

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on August 9, 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
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director, via phone
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via phone
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary

Public Present:

Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Silas Adams, WBC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
Wyatt Fereday, NDWR	Frank McDonough, DRI	

Public Present via phone:

Wes Walker, MBK	Angela Bezzone, MBK
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1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call

All members were present.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the July 7, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

4. Water Master's Report

No report available.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of July 31, 2021:

Cash in Checking	\$
Cash in Money Market	\$
Cash in CDs	\$ <u>749,661.39</u>
Total	

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment
July 2021 Bills & Payroll

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
122079	7/7/2021	AFLAC	\$ 35.70
122080	7/7/2021	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	\$ 425.72
122081	7/7/2021	True Value	\$ 73.94
122082	7/7/2021	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$ 52.19
122083	7/7/2021	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$ 599.95
122084	7/7/2021	NV Energy	\$ 326.78
122085	7/7/2021	Southwest Gas Corporation	\$ 37.54
122086	7/7/2021	ABILA Dept 3303	\$ 195.98
122087	7/7/2021	Local Government Employee-	\$ 30.00
122088	7/7/2021	Nevada Division of Water	\$ 680.00
122089	7/7/2021	NWRA	\$ 35.00
122090	7/7/2021	Standard Insurance Company	\$ 241.03
122091	7/7/2021	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	\$ 186.05
122092	7/7/2021	HomeTown Health	\$ 7,421.23
122093	7/7/2021	D & S Waste Removal	\$ 203.64
122094	7/7/2021	Decision Support Technology	\$ 288.00
122095	7/7/2021	USI Insurance Services	\$ 18,109.01
122096	7/13/2021	Giomi, Inc.	\$ 475.64
122097	7/13/2021	AT&T	\$ 155.45
122098	7/13/2021	Sticks and Stones Buildings	\$ 15.75
122099	7/13/2021	John Deere Credit	\$ 602.74
122100	7/13/2021	Lyon County Recorder	\$ 53.70
122101	7/13/2021	MF Barcellos	\$ 3,485.64
122102	7/13/2021	Purchase Power	\$ 446.93
122103	7/13/2021	Verizon Wireless	\$ 413.96
122104	7/13/2021	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$ 1,662.41
122105	7/13/2021	Xerox Financial Services	\$ 255.33
122106	7/13/2021	Water Systems Engineering,	\$ 1,580.00
122107	7/13/2021	Lee's Pest Control	\$ 160.00

122108	7/13/2021	USBWC	\$	8,778.00
122109	7/13/2021	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	8,444.14
122110	7/20/2021	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	44,915.50
122111	7/20/2021	City of Yerington	\$	137.90
122112	7/20/2021	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	\$	1,027.80
122113	7/20/2021	ABILA Dept 3303	\$	195.98
122114	7/20/2021	Quill	\$	261.35
122115	7/20/2021	U.S. Geological Survey	\$	13,502.00
122116	7/20/2021	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	\$	186.05
122117	7/20/2021	Walker River Irrigation District	\$	413.23
122118	7/28/2021	Alhambra	\$	192.67
122119	7/28/2021	Desert Research Institute	\$	8,362.77
122120	7/28/2021	Quill	\$	94.76
122121	7/28/2021	Lyon County News Leader	\$	52.00
122122	7/28/2021	Standard Insurance Company	\$	241.03
122123	7/28/2021	HomeTown Health	\$	7,421.23
122124	7/29/2021	Nevada Employment Security	\$	1,701.12
122125	7/29/2021	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	8,600.74
122126	7/29/2021	MBK Engineers	\$	9,239.25
122127	7/29/2021	NV Energy	\$	4.27
PAYROLL	7/31/2021	JULY PAYROLL	\$	38,873.84
TOTAL BILLS & PAYROLL			\$	190,894.94

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 9,649 acre-feet (16%) and Bridgeport is at 9,155 acre-feet (22%). The Storage Water Leasing Program water is starting as of this morning. Releases are being made from Bridgeport. There is currently 2,279 acre-feet left to serve on the West and 3,496 acre-feet on the East. Angela will be giving a more in-depth update. The demand has dropped down significantly on all stretches of river including the Tribes 26 ¼. We have continued to experience some areas of higher loss. The crew is currently in the process of going back out to pinpoint key locations throughout the system. The East still has a much higher loss component so the crew will be measuring around the head of the Flying M, at the East Walker bridge and Hwy 208. GM BRYAN would also like to get a

measurement on the Tunnel. In Smith Valley, a measurement will be taken somewhere between Hoye and the Hudson Gauge. GM BRYAN has spoken with Vlot on taking a measurement at the Day Lane bridge. The crew will continually monitor those locations and track the losses, especially for the Leasing Program. All the data collected on the East loss problem was put into a preliminary report and submitted to the Division of Conservation Natural Resources. The report was sent to DCNR as well as other state agencies and the District is waiting for feedback. The hope is that DCNR can work out a lasting agreement with State Parks to maintain the areas of the river along the East corridor. In the agreement it would be helpful to be able to work in conjunction with the State in the event there are any issues. One topic brought up during the investigation was whether the channel displacement caused excessive losses; there was no significant losses that appeared to be caused by the displacement.

The Shop crew is continuing to do routine repair and maintenance on Wabuska/West and East/Main drains. They are hoping to get a couple more spots wrapped up on the Wabuska portion in the next week or two. We received the go ahead on the Saroni Phase II grant and have already set a plan in motion to start that project. The gates have been ordered and will be delivered to the FIM stackyard where they will be moved into place from there. The gates will be installed at the Straub, Wedertz #5 and Cardoni locations. There is one portion of the grant that allows for upgrades at the terminus, but that work will be completed next season as the report needs a few modifications. The Campbell WaterSMART grant approval is waiting for Mike Drews to revise the cultural report and send it back to BOR for approval. GM BRYAN hopes the approval is soon so that project can begin. If anyone has any project requests, contact GM BRYAN to get on the schedule.

GM BRYAN met with Douglas County Public works regarding potential issues from the Tamarack burn scar. There were thunderstorms in the forecast, and they wanted to talk about putting material on the side of Topaz Park Road in the event of a mudslide. GM BRYAN requested they put the material further down the road past the discharge tube as there is plenty of room on the 200-acre parcel. GM BRYAN does not want any of that material to touch the water of the reservoir or the river.

GM BRYAN received a phone call from the Rocky Mountain Type 1 Team advising they were one of the groups performing water air deliveries for the Tamarack Fire. They stated they dipped out 251,841 gallons during the fire so that roughly equates to 3 acre-feet which offset the evaporation loss.

GM BRYAN stated Dick Roberson from Roberson Realty came to see him regarding the property at 400 N Main St. The property is now being represented by Roberson Realty and there was an offer that fell through in escrow. The price has been reduced to \$565,000 and the owner is willing to talk with the District but has not returned phone calls. The price is still too high for what the District intends to

do with the property, but GM BRYAN will keep in touch with the realtor and keep the Board informed of any changes.

President SNYDER asked how the losses are accounted for on the East when water is ordered; GM BRYAN stated the District worked with the Water Master on making changes with private property owners which caused significant rebound. The loss is still around 50% but is comparable with 2014-15. Users have been calling for water since the study was performed, but the losses are high.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel FERGUSON stated he did not have anything to report.

E. Review and approval of monthly storage transfers.

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

F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Angela BEZZONE presented and gave an overview of the release plan. Releases start today from Bridgeport Reservoir. The current plan is to hold releases from Bridgeport steady at 55 CFS and there is currently less demand than that so anything below the 55 CFS is going to be program water. In an ideal world, the hope would be that releases be consistent, and the storage demand be consistent but if that fluctuates, then the program water will fluctuate with the demands on the system. MBK, WRID and USBWC are meeting at least weekly going forward to monitor program water versus storage water for irrigation and to make sure that everything is being tracked throughout the system. With the additional losses that are being experienced between Bridgeport and Strosnider, there is a difference in accounting this year with additional transportation water being in the system so that water makes it down to the Strosnider location. The second figure on the release plan the projections for Bridgeport storage water throughout the season. Bridgeport does have a minimum pool of 2,000 acre-feet and by the end of October it is projected that the pool be at approximately 3,000 acre-feet. The Topaz Reservoir releases are approximately 80 CFS currently and there is an expected decrease in demand on Wednesday. At this time the plan is to hold the release study at 80 CFS then that will become the program water for approximately a week and a half. There is 'dead' pool limit, and the pool is expected to be between 4,000 and 5,000 acre-feet at the end of October.

Director GIORGI asked what the expected elevation change is at Walker Lake; Angela was uncertain if a measurable increase would be seen, but there is potentially an evaporation offset.

Vice President MASINI asked what the split between the reservoirs is; Angela stated it is approximately 450 acre-feet from Bridgeport and 250 acre-feet from Topaz.

G. FY2020-2021 Audit Update

Secretary HALTERMAN advised several months' worth of data was deleted from the accounting software and was realized last week when the data was being sent to the auditors. The data has been re-entered and has been given to the auditors for end of year testing. Secretary HALTERMAN stated she contacted ABILA and the current modules and plan the District has is not sufficient due to the number of funds. To get to a package that will fit the data storage at this time, the monthly bill would increase \$300 and more modules would need to be added. Secretary HALTERMAN is looking at other software that would fit the current needs as well as future needs.

H. Current Drought Conditions for WY 2021 Presented by MBK Engineers

Wes WALKER reported a minor bright spot in this water year was quite a bit of thunderstorm activity in the latter half of July which did give some boost to inflows, particularly on the East which helped with reservoir storage at Bridgeport. There is a small chance for some more thunderstorms later this week, but the current long-term forecast is suggesting things to be a bit drier than the normal in terms of the monsoon. There is no significant difference in terms of the forecast from the River Forecast Center in terms of runoff just that inflows are starting to decrease. Most reaches of the river are now trending stable for the last couple weeks and, as Bert noted, after the repairs and the work done on the East, everywhere is comparable to the recent 2014-15 years.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY stated he, Kip and Mike took readings on the East Walker. The data corresponds with the data from Sandy with WRID and Mel from USGS. NDWR does have different equipment than WRID and USGS, so it was good to get familiar with it and compare the data. The water was muddy due to the recent thunderstorms, so the device was difficult to read at times.

Wyatt reported that approximately 80-85% of Mason Valley well users have submitted data, and approximately 50-65% of Smith Valley users have reported. The pumping numbers for this year are expected to be far above last year due to the low amount of surface water.

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

Silas ADAMS stated so far this year, 117 acre-feet of decree water has reached Walker Lake. Last year 146 acre-feet reached the lake but evaporated within approximately 6 hours on the hottest day. Keeping the stretch of river wet from the Tribe to Walker Lake is a benefit.

Silas reported that the Conservancy has offered employment to a candidate for the Executive Director position. Peter Stanton will start on September 28th.

The Conservancy has launched a surface water value estimator and it is available on the website. Anyone interested in seeing what their surface water is valued at can input data from a water card and the system will give a dollar estimate. If land is involved, Silas is available to talk with. The system is good for Nevada water only. GM BRYAN asked if the personal information from the water card is being stored or used by WBC; Silas stated no personal information is being asked for. The system will ask what ditch the water is on and the amount, then will generate an estimate and, if the user is interested in talking with the Conservancy, there is an option to request contact. The system will keep track of how much interest there is on a ditch, but no personal information is stored or asked for.

8. Presentation and update on Cloud Seeding Program by Frank McDonough from DRI.

Frank McDonough presented a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Last winter DRI ran a single remote control cloud seeder on Conway Summit
- The goal was to target the higher terrain along the Sierra Crest and Sweetwaters
- A generator on Yosemite would be ideal, but equipment cannot be placed there
- Ideally, there are three storm types needed to get a good seeding
- A weather specialist monitors the storm conditions and makes predictions on when the conditions will be just right to activate the generator and release the seeding solution. The solution is only dispersed during ideal conditions.
- The ideal conditions are clouds that are between 5 degrees Fahrenheit up to freezing and have a lot of water drops mixed into the snow.
- The seeding solution binds to the water drops that normally do not produce precipitation that falls and converts them into snow.
- The cloud base must be below the mountain top. If the Sierra Crest is visible, the conditions are not ideal
- The temperature at 10,000 feet must be colder than 23 Fahrenheit for the seeding aerosols to create ice
- When aircraft coming over the Sierras report ice accumulation on their wings, generally it is the ideal condition to begin seeding.
- With the few winter storms from October to March, the generator ran approximately 47.3 hours.
- Based on the graphs presented, there was a positive correlation between the generator running and the increased snowpack
- Silver iodide is the chemical released into the clouds. To verify whether the storm was seeded, snow samples are collected and analyzed. If there are 40-50 parts per trillion, it is confirmed that the seeding supplemented the storm. Normal silver iodide level in non-seeded storms are 5 parts per trillion.
- The silver iodide is not harmful to the environment and does not accumulate to high levels.

Vice President MASINI asked if drone seeding was being considered; Frank stated the drones release chemical to bind water droplets together to make them heavy enough to drop to the ground. The intention is to create water precipitation rather than supplement the

snowpack. Also, getting permission to do drone seeding is very difficult in Nevada and California.

9. Director Comments

None presented.

10. Public Comment

None presented.

11. Adjournment

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn; Treasurer NUTI 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