

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on September 7, 2017. 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 (via phone)
Marcus MASINI	Director
Bridget BANTA	Secretary
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Gordon DEPAOLI	Legal Counsel
Joanne SARKISIAN	Water Master
Jessica SMITH	Bookkeeper

Public Present:

Chad Walling	Reed Cozens	George Lindesmith	Dale Borsini
Steven Fulstone	Sylis Adams	Brian Masini	Nat Lommori
Wade Johnson	Jim Sciarani	Lynn Heller	

Public Comment:

Steven Fulstone advised he is very concerned with the new budget that was increased on equipment and reservoirs. He thinks it is a huge increase on the expenses. He would like the board to consider at least a 10% decrease in the existing budget for next year's budget. He suggested to have a general meeting to go over the budget in detail. He believes the increase is too much. He also stated he thought the US Board 50% increase in the budget was egregious and would like to see it reduced 40% for next year.

Roll Call and Determination of Quorum:

4 members present and Dennis ACCIARI present via land line.

Consideration of Minutes of the August 7, 2017 Regular Meeting.

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to approve the minutes for the August 7, 2017 meeting. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Consideration of Minutes of the August 15, 2017 Special Meeting.

Vice President GIORGI stated there was a spelling error on the second page; "she" should be "the." Vice President GIORGI made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. Director MASINI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

Water Master's Report:

Water Master SARKISIAN advised there is currently 81% in Bridgeport and 79% in Topaz. She advised there is a little more allocated than available on the Bridgeport side and she is trying to slow that down. She advised there is just under 200cfs coming into each side. The decree is set at 1875 on the West and the East and Main are at an 1878. She advised the decree is set higher

than what it should be based on what is coming in. The demand is staying within the amount available. She spoke about the sediment issues mostly along the weir. Treasurer NUTI requested to know how we got below the available water in Bridgeport. Water Master SARKISIAN advised it is with evaporation and transportation. She advised GM BRYAN has a report for the board understanding the available water. Treasurer NUTI asked if she should drop the decree to ensure we have enough storage for the allocation. Water Master SARKISIAN advised she shouldn't have stated there was more allocated than available. Director MASINI requested to know why the decree would drop if they are delivering more water. There are issues mainly at the weir where users are not getting their water. He asked how they go about fixing the waste. He would like to know who is responsible for fixing the weir. Water Master SARKISIAN advised the ditch companies on the weir are responsible for the weir. She advised there is quite a bit of leakage and back water. The reading at Wabuska is inaccurate because of the backwater. Treasurer NUTI asked about balancing out the backwater. He asked if the tribe was getting their water. Director MASINI stated the tribe is getting more water than they require. GM BRYAN advised there are sediment impacted areas from below the weir through the confluence, up the east and the west through Antelope Valley through Bridgeport Valley. He advised if he dug a sand trap in the river, it would be filled up in less than a day with sediment. GM BRYAN advised he has tried to get the dredge turned on. It was broken for a while and when it was fixed, he was told it was not working properly. GM BRYAN took Dr. Styles to the dredge and he has offered to have a specialist to inspect it. Director MASINI asked if it would do any good with the dredge, or is there too much sediment in the river. GM BRYAN advised another issue is the dredge is stationary and on the wrong side of the river. Most of the sediment built up is on the east side. The cleaning in 2015 cost over \$400,000. There is now triple-five times the amount of sediment than in 2015. GM BRYAN advised there is obviously people upset with the increase of assessments, and the cleanup will need to be completed before next year's water season. The cleanup will cost the district money. GM BRYAN advised he went to Antelope Valley and if there is high water next year, there are going to be big problems. He also said another issue is where the sediment is transported to. Dale Borsini requested to know who owns the dredge. GM BRYAN advised the Reviglio's own the dredge. Tom Reviglio is supportive on any actions we need to take. He advised with the lead of Ed from the Conservation District, we are going to work together and get the dredge working. Brian Masini asked if the silt needs to be removed prior to fixing the boards in the weir to stop the leaks. GM BRYAN advised the silt does not need to be removed first. It will be harder to do with the silt, but it is doable. NDOW is aware of what needs to be replaced at the weir. Steven Fulstone requested to know when the tribe goes off. GM BRYAN advised they go off October 15 and they have 180 days. They started their water on April 15 this year. Dale Borsini requested to know who owns the weir. GM BRYAN advised there is documentation WRID has assisted with the maintenance since the 1920's. There is also documentation advising the weir is owned by the 5 canal companies: SAB, Joggles, Dairy, Sciarani, and the West Hyland. GM BRYAN brought up the Farr West Engineering firm that made plans to update the weir. He advised it will cost \$6 million to build. They received funding from NFWF to draw up plans for 3 locations including the weir. The proposal does not address sediment and it does not address measurement. The project will not go anywhere until the money is available to pay for it. Brian Masini asked what the plan is from NFWF if they are paying for the plans for the weir. Treasurer NUTI advised NFWF pays for the reports and planning and now there are plans on the table and everyone will be looking to WRID to pay for the job to be completed. GM BRYAN advised if WRID takes on the project, the assessments will have to increased again. Steven Fulstone advised there is a grant in the leasing

program with the availability to improve the canals. GM BRYAN advised the portion left over from the \$17 million, it is with the operating funder of the leasing program only. We will not be able to get any money for the weir unless there is an active leasing program in place. Brian Masini advised NFWF was not interested in a leasing program this year. GM BRYAN confirmed Masini's statement. GM BRYAN also advised we are currently waiting for the court's decision. Brian Masini asked what happens when the judge advises NFWF they can take their water. The water cannot be measured, do they still get their water? Counsel DEPAOLI advised the US Board must make determination how much water goes passed the weir. Reed Cozens with the Department of Water Resources. It is their permit being exercised at that point, and if there is not functioning measuring device, the terms of the permit have not been satisfied. Treasurer NUTI asked how they have been measuring the tribe's water the past years. Masini advised at Wabuska. GM BRYAN also advised there is a gage at Miller Ln. Reed Cozens advised they will not sign off on the permit until there is an acceptable measuring device measuring in-stream. Treasurer NUTI advised the weir affects the entire system. GM BRYAN advised if we don't do anything to address the sediment, the pool level will be raised and you will not be able to get the water in.

Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer NUTI reported as of August 31, 2017:

Cash in Checking	\$31,178.53
Cash in Money Market	\$1,531,703.76
Cash in CDs	\$1,240,611.33
Total	\$2,803,493.62

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment.

August 2017 Bills & Payroll

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
119749	8/4/2017	AFLAC	265.93
119750	8/4/2017	Farm-Assist, Inc.	5,967.50
119751	8/4/2017	Frontier	275.77
119752	8/4/2017	AT&T Mobility	335.91
119753	8/4/2017	Lyon County Recorder	115.66
119754	8/4/2017	PDM Steel Service Centers, Inc.	97.57
119755	8/4/2017	Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC	212.02
119756	8/4/2017	Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	604.50
119757	8/4/2017	NV Energy	243.69
119758	8/4/2017	Southwest Gas Corporation	37.25
119759	8/7/2017	Power Plan	2,762.66
119760	8/7/2017	Wells Fargo Card Services	2,456.81

119761	8/7/2017	Woodburn & Wedge	35,625.40
119762	8/15/2017	Giomi, Inc.	138.59
119763	8/15/2017	High Desert Internet	174.95
119764	8/15/2017	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	141.37
119765	8/15/2017	Mason Valley Equipment	20.20
119766	8/15/2017	MF Barcellos	2,177.80
119767	8/15/2017	True Value	79.51
119768	8/15/2017	Pape' Machinery Exchange	5,850.00
119769	8/15/2017	Public Employees' Benefits Program	803.29
119770	8/15/2017	Quill	183.81
119771	8/15/2017	Jim Menesini Petroleum	1,725.35
119772	8/15/2017	Sciarani & Co.	10,000.00
119773	8/15/2017	NV Energy	36.80
119774	8/15/2017	Tyres International	189.28
119775	8/15/2017	Verizon Wireless	255.14
119776	8/15/2017	Yerington, City of	122.96
119777	8/15/2017	Momentum Technology Group	210.00
119778	8/15/2017	Desert Engineering	1,633.90
119779	8/15/2017	Michael T McGuire	307.43
119780	8/15/2017	Sierra Office Solutions	165.83
119781	8/28/2017	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	1,220.60
119782	8/28/2017	AT&T	123.98
119783	8/28/2017	John Deere Credit	179.23
119784	8/28/2017	MBK Engineers	2,093.82
119785	8/28/2017	Quill	161.28
119786	8/28/2017	Standard Insurance Company	219.96
119787	8/28/2017	Vision Service Plan – Nevada	206.46
119788	8/28/2017	Wells Fargo Card Services	2,065.17
119789	8/28/2017	Woodburn & Wedge	29,775.12
119790	8/28/2017	Xerox Financial Services	139.44
119791	8/28/2017	HomeTown Health	6,648.88
119792	8/28/2017	Desert Research Institute	5,744.84
119793	8/28/2017	Petty Cash	26.90
119794	8/28/2017	Arigoni, Robert	1,685.00
119795	8/28/2017	PERS Administrative Fund	6,352.40
119796	8/28/2017	BERKLEYNET	1,305.00
4768	8/15/2017	Bridget A. Banta	1,248.01

4769	8/15/2017	Jesus Cervantes	1,310.29
4770	8/15/2017	Oscar Cortez	1,267.04
4771	8/15/2017	James Martens	1,272.27
4772	8/15/2017	Jason R. Milligan	332.46
4773	8/15/2017	Scott Robinson	362.11
4774	8/15/2017	Jessica A. Smith	1,164.60
4775	8/15/2017	Justin L. Toebe	423.64
4776	8/15/2017	Lupe Wagner	1,088.87
4777	8/31/2017	Robert A. Arigoni	1,281.42
4778	8/31/2017	Bridget A. Banta	1,356.96
4779	8/31/2017	Robert C. Bryan	5,464.38
4780	8/31/2017	Jesus Cervantes	1,425.39
4781	8/31/2017	Oscar Cortez	1,382.22
4782	8/31/2017	Maria Cruz	451.49
4783	8/31/2017	Joseph E. Huggans	776.47
4784	8/31/2017	James Martens	1,287.77
4785	8/31/2017	Jason R. Milligan	2,446.45
4786	8/31/2017	Ronald Murray	1,239.60
4787	8/31/2017	Scott Robinson	1,717.25
4788	8/31/2017	Jessica A. Smith	1,448.65
4789	8/31/2017	Donald Swan	645.72
4790	8/31/2017	Cynthia Tibbals	1,593.32
4791	8/31/2017	Justin L. Toebe	1,528.29
4792	8/31/2017	Lupe Wagner	1,184.78
Total Bills & Payroll			164,864.41

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to approve the bills. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

C. Manager's Report:

GM BRYAN advised Topaz is at 46,730-acre feet or 78% of capacity and Bridgeport at 34,440-acre feet or 81% of capacity as of 5:00 AM this morning. He advised there is 32,972-acre feet yet to be served for Topaz and 26,707-acre feet yet to be served for Bridgeport. GM BRYAN advised the consistent theme is the sedimentation problem throughout the system. Antelope Valley is in bad shape with several meanders blown out. There are issues with erosion and between now and November we will be taking every piece of equipment we own to work on the diversion at Topaz. There are major sedimentation and erosion issues throughout the entire system. On the east, the major canals take place on the River Split Ranch. The property owner advised he will work with the District for material to be put on his land, but not after this year. He has advised he will sell some of his property to the private ditch companies to put material on. The district did put in an application through the NRCS for a water shed plan. WRID asked for \$14 million. The water shed plan entails dealing with flooding in our basin. It would be used for sedimentation removal, channel restoration, measuring devices and whatever else we

may need for the flood control. The money will still have to go through the legislature before we can use the money. WRID is out for hire for ditch companies to do maintenance for private ditch companies. WRID is still working with the county to get some money back from FEMA and NDEM for the flood mitigation efforts. GM BRYAN has not heard anything back regarding the funding. The crew has been around doing repairs and maintenance wherever necessary. They just de-mossed the Plymouth and the Saroni for the third time this season. Dr. Styles visited August 22-24 and did some research on the regulatory reservoirs. The Saroni pipeline project is planned to start this winter. The Saroni Advisory Board will be meeting September 18 at 8:00 AM at the Smith Valley Fire Department. GM BRYAN will be giving a presentation on September 27 regarding the 2017 flood mitigation efforts at the Nevada Water Resources Association Fall/Winter event. Nat Lommori suggested the Army Corp of Engineers be contacted to assist the District. GM BRYAN advised WRID has had Desert Engineering fly a drone over the whole system. He will be requesting they fly a drone over the entire system now that there is lower water throughout the system. GM BRYAN advised if there is another high-water year, he cannot guarantee anything if we don't do anything to improve the system this year. Steven Fulstone advised one of the highest priorities is the loss of the USGS gages. The funding for gages is continuously dropping out. He suggested to work with legislature to get the funding directed to the USGS gages and get them back on line. GM BRYAN advised the gages were instrumental during the high-water events on the west and very challenging with Bridgeport and the lack of USGS gages.

D. Legal Counsel's Report:

Counsel DEPAOLI advised last Wednesday they had oral arguments in the 9th Circuit on the three orders from Judge Jones in May of 2015. The 3 orders include; NFWF's change application, the order that dismissed the claims with the US and the Tribe and the order that dismissed the claims for Mineral County. There was a panel of 2 senior judges, appointed by Bill Clinton, and 1 active judge, appointed by George W. Bush. Counsel DEPAOLI advised we should hear something in the next 3-6 months. He advised all three decisions will probably come out at the same time. Brian Masini asked if we are opposing ourselves. He asked if the Federal side opposing the WRID side. Counsel DEPAOLI advised that is correct, there is opposition between the USBWC and WRID. Masini brought up the US Board's legal bill almost doubled in the last year. Counsel DEPAOLI advised he doesn't think the panel of judges understand the relationship between the US Board and the Walker River Irrigation District. Masini suggested a joint meeting between the US Board and WRID. President SNYDER advised he is not opposed to having the two boards meet. Counsel DEPAOLI suggested there will be more opportunities for the US Board and WRID to work together and come up with some common ground going forward. Treasurer NUTI advised the drought we just came out of has been a blessing because it has brought a lot of issues to the surface and forced people to work together. He advised the two boards better start working together or we, as farmers, will be torn apart. Brian Masini agreed both boards should work together towards the common goal.

E. Review and Approval of Monthly Storage Transfers.

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to approve the monthly storage transfers. Director MASINI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

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

Reed Cozens advised the ground water pumping this year is the lowest in 25 years. Chad Walling advised Smith Valley pumped 5,300-acre feet total and Mason Valley pumped 12,300-acre feet for irrigation. Cozens advised the ground water levels will be measured end of October and beginning of November. He advised it looks like the ground water level has come up 2 feet per month over the summer. He advised the safety of dams program is checking on all the dams in the State of Nevada. Cozens advised the Bridgeport Dam needs an emergency action plan on file as soon as possible. GM BRYAN has scheduled a dam inspection for the beginning of November. Cozens advised there has been questions regarding primary and supplemental ground water rights. He advised if your water right has a supplemental term but a primary heritage, contact the state and they will put a change application in. Cozens suggested to include groundwater improvements in the discussion of modernization. He talked about a global network/cloud storage to share data. No one owns the network, but the information is shared amongst everyone. Steven Fulstone asked about the SB bill that was passed through congress. Cozens advised it is regarding filing a proof of vested claim.

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

Sylus Adams advised WBC is trying to set a final date for equipment auction that will be online. They are trying to schedule a day for some time in October. They are going to be hiring a position based out of Yerington.

9. **Presentation and Consideration of FY 2016-2017 Audit Report by Sciarani & Co.**

Jim Sciarani went over the budget.

Page 9-10: Statement of Net Position. The cash was down because of the purchase of the excavator. He provided a list of assets, liabilities and equity. He advised everything was fairly static. The net pension liability under PERS grew and equity dropped. Treasurer NUTI asked about the net pension liability and why it grew so much. Sciarani advised the NV PERS system grew from \$11 billion to \$13 billion dollars. It is not something WRID has done, it is the state and WRID's share of the NV PERS system as it increased. WRID has no control of the increase.

Page 11-12: Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position. There was a pretty good increase in the salaries for employees. This is because of the hiring of new employees and flood mitigation overtime. There was quite a bit of extra money spent for cleaning drains due to the flooding.

Sciarani advised he thinks the District did very well this year.

Page 33-34: Sciarani advised they included individual funds in a budgetary basis. It provides more information to the board.

Page 47-48: No findings found in any level.

Page 49-51: One small finding compared to last year's 4 findings.

Page 52: Federal funding with 1 finding.

Page 55: Sciarani advised WRID used a vendor over \$25,000 without being on the SAMS list to ensure the vendor was not disbarred. The certification happened after the work and payment was completed. He advised the certification should have been completed prior to hiring the vendor.

Sciarani advised they issued a small management letter for improvements. One improvement was journal entries for posting errors and the other was the cash receipting. The deposits need to occur timelier, instead of once a month. He also went over the vehicle allowance for the ditch riders. If there is no accountability for the funds, he advised it needs to go on the W2. Vice President GIORGI asked if they should do away with the allowance. Sciarani advised it does not have to go away, it just needs to have a little more work for the ditch riders regarding mileage proving the amount of the vehicle allowance. The ditch rider would have to turn in a mileage log each month. It would not take too much work, we just need a paper trail to prove the vehicle allowance.

Vice President GIORGI suggested to give the directors time to go over the audit and vote on it for next month. Director MASINI made a motion to table the approval of the budget to the October's regular monthly meeting. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

10. Director Comments:

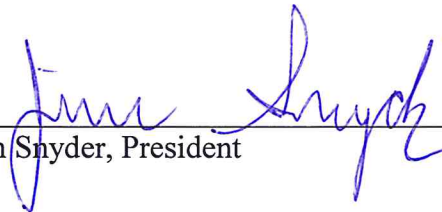
Treasurer NUTI advised throughout the water season, he received several calls regarding flood water advising it is on or off several times in a short amount of time, even in one day. He would like to see that ironed out. GM BRYAN advised the water master sets the priority and flood water and then the ditch riders are contacted. Director MASINI asked about funding with the flood mitigation. GM BRYAN advised we are still waiting for answers. He advised the Governor never actually signed the declaration of emergency. He is actively looking for other funding to fix the system. Treasurer NUTI advised he came to the meeting with the State Emergency Management people and they were very insistent on flood mitigation. GM BRYAN advised he has been told he should have let it flood because the money may have been easier to get. Director MASINI expressed the importance of the weir and getting the sedimentation taken care of. He suggested a meeting with the ditch companies and WRID to suggest a plan of action.

11. Public Comment:

None presented.

12. Adjournment

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.


Jim Snyder, President


David Giorgi, Vice President



Richard B. Nuti
Richard NUTI, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari
Dennis Acciari, Director

Marcus Masini
Marcus Masini, Director

