

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on July 8, 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
Marcus MASINI	Vice President
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel

Public Present:

George Lindesmith, Summit Engineering	Wyatt Fereday, NSE	Sarah Fichtner, NSE
Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD	Silas Adams, WBC	Steve Tomac, WBC
Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Jeff Bryant, WBC

1. Public Comment:

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum:

All five directors present.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the June 7, 2019 Regular Meeting.

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

4. Water Master's Report:

Water Master SARKISIAN advised there is currently 35,700 acre feet in Bridgeport (84% capacity) and 51,610 acre feet in Topaz (86% capacity). With the decree being full/flood, water is continuing to store in each reservoir. Joanne advised there are pictures of the weir in the Board packets that show damage to the radial arms. The radials were repaired once by Desert Engineering, but they were unable to get the equipment needed to re-sheet the arms, so a waterproof sealant was applied. Joanne stated she wants the Board to be aware. The cost to make repairs will come down to the ditch companies, but there may be grants available to replace the structure. Director GIORGI asked what ditches the weir served; Joanne stated the weir serves the SAB, Joggles and West Hyland ditches.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI gave the Treasurer's report as of June 30, 2019:

Cash in Checking:	\$ 211,939.70
Cash in Money Market	\$1,361,574.86
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 831,728.50</u>
Total	\$2,405,243.06

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment.

JUNE 2019 BILLS & PAYROLL

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
120851	6/13/2019	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	58.90
120852	6/13/2019	Farm-Assist, Inc.	5,379.00
120853	6/13/2019	Giom, Inc.	169.01
120854	6/13/2019	AT&T	138.31
120855	6/13/2019	AT&T Mobility	149.61
120856	6/13/2019	John Deere Credit	60.63
120857	6/13/2019	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	29.98
120858	6/13/2019	Lyon County Recorder	34.00
120859	6/13/2019	Mason Valley Quicknet	410.00
120860	6/13/2019	MF Barcellos	7,155.75
120861	6/13/2019	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	157.87
120862	6/13/2019	Power Plan	471.04
120863	6/13/2019	Public Employees' Benefits	803.29
120864	6/13/2019	Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	301.50
120865	6/13/2019	Quill	278.27
120866	6/13/2019	Jim Menesini Petroleum	239.68
120867	6/13/2019	NV Energy	272.00
120868	6/13/2019	Southwest Gas Corporation	58.76
120869	6/13/2019	Wild West Chevrolet	23.60
120870	6/13/2019	Woodburn & Wedge	39,307.41
120871	6/13/2019	City of Yerington	133.31
120872	6/13/2019	Sierra Office Solutions	319.98
120873	6/13/2019	Petty Cash- Reolenish	148.90
120874	6/13/2019	Petty Cash- SEDHYD Conference	400.00
120875	6/13/2019	Verizon Wireless	452.23
120876			VOID
120877	6/27/2019	ABILA	177.75

120878	6/27/2019	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. 1423	6,000.00
120879	6/27/2019	Fast Glass	520.00
120880	6/27/2019	Sticks and Stones Buildings	88.48
120881	6/27/2019	Lee's Pest Control	160.00
120882	6/27/2019	Lyon County Recorder	11.00
120883	6/27/2019	MBK Engineers	13,945.06
120884	6/27/2019	Pape' Machinery Exchange	14,940.00
120885	6/27/2019	Power Plan	9,784.88
120886	6/27/2019	Quill	438.13
120887	6/27/2019	NV Energy	4.21
120888	6/27/2019	Alhambra	84.96
120889	6/27/2019	Standard Insurance Company	242.47
120890	6/27/2019	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	153.02
120891	6/27/2019	Wells Fargo Card Services	767.56
120892	6/27/2019	Xerox Financial Services	139.44
120893	6/27/2019	HomeTown Health	5,348.53
120894	6/27/2019	Mason Valley Conservation	11,678.98
120895	6/27/2019	Desert Research Institute	10,982.99
120896	6/27/2019	McMaster-Carr	29.31
120897	6/27/2019	Overhead Door Co	4,876.00
120898	6/27/2019	Sage Designs, Inc.	495.00
120899	6/27/2019	USI Insurance Services National	15,803.39
120900	6/27/2019	PERS Administrative Fund	6,085.59
120901	6/28/2019	USBWC	39,883.75
120902	6/28/2019	Nevada Division of Water	2,590.00
120903	6/28/2019	Nevada Division of Water	2,090.00
120904	6/30/2019	D&S LI, LLC	24.84
PAYROLL		JUNE PAYROLL	34,484.41

TOTAL BILLS & PAYROLL \$ 238,782.78

President SNYDER inquired about the Mason Valley Conservation District bill; GM BRYAN stated it was to spray the Saroni Canal. Ed Ryan and his crew are doing the spraying for the District and have begun spraying the drains.

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN advised the USGS gages for the system are provided in the Board packet. The Mason gage may need to be recalibrated.

GM BRYAN reported flood mitigation effort ran from June 10th to June 26th which helped to relieve pressure in the main system. There was low lying flooding in the Miller Lane area- Ewert's, MVWMA, and David Little's property, as wells as the Mason and confluence areas. The sedimentation relief efforts with Lyon County and the City of Yerington helped. The 2017 meander location is still a problem area; there needs to be a more permanent solution. GM BRYAN spoke to Dustin Homan with Lyon County about installing an oversized culvert on one of the drainage areas to alleviate pressure in the problematic spots. At one time, the SAB was closed completely and was still breaching while serving all the demands.

GM BRYAN stated as of this morning, there is still 64" of snow at Leavitt Lake with 38.4" of SWE. There is a 5-day forecast in the packet for Antelope Valley and Bridgeport Valley which indicates the weather will be comparable to where we are at now; heat projections are going to remain above average.

President SNYDER asked GM BRYAN if he was comfortable filling the reservoirs; GM BRYAN advised he is comfortable to fill within 5,000 acre feet at Topaz and 2.34 feet before the siphons will kick on at Bridgeport. The demands are being met and there is 515 cfs at the Wabuska gage. The current storage water used is 224 acre-feet on the East, 453 acre-feet on the Main, 75 acre-feet on the Tunnel and 489 acre-feet on the West. A reallocation cannot be done if storage water is not called for. If the weather pattern of heating up and cooling off continues, there is good reason to think we should have carry over in the reservoir pools at the end of the season.

President SNYDER asked if USGS will be recalibrating the gage; GM BRYAN stated they are usually quick to recalibrate when something is off.

GM BRYAN reported the shop crew will be continuing flood mitigation efforts by removing sediment on the banks to make room for more. Repair and maintenance on the High Ditch and drains continues. The Saroni and the Plymouth will be demossed on Wednesday, and the Conservation District is spraying the West, Main and East drains.

GM BRYAN stated he attended a sediment conference in Reno a couple weeks ago. He had meetings with the consultants of CalPoly and Holm & West. Through NRCS, the District was awarded \$300,000 for a sediment mitigation plan. The plan will identify the source of the sediment and the best way to control it. The District is working with NRCS to get the ball rolling, but there has been a lot of turnover, so it is taking a little longer than expected. GM BRYAN is hoping the District does

not need to go through the entire procurement process, but that is something to work out with NRCS.

GM BRYAN will be going to CalPoly to meet with Dr. Styles later this week to discuss current projects- drain surveys, Topaz discharge house automation, water measurement (data loggers). Dr. Styles will be at the District next week with his students to continue surveying, measuring losses and training with USGS. All the data collected is owned by the individual ditch companies and gives them an idea of where the losses are occurring and where to focus.

On July 1st, the District started the new fiscal year. With the first month's ditch bills, Secretary HALTERMAN will be sending a letter to comply with audit recommendations. All ditch companies will need to have accounts with the local vendors for material purchases; the District will not be able to purchase boards and other materials for ditch companies and bill them after the fact. President SNYDER asked if ditch companies could purchase pipe from the District; GM BRYAN stated the material can be shipped to the District, but the bill must go directly to the ditch company. If the District is hired by the ditch company to do a project, the materials for the project can be purchased through the District and billed as a project expense.

GM BRYAN stated there are two permanent storage water applications pending. Both have been/ will be posted in the paper on July 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. The public has 30 days after the last posting to submit a protest.

Treasurer NUTI asked if the Stored Water Program releases will begin on August 1st; GM BRYAN stated that is the plan. MBK staff will be at the District on or about August 1st to sit with the staff and monitor the tracking.

D. Legal Counsel's Report:

Counsel DePAOLI advised Mineral County filed a reply brief in the Supreme Court on June 26th. The next step will be the Court setting a hearing for oral argument; DePAOLI is unsure exactly when it would be, but he will be finding out if there is a way to hear in advance. Treasurer NUTI asked if the Court will be allowing argument or will just be taking information; DePAOLI advised he would be very surprised if they do not schedule argument.

E. 2019 Flood Mitigation Update

Secretary HALTERMAN reported with the flood mitigation effort time the crew did not work on the sediment removal, therefore the June expenses totaled approximately \$1,000. We are awaiting payment for the past expenses. Treasurer NUTI asked if there was money leftover from the County; Secretary HALTERMAN advised there is approximately \$85,000 remaining. Treasurer NUTI asked if there was a possibility to work with the County to use the remaining funds to clean more of the river; GM BRYAN stated the County will need our equipment and crews to load the sediment into the trucks and the expense of that

will come out of the remaining funds. With the recent rains, more material was brought back into the system.

F. Review and approval of Monthly Storage Transfers.

GM BRYAN stated June had one transfer. Vice President MASINI made a motion to approve the transfer; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

G. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

GM BRYAN stated the temporary transfers were approved by the Nevada State Engineers Office and the distribution plan was filed with the State of California. Within the next few weeks, the MBK Engineers will be at the District to go over how the program will work. The Accounting Tool is being used and a schematic is being created to allow all users to view the information on the District's website.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY reported the temporary transfers are permitted and are viewable on the website. The amount permitted from Bridgeport is roughly 9,800 acre-feet and Topaz is roughly 7,700 acre-feet. The period of use is July 15th through October 31st to match the Storage Water Program. All the water within the program is tracked in a spreadsheet that will be entered into the database as delivered. The water is in-stream flow, but it is being considered as delivered to a property, therefore a supplemental well cannot be used to make up the amount. The NSE staff will stay in close communication with WRID to track the water. Through early June, total pumping in Smith Valley was 2,500 acre-feet and Mason Valley was 6,800 acre-feet. Wyatt stated he and Sarah will be in the area weekly to do proof beneficial use field investigations; if anyone wants to talk to them, just let them know.

President SNYDER asked if, when the releases are made, a static level will be held; GM BRYAN stated that is the plan. As the decree drops off, more of the program water will be released to keep the river level static. With a static level, the conveyance losses will be decreased as well.

Treasurer NUTI asked if the program releases will run for three months; GM BRYAN stated it will run August through October.

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

Silas ADAMS stated starting July 3rd; they received water for their in-stream use.

8. 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.

Secretary HALTERMAN stated the District still has under 100 acre-feet of requests. GM BRYAN stated the District is still running under certificate water. Vice President MASINI asked what would happen if the certificated water runs out at the end of the month; GM BRYAN stated if that happens, the well could be turned on. GM BRYAN suggested to keep the item on the agenda for next month.

9. Discussion and consideration of WRID contracting with USGS for a USGS Gage on the Walker River at Miller Lane for a period of 3 years pursuant to grant funding for that gage from the Walker Basin Conservancy.

GM BRYAN stated the Miller Gage was on until 2015. USGS does still use the gage as a stage level site. There is a non-contact sensor, but the figures are not released to the public. It is not on the website and it is not a current reported site, but it is a key location gage to track releases in between the weir and Wabuska. For tracking purposes from the Water Master perspective, a gage in between is helpful.

Silas ADAMS stated because the Conservancy is non-profit, it cannot enter an agreement with USGS directly. The Conservancy is willing to do a cost share agreement with WRID and pay for the cost of the gage. The Water Master requested the gage for administration of decree. At the end of the 3-year term, the Conservancy will review the data and will evaluate the need to continue the gage. Treasurer NUTI asked if it would make more sense to put the gage at the Wabuska drain where the return waters enter the river; Silas stated they worked with USGS and USGS determined there would not be good enough data to warrant a gage at the Wabuska drain. GM BRYAN stated he went with USGS when they evaluated the drains. When there is a bad water year, the sediment at the drain creates a negative velocity and there are errors in the data. With the current gages at the weir and Wabuska, the change in volume are calculated by taking the difference of the weir gage and the Wabuska gage. With the Miller Lane gage, there will be a middle point that will indicate better data on return flows. Vice President MASINI inquired if the Conservancy will pay for repairs and maintenance of the gage; GM BRYAN stated USGS charges one flat fee and will take care of the repairs and maintenance costs. Vice President MASINI inquired about covering the staff costs; GM BRYAN stated the work in the office would be directed different and is covered by budgeted costs. Director GIORGI asked if it is budgeted for the additional gage; GM BRYAN stated it is budgeted for the current gages, but WRID will enter into a new agreement with USGS and will bill the Conservancy for the additional gage cost. Treasurer NUTI asked if the distance from the weir to Miller Lane was approximately 1.5 miles; GM BRYAN stated it is close to that and approximately 7 miles from Miller Lane to Wabuska.

Director GIORGI made a motion to approve the contracting with USGS and funding by WBC; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

10. Discussion and consideration of whether the District Board deems that further exploration of the formation of local improvement districts to acquire existing multi-user irrigation ditches diverting from the River from existing owners (ditch

companies and/or tenants in common) for purposes of their continued operation and maintenance by a newly formed improvement district is merited in order to allow such ditch companies to formally pursue such formation.

GM BRYAN stated the District held a workshop in May and 6 ditch companies expressed interest in the local improvement district formation. There is good cause and reason for the District to pursue the LIDs with the recommendations from previous audits. The first step in the process is to have the Board say 'yes' that they are interested in pursuing the conveyance. Director GIORGI stated he was asked if the District can handle taking over the ditch companies and can keep up with the cleaning and maintenance; GM BRYAN stated it would be a lot easier to schedule maintenance if the District owned the ditches because right now everyone calls when they have a problem and expects the District to fix it right away. The routine repairs and maintenance on what the District currently owns is being put on the back burner because the private ditches are requesting projects and repairs. Director ACCIARI stated more staff will be needed to help with the additional ditches; GM BRYAN stated the new staff would be on the payroll to be a ditch rider during the irrigation season and a shop crew member during the off season. With the hour constraints of PERS, the ditch riders who transition to temporary staff in the off season are only allowed to work a certain number of hours. By putting them on payroll, they would receive benefits and there would be no hour constraint. Also, the District can no longer provide the same cost benefit it has in the past because of constraints from audits and other state agencies. Director GIORGI stated the Saroni Canal seems to run well; GM BRYAN stated the Canal has come a long way in the past 10 years. Treasurer NUTI stated they assessed themselves high to get the repairs needed. GM BRYAN stated with the District owning ditches, grant funding can be obtained. Vice President MASINI stated most people are worried that if 6 ditch companies sign over to the District, the District won't be able to handle the load. GM BRYAN stated if the ditches assess themselves like the Saroni, they will get the same treatment as the Saroni. President SNYDER asked Treasurer NUTI if he felt the operating part of the budget is handled efficiently; Treasurer NUTI stated there was a period where the users were taking care of the Canal. The Advisory Board broke the assessments into O&M and Special Projects. The Advisory Board realized the projects and improvements could not be funded with the O&M, so the Special Projects assessment was created. Users do pitch in and take care of the Canal; Fulstone's did burning earlier in the year and sent a bill to the Saroni. GM BRYAN stated the grant funding for automation is exhausted and the individual ditch companies are going to be responsible for the repairs and maintenance at some point. The automatic gates do have a 30 year shelf life, but they are \$30,000 to replace.

Vice President MASINI stated his concern is that there will be angry farmers who will want things done immediately and the District won't be able to say 'no'; GM BRYAN stated he can't say 'no' right now. Vice President MASINI stated the District needs to take baby steps. GM BRYAN stated the companies need to realize what staff we have right now and be patient as more staff is added. GM BRYAN stated the District is only able to do what the budget allows.

Treasurer NUTI stated shutting water off on February 1st and expecting the ditch to be maintained by March 1st is not going to happen; stock water should not be allowed until the maintenance and projects are completed. There will need to be cooperation amongst users on shutting off stock water.

Director GIORGI asked if users will be allowed to do work on the ditches; GM BRYAN stated it would be welcomed. President SNYDER asked if the user would submit their bill to the District; GM BRYAN stated yes.

Treasurer NUTI stated a benefit of the LIDs is that the District will handle the coordination of projects and the ditch company would not try to handle it on their own. GM BRYAN stated three out of the four months were spent on two projects on non-district owned canals and the routine repairs and maintenance were delayed on the drains.

Director ACCIARI stated he likes the ideas of the ditch assessments going through the County. GM BRYAN stated if someone does not pay their assessments through County, their property gets taken away.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion that the District continue further exploration of the formation of local improvement districts to acquire existing multi-user irrigation ditches diverting from the River from existing owners (ditch companies and/or tenants in common) for purposes of their continued operation and maintenance by a newly formed improvement district is merited in order to allow such ditch companies to formally pursue such formation; Director ACCIARI offered a second.

President SNYDER asked if there is a way to limit the amount of acreage within a year to take baby steps; GM BRYAN stated he is unsure if he can tell one person 'yes' and another person 'no', but it will take time to acquire the ditch companies. Not all the ditch companies will get the required steps completed at the same time, so the acquisition could be staggered. President SNYDER asked how much opposition is heard; GM BRYAN stated the usual amount- some users don't want to give up their authority. Director GIORGI stated some ditch companies still have a bad taste in their mouth from the last time they signed over and it was costly to take the ditches back. GIORGI stated the structure is different now; GM BRYAN stated in the past all the ditches were put into one pot and were helped if/when the District got to them. President SNYDER asked if another workshop is scheduled; GM BRYAN stated he prefers not to have another workshop, but if needed, one can be held.

The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

11. Director Comments:

None presented.

12. Public Comment:

None presented.

13. Adjournment:

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director

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