

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

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Chad Walling, NSE
Sarah Fichtner, NSE	Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD	Ron Melen, SV/MVCD
Silas Adams, WBC	Gary Godde	Chase Pasley
Jeff Anderson, NRCS		

1. Public Comment:

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum:

All five board members present.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the March 7, 2019 Regular meeting.

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

4. Consideration of Minutes of the March 22, 2019 Special meeting.

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

5. Water Master's Report:

Water Master SARKISIAN reported 302cfs is currently being released from Bridgeport and 130cfs is currently being released from Topaz. The Topaz Reservoir Tender is going to increase the release by 100cfs today and Bridgeport will be decreased 50cfs to offset. As of this morning, 430cfs is being released and 422cfs is being delivered to users. In comparison with which portion is decree and which is storage, there is a 11% conveyance in decree. Treasurer NUTI asked SARKISIAN to confirm what the releases are; SARKISIAN advised after the adjustments, Topaz release will be 130cfs and Bridgeport will be 250cfs. SARKISIAN stated on Saturday, there was 180cfs at Coleville and today there is 298cfs, so the flows are increasing.

Regarding timing, SARKISIAN stated her and her river riders are doing everything they can do accommodate the users. They are in the field at sunrise, SARKISIAN advised she does not think they need to be out in the dark due to safety concerns. As the sun comes up earlier, the riders will be out there earlier. The automatic gates can be set to any time of the morning/night, but the manual ones do have to be set by hand. SARKISIAN reminded everyone that she and her river riders work at the direction of US Board, not at a ditch rider's direction. If there is an issue on any of the timing, SARKISIAN would appreciate that the concern come directly to her and not through anyone else.

6. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI gave the Treasurer's report as of March 31, 2019:

Cash in Checking:	\$ 284,998.67
Cash in Money Market	\$1,248,584.53
Cash in CDs	<u>\$1,242,660.75</u>
Total	\$2,776,243.95

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment.

March 2019 Bills & Payroll

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>		<u>Check Amount</u>
120673	3/5/2019	USBWC	\$	86,893.89
120674	3/7/2019	Ameritas Life Insurance	\$	848.70
120675	3/7/2019	Sticks and Stones	\$	1,036.23
120676	3/7/2019	AT&T Mobility	\$	174.21
120677	3/7/2019	Kent's Supply Center, Inc.	\$	1,385.76
120678	3/7/2019	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK	\$	37.94
120679	3/7/2019	Purchase Power / Pitney	\$	301.50
120680	3/7/2019	NV Energy	\$	241.88
120681	3/7/2019	Alhambra	\$	103.94
120682	3/7/2019	Southwest Gas	\$	373.65
120683	3/14/2019	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	6,386.61
120684	3/21/2019	AFLAC	\$	35.70
120685	3/21/2019	Nationwide Insurance	\$	500.00
120686	3/21/2019	Frontier	\$	283.81
120687	3/21/2019	Giomi, Inc.	\$	683.41
120688	3/21/2019	Hunewill Construction Co.,	\$	484.80
120689	3/21/2019	AT&T	\$	141.53
120690	3/21/2019	Associated Concrete	\$	2,767.28
120691	3/21/2019	Lyon County Recorder	\$	25.75

120692	3/21/2019	Mason Valley Quicknet	\$	415.00
120693	3/21/2019	MBK Engineers	\$	6,945.71
120694	3/21/2019	PDM Steel Service	\$	1,442.23
120695	3/21/2019	Plymouth Ditch Company	\$	116.96
120696	3/21/2019	Quill	\$	1,447.91
120697	3/21/2019	Reno Gazette Journal	\$	573.22
120698	3/21/2019	NV Energy	\$	33.37
120699	3/21/2019	Verizon Wireless	\$	445.78
120700	3/21/2019	Vision Service Plan	\$	144.27
120701	3/21/2019	White Cap Construction	\$	1,169.90
120702	3/21/2019	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	26,816.90
120703	3/21/2019	City of Yerington	\$	121.07
120704	3/21/2019	D & S Waste Removal	\$	203.64
120705	3/21/2019	Desert Research Institute	\$	12,526.95
120706	3/21/2019	ERA Economics, LLC	\$	9,867.50
120707	3/21/2019	JP Engineering, LLC	\$	1,000.00
120708	3/21/2019	Sierra Office Solutions	\$	110.29
120709	3/21/2019	Yerington Ready Mix	\$	2,688.76
120710	3/27/2019	Marianne Leinassar	\$	500.00
120711	3/27/2019	Hunewill Construction Co.,	\$	601.48
120712	3/27/2019	Associated Concrete	\$	1,155.26
120713	3/27/2019	MF Barcellos	\$	2,511.41
120714	3/27/2019	True Value	\$	147.15
120715	3/27/2019	Quill	\$	308.17
120716	3/27/2019	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$	706.65
120717	3/27/2019	Standard Insurance	\$	248.20
120718	3/27/2019	Xerox Financial Services	\$	139.44
120719	3/27/2019	HomeTown Health	\$	5,248.78
120720	3/27/2019	Yerington Ready Mix	\$	2,813.52
PAYROLL		MARCH PAYROLL	\$	38,489.70

Total Bills & Payroll \$ 221,645.81

Director MASINI made a motion to approve the bills for March 2019; Vice President GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed unanimously.

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN advised the current reservoir pools are:

Bridgeport 28,220 acre-feet (67% capacity)
Topaz 40,220 acre-feet (67% capacity)

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

GM BRYAN reported there has been an influx with the warmer weather. Topaz has begun to store resulting in the releases being increased. The shop crew finished the upgrades on the Plymouth Ditch and Colony Ditch. Maintenance was performed on high interest spots along the west river in Smith Valley and just north of Wilson Canyon. Drain maintenance is being completed and rock diversions are being lowered at the Pitchfork Ranch, High, G&H, Spragg and Goldfield diversion. Lowering the dams will alleviate some of the sand problems and will mitigate potential problems with higher flows. After that project, the focus will be on Miller Lane. There is a lot of erosions occurring south of the Miller Lane Bridge. After that is mitigated, the equipment will be rerouted to the weir and will begin working on the sediment.

GM BRYAN advised the District was awarded a \$300,000 NRCS grant to complete a Watershed Plan and there will be an informational meeting later this month. The 2nd BOR grant will be discussed at a meeting in June.

GM BRYAN stated the staff has been working on the Centennial Celebration preparation. Fliers have been mailed to all the users. The driveway/yard tends to get high and low spots, so road base will be brought in prior to the event. GM BRYAN thanked the Board for volunteering to cook and help prepare the yard.

GM BRYAN provided the Board with a packet of the bills heard and passed during the Legislative Session; a packet is available for the public upon request. AB30 has been heard with no action; AB51 has been heard with no action; AB62 has been heard, amended and passed; AB95 has been heard, amended and passed; AB163 has been heard, amended and passed; AB233 has been heard with no action; SB140 has been heard, amended and passed; SB232 has been heard and passed; SB236 has been heard, amended and passed; SB350 has been heard with no action; SB499 has not been heard yet. The bills that have not been passed are not included in the packet. President SNYDER requested a synopsis of each of the bills from Counsel DePAOLI.

Treasurer NUTI confirmed that the excavators are in Mason Valley working on the river; GM BRYAN stated they have been working on the river in Smith and Mason Valleys for approximately two weeks in various places. Treasurer NUTI asked about the County's progress on fixing the road; GM BRYAN stated they have been working on it.

D. Legal Counsel's Report:

Counsel DePAOLI advised he did not have anything to report.

E. 2019 Election Update

Secretary HALTERMAN reported there was no opposition for any of the open positions. Jim SNYDER, David GIORGI, and Richard NUTI will be sworn in during the meeting in May.

F. 2019 Flood Mitigation Update

Secretary HALTERMAN asked the Board what information they would like to see regarding the cost to WRID, amount billed, and amount received regarding the Flood Mitigation project. Currently, there have been no costs incurred, but the project will be starting soon. President SNYDER requested all information regarding expenses, billing and reimbursement be reported. Treasurer NUTI inquired if any problems arose with the 300cfs flows; GM BRYAN stated he has updated pictures that show the flows began to erode the banks near the Hot Tub on the East Walker which contributed to the sediment problem. Treasurer NUTI asked if the Pitchfork, Rafter 7 and Flying M ranches are pulling water; Silas ADAMS stated there are revegetation efforts in progress, so some water is being ordered. Treasurer NUTI asked if the water orders will decrease when the Stored Water Leasing Program begins; GM BRYAN stated he is unsure of the intentions once the Program begins.

7. Presentation and discussion by Jeff Anderson with NRCS regarding the current year snowpack and water outlook for 2019 irrigation season.

Jeff Anderson, NRCS, was present via phone to walk through his PowerPoint presentation.

Key points:

- The lower to mid-elevation snow is what sets 2019 apart from 2017.
- The current level of snow at Leavitt Meadows is approximately 4 feet; the max depth this year was approximately 63 inches which is a new record. 1983 was the previous maximum and this year there was approximately 6 inches more SWE than 2017.
- The max snow water equivalent was 283% of median; right now, SWE is 5-6x the normal snowpack. Only Leavitt Meadows has begun to melt- no other sites are showing signs of snow melt. On average, Leavitt Meadows accumulates SWE through the first part of May.
- Comparing with previous years, 2019 SWE falls short of 2017 but is in line with 2005 and 2011.
- The Walker Basin is 112% of average for precipitation.
- Due to significantly less fall precipitation, 2019 is far below the 2017 precipitation level.
- The soil moisture content is below average due to a dry fall, minimal winter rains and a delayed snowmelt.
- Streamflow forecasts increased 40-60% from March 1st due to high amounts of snow at lower elevations.
- April-July forecasts are >200% of average flows. East Walker is predicted to have 140KAF, W Walker below Litter Walker is predicted to have 330KAF, and W Walker near Coleville is predicted to have 335KAF.
- The forecasts show higher flows than 2011 but less than 2017 observed flows.

8. Update from NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2019 irrigation season.

Tim Bardsley was not able to attend but provided a PowerPoint presentation; GM BRYAN explained the key points.

- The Walker Basin snowpack is 170% of normal peak with only minimal snowmelt to date.
- There is expected to be a cool down later in the week, so the precipitation is expected to increase.
- The 2019 vs 2017 vs 2011 SWE distribution shows 2017 had record levels of high elevation snowpack and 2019 and 2011 have higher levels of low to mid-elevation snowpack.
- The estimated flow forecast for West Walker below Little Walker is 250 KAF (155% of average; 164% of median). 2017 calculated flows were 410KAF and 2011 flows were 277 KAF.
- The estimated flow forecast for East Walker at Bridgeport is 122 KAF (196% of average; 282% of median). 2017 calculated inflow was 204 KAF and 2011 was 121 KAF.
- The region is prone to flooding if a strong atmospheric river event occurs. The sediment issues do increase the likelihood of flooding, especially in the West Walker below Little Walker and Walker River near Mason areas.
- Peak flows are expected late May through early July.

Treasurer NUTI questioned if sediment removal can be done in the upper river areas; GM BRYAN stated the goal is to begin removing sediment at the lower end first. There was concern about the weak point between Mason Road and Snyder Bridge, but the Army Corps of Engineers built up the area in 1997 and the District built it up in 2017. By removing sediment at the lower end, it will keep the drains flowing better as that was a problem in the past. Treasurer NUTI recommended making more room in the reservoirs; GM BRYAN stated he does not feel comfortable lowering the levels of the reservoirs to around 20,000 acre feet due to the difference in snowpack elevation compared to 2017. The allocation has been set at 100% and there is more than that on the mountains still, so it is a guessing game as to what to do. At this time, the current river system cannot hold high flows due to the sediment so increasing the flows to lower the reservoir levels is tricky. President SNYDER stated he understands GM BRYAN is on top of the information, but he would feel more comfortable making room in the reservoirs.

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

Sarah FICHTNER reported Kerry Garcia finished the water level measurements last month. The Smith Valley levels increased by approximate 1/3 of a foot and Mason Valley increased approximately 1 foot. Kerry has started the monthly meter readings.

10. Presentation by the Division of Water Resources on updates to their groundwater pumping web map to include surface water deliveries.

Chad WALLING advised he and the NSE office have updated their database in attempt to expand the web map application to include surface water deliveries. The goal of the project is to be transparent in taking the data from WRID to compute the surface water deliveries on an acre foot per acre basis. The new application will allow the NSE and public to view

the surface and ground water combined use and will be beneficial in tracking the 4.0 duty. The application will track usage based on a user number and surface water deliveries will be spread evenly across the water righted acres associated with the user number. The interactive web map will be available soon; WRID will provide a link on its website once the application is available.

Treasurer NUTI asked if it is an issue if his ranch has four water cards but they utilize one delivery point; WALLING stated it is not an issue because the program will equally spread the surface water amongst all the APNs covered under the user number.

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

Silas ADAMS stated he had no updates to report.

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

No representatives were present.

13. 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 only one person has expressed interest in obtaining water from the District Well. President SNYDER requested the item stay on the agenda for next month.

14. Discussion and consideration of development of a policy to guide District Treasurer in the selection of insured state or national banks, insured savings and loan associations, insured savings banks or insured credit unions for the deposit of District funds, including but not limited to a strategy for laddered certificates of deposit to insure availability of funds and beneficial rates of interest.

Secretary HALTERMAN reported all the District's CDs are currently being held with Wells Fargo. Out of the four CD accounts, two accounts receive 0.03% APY and two accounts receive 0.10% APY; therefore, the approximate interest per year on 1.2 million dollars is just over \$1,000. HALTERMAN contacted nine financial institutions to obtain their current interest rates on the Certificates of Deposit. The top three were Nevada State Bank, Greater Nevada Credit Union and United Federal Credit Union. Each of the three options were presented in the form of initial investments options with future terms of CDs maturing every few months. Treasurer NUTI stated his intention with the CDs is to have one mature every few months in the case that the District must pull money out. Secretary HALTERMAN stated one CD is maturing on May 11, 2019 and if nothing is done, the CD will be reinvested with Wells Fargo for a one year term. Treasurer NUTI confirmed that no funds would be withdrawn until the CDs mature due to early termination penalties. President SNYDER inquired what the penalty fees would be if the money would be withdrawn early; HALTERMAN stated she contacted the local branch for the amounts but was told they would have to be calculated and discussed via phone on April 30th. Director MASINI inquired on the CD terms; HALTERMAN advised two CDs are in one year terms

and two are in two year terms. Director MASINI asked if the District has had to utilize the funds; GM BRYAN stated the District has been able to operate on grant funds most of the time, but the grants are ending soon. The District is actively seeking grants, but the grants are 50/50 cost share and will begin to use the District's funds. Treasurer NUTI confirmed all the institutions are insured; HALTERMAN stated the credit unions are insured up to \$250,000 through FDIC. GM BRYAN stated if the deposits are under \$250,000, they are insured; Director MASINI requested clarification on that because it may be per account and not deposit. Counsel DePAOLI recommended the item be deferred to next month and to create a written policy for action next meeting.

15. Introduction of draft proposal for District Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020, including fixing of the charges and levying assessments for that fiscal year on the water right lands within the District, on lands with appurtenant stored water rights within the District, on water right lands within the Local Improvement districts within the District, on water right lands served by the High Ditch within the District, and Equipment Rental and Interfund Rental rates.

GM BRYAN stated he wanted to allow the Board and the public to review the draft budget prior to presenting it at the May meeting. In the past, constituents have come to the meeting after the budget has been approved and had complaints, so this allows for review prior to the approval. The District is the least assessed irrigation district per acre but does the best it can with what it has. The draft proposal does not have any significant changes; all rates are similar to last year. The Equipment Rental Rate did increase by \$.15 due to older equipment needing repairs and the spray truck no longer functioning. The District will need to purchase new spraying equipment, rent the equipment or hire out. The 240D excavator will need to be replaced soon; GM BRYAN would like to build up the reserves for that. A tractor and mower were approved purchases in the early 2000's, but the equipment was not purchased, and the equipment is more expensive. If anyone has any questions or suggestions, GM BRYAN and Secretary HALTERMAN are available to assist. Treasurer NUTI confirmed there is room for potential raises in the proposed budget; GM BRYAN confirmed potential raises have been budgeted. President SNDYER inquired why the High Ditch was listed as a fund and the Saroni is not; GM BRYAN stated the Saroni is listed as Local Improvement District #4. The High Ditch was the only ditch participating in the Water Distribution program that Weishaupt attempted years ago. If more ditch companies had signed up for the program, they would be combined with the High Ditch and listed under the program as well; the Saroni Canal was acquired and set up as its own independent fund (local improvement district). President SNYDER requested the Board be included on the decision to finance or purchase large equipment in the future.

16. Director Comments:

None presented.

17. Public Comment:

Chase PASLEY with Bridgeport Reservoir RV Park and Marina announced his intentions to bring utilities to some of the RV spots. The project would entail obtaining an underground easement and permits with Mono County. PASLEY would like to get the item on the next agenda.

Ed RYAN with SV/MV Conservation District would like to offer weed spraying services to the District. All his employees are licensed to spray. President SNYDER inquired if they were only available for Smith Valley; RYAN stated both valleys are available. The Conservation District charges \$75 per hour and cost of chemical. GM BRYAN asked if the District could purchase the chemical and have the Conservation District apply it; RYAN stated that would work. Treasurer NUTI asked if this was something new; RYAN stated it started two years ago, but it is still in its infancy.

18. Adjournment:

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Jim Snyder, President

David Giorgi, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

Marcus Masini, Director