employment	\$	710.68
121847	1/28/2021	Standard Insurance	\$	234.52
121848	1/28/2021	U.S. Geological Survey	\$	13,502.00
121849	1/28/2021	Verizon Wireless	\$	450.91
121850	1/28/2021	Vision Service Plan	\$	186.05
121851	1/28/2021	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	91,978.75
121852	1/28/2021	Yerington Ready Mix	\$	1,045.30
121853	1/28/2021	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	7,884.96
121854	1/28/2021	MF Barcellos	\$	2,198.64
121855	1/28/2021	HomeTown Health	\$	7,421.23
PAYROLL	1/31/2021	January Payroll	\$	29,146.97
Total Bills & Payroll			\$	211,185.27

Director GIORGI asked if the Sciarani bill was the entire audit; Secretary HALTERMAN stated that was the second half of the bill. The financial audit was \$20,000 and the single audit was \$5,000.

Director ACCIARI made a motion to pay the bills and payroll; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

C. **Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN reported Bridgeport is currently at 13,160 acer-feet (23%) and Topaz is at 13,690 acre-feet (31%) with 5,309 acre-feet stored in Bridgeport and 7,491 acre-feet stored in Topaz since November.

The shop crew is finishing 2 meter gates on the High Ditch for Wes Smith. It will hopefully be completing the project within the next few weeks. GM BRYAN has been working with ditch companies on remedial maintenance. The G&H wants the district to remove sand in the settling basin, spillback, and the automatic gates. After ditch maintenance, the shop crew will begin working on drains.

The annual Ditch Rider meeting is scheduled for 9am on February 23rd. During the meeting, the leases will be reviewed. If someone is leasing or operating someone else's ranch, the District must have something in writing before water can be ordered.

GM BRYAN advised there is a handout on the East Walker Stream Habitat Enhancement proposed project in the Board packet. CalTrout contacted the District regarding permitting to place structures in the East Walker River. They wanted to know if Walker River is part of the navigable waters. GM BRYAN directed the gentleman to NDEP and USACE. One of the NDEP Deputy Administrators indicated they would want to be notified if anything new was being put into the river. California group proposing to do work in Nevada near the Elbow at East Walker. There are suggested structures, rock diversions, stabilization structures for fish habitat. No diversions that will impact irrigation. GM BRYAN is available if anyone wants more information. Treasurer NUTI inquired if someone asked CalTrout to come in and do the project; GM BRYAN stated he is not aware of anyone asking for it.

GM BRYAN stated the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Group is holding public meetings February 24th and 25th. The District was not directly notified of the meeting, a Bridgeport rancher forwarded the email. It is unknown if the meetings correlate with the CalTrout requested as there are not any specifics on what the meeting is about, but GM BRYAN will be sitting in on both meetings.

The District has received draft application 1282021-200 requesting permission to change 9.75 acre-feet of Newlands only water from the High Ditch to the old Sunrise Ranch on the Joggles Ditch. The District is working with Erik Allison on map approval. The item will be on the agenda next month, then must be advertised in the newspaper for 4 consecutive weeks, then will be on the April agenda for approval as per Regulation 6A.

GM BRYAN reported that the legislative session began last week. There are two water bills being discussed- AB5 and AB6. Both bills are revisions from the Nevada State Engineer's Office. There is discussion on Senate Joint Resolution #1 for a committee on the Judiciary. It will be going through Justice Hardesty. The State Engineer's Office is working on two other bills and hopes that they will be finished by the end of February. GM BRYAN will keep the Board informed of changes. If anyone is interested in the language of the bills, please contact GM BRYAN.

The District is still taking names to give to John Lee from Pump Check. Any interested well owners are urged to get on the list so John can check the wells when he is here March 29th through April 7th. He will be contacting those who are already on the list to schedule at time for the check.

At next month's meeting, GM BRYAN will have the District's integrator, Shawn, do a presentation on the changes made to the website so users can check their balances.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel FERGUSON stated an attorney/client privileged communication was emailed to the Board on January 28th that informed everyone about the remand of the 9th Circuit remand to District Court. It is expected the next step will be a status conference with Judge Du or Magistrate Cobb. As soon as that occurs, it will be known how the rest of the case will play out. If any Board member did not receive the communication, another email can be sent.

E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Wes WALKER with MBK reported they have been working on final updates to the Accounting Tool. There will be better accounting of the program water as it moves through the system. There were adjustments made to trans evaporation equality and better accounting of the Conservancy's water from the weir to Wabuska. Some features have been changed to make it easier for staff to import data and to reduce errors. All Program approvals are up to date with Nevada and California. MBK will be working with Bert on the storage allocation and timing of the Program and its releases.

F. 2021 Election Update

Secretary HALTERMAN stated Districts 1 and 5 are up for election this year. District 1 is currently held by Marcus MASINI and District 5 is currently held by Dennis ACCIARI. Nominations for the Board open on February 16th and close on March 16th. The election will be held on April 6th.

6. Presentation and discussion by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2021 irrigation season.

Tim the Basin finally received some snow. Presentation points included:

- Temperature has been warm, and precipitation has been on the dry side. Although January was above average in precipitation due to the storms.
- 70% of average for the basin
- SWE is most like 2009. 2009 had a strong spring bring it to the median peak; there is a 3 in 10 chance to get to the median peak this year.
- Soils are still not in great shape. There is a high chance of below average runoff to satisfy the soil moisture deficit. The Basin is currently in the 10th percentile for soil moisture.
- Next week forecast shows a small storm on Tuesday, a decent storm Thursday into Friday and another decent storm Saturday into Sunday. None of the storms are expected to be big.
- The outlook is still projected to be warm and dry.
- Water supply forecast is dismal for year-to-date 46-48% on East and West Walker, respectively.

- West Walker is forecasted to be 58%, East Walker is forecasted to be 61%.

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

Secretary HALTERMAN received an email from Wyatt Fereday stating ‘...total pumpage numbers for 2020: Mason Valley = 83,451 acre-feet (up from 35,176 in 2019) Smith Valley = 34,664 acre-feet (up from 17,331 in 2019). Reminder that totalizing meter forms for wells with 5 acre-feet or more duty are due by March 1. This is so that we can set up the online reporting accounts for the well users.’

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

Silas ADAMS wanted to remind about the Conservancy’s water request. They have had good participation so far. The Conservancy is working to update the hydromapper to be fully automated. Silas would like to possibly have USGS present the updated hydromapper at the April meeting.

9. Review and consideration of request of Addendum to Renewed Lease Agreement Between Walker River Irrigation District and Douglas County Parks and Recreation Department to construct a breakwater on WRID property at Topaz Lake based on plans previously provided by Douglas County and providing that the area occupied by the breakwater be considered part of the premises under the Lease.

GM BRYAN stated this item had previously been tabled until a draft lease addendum was available for review and approval. Counsel DePAOLI worked with GM BRYAN and Douglas County to create a draft addendum. Director GIORGI asked how long the project would take to complete; Ryan STANTON from Douglas County Parks stated they are working on the grant match and would not begin the project until this time next year. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to approve the request of Addendum to Renewed Lease Agreement Between Walker River Irrigation District and Douglas County Parks and Recreation Department to construct a breakwater on WRID property at Topaz Lake based on plans previously provided by Douglas County and providing that the area occupied by the breakwater be considered part of the premises under the Lease; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

10. Review and consideration of request of Tenant under Bridgeport Marina Lease for approval to add recreational vehicle parking sites at Bridgeport Marina and for related electric upgrades which will be required.

GM BRYAN stated tenant, Chase PASLEY, applied to do improvements to the property last year. One of the changes was electrical in nature and the Board directed Chase to work with the power company and Mono County to get further information and plans. Chase PASLEY stated he has been working with Southern California Edison to get a preliminary easement drawn up. The plans have not changed since last year but there is an underground easement added to the application. Director GIORGI asked if the power would install a drop service; Chase stated the power company recommended to add a second pad mounted transformer to be placed by the bathhouse and RV site 10. Existing camp sites along the

beach will be serviced by the second transformer. The power will run underground from the pole to the bathhouse. President SNYDER asked if the sites are existing or proposed; Chase stated all of them are existing, he is just adding electricity. Director GIORGI made a motion to approve the request to add recreational vehicle parking sites at Bridgeport Marina and for related electric upgrades which will be required; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

11. Review and consideration of request of Southern California Edison for an approximately 10' x 300' easement for overhead and underground electric facilities to accommodate electrical upgrades to be made by the tenant at the Bridgeport Marina.

GM BRYAN stated he worked with Counsel DePAOLI and the easement seemed straightforward. President SNYDER asked if the power would be underground; GM BRYAN confirmed. Vice President MASINI made a motion to approve Southern California Edison for an approximately 10' x 300' easement for overhead and underground electric facilities to accommodate electrical upgrades to be made by the tenant at the Bridgeport Marina; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

12. Consideration of petition defining the boundaries of and requesting the District Board of Directors to form Local Improvement District No. 5 to acquire, operate, maintain, repair, and improve the Simpson-Colony Ditch and Canal.

GM BRYAN reported the Simpson-Colony Ditch and Canal has requested to join the District as a Local Improvement District under NRS 539. The Canal has submitted their petition, but there is more information necessary to move forward. The District is still learning what is required for the boundaries, maps, and petitions. GM BRYAN has been working with the Canal and legal counsel to get the necessary paperwork and documentation submitted. There is a copy of a petition in the packet with signatures for approximately 70% of the acres on the Canal. Director GIORGI asked if there was much opposition; GM BRYAN stated there is not a lot of opposition, but the majority of the canal is on board. At a point down the road, there will need to be a special election where over 66% of the water righted acres would need to be represented in the vote. The District staff is more than happy to help any ditch company with obtaining records. GM BRYAN requested to table the item at this point until all the documentation is corrected. Vice President MASINI made a motion to table the item until a future date; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

13. Director Comments

None presented.

14. Public Comment

None presented.

15. Adjournment

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

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director

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