

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on December 7, 2021. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by Vice President MASINI.

Present:

Marcus MASINI	Vice 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
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

Public Present:

Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Silas Adams, WBC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
Wyatt Fereday, NDWR	AJ Jensby, NDWR	Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC
Peter Fenili		

Public Present via phone:

Counsel FERGUSON	Dave Hockaday	760-417-9987	410-627-8893
------------------	---------------	--------------	--------------

1. Public Comment

Peter FENILI read a statement regarding the Saroni Canal (attached to minutes). Mr. Fenili expressed his concern with the assessments being lowered and the progress on the ITRC memo being halted. Mr. Fenili stated the special assessment was put in place to bring the Canal current after a large debt, and once the debt was paid off, the assessment was kept at a higher rate to pay for the upgrades and repairs based on the ITRC report. With the special assessment being lowered, the progress on the report will be no more. Mr. Fenili asked the Board to reconsider the special assessment of \$8 per acre set in the annual meeting and consider raising it to where it was (\$10 per acre). Treasurer NUTI stated that if the Canal users do not produce a plan for repairs listed on the memo, the Board may have to step in and make decisions before the Canal becomes a bigger liability. The area above Ithurburu's has been deemed a high liability area, but with the special assessment being lowered, there is no reserve to fix the problem. Vice President MASINI stated he understands the issue and the looming liability but does not feel comfortable dictating what the Saroni users do. Vice President MASINI also stated that since the District owns the Saroni, he fully understands that the Board may need to step in to mitigate the liability. Treasurer NUTI questioned if the same thing may happen once more ditches are under the District's operation. If the ditches come to the District with major problems, but decided to set low assessments, the District is taking on more liability. GM BRYAN stated the issue is worth looking into and should be part of the bylaws and rules/regulations that will apply to the Local Improvement Districts. GM BRYAN stated a workshop to create the bylaws and

rules/regulations will be happening soon as the Colony Ditch making progress in the becoming a Local Improvement District. Mr. FENILI stated the liabilities on the Canal have been there for a long time, but they should not be ignored. Treasurer NUTI stated the ditches that come to the District will need to understand that they have to pay for the work on their ditches; the District cannot fund them. Vice President MASINI recommended getting an engineered report on all the ditches that are considering coming to the District; GM BRYAN agreed that would be a beneficial piece of information. Counsel FERGUSON suggested the topic be made into a future agenda item.

2. Roll Call

President SNYDER was absent.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the November 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

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

4. Water Master’s Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport was at 10,500 acre-feet with 3,970 acre-feet stored since November 1st and Topaz was at 19,600 acre-feet with 8,870 acre-feet stored since November 1st. Stock water is running but there are some ditches where the water cannot be taken out. Director GIORGI asked if the Hall Ditch has stock water; Joanne stated it had been on since Monday of last week. The SWE is 55% of average and Leavitt Lake has 23” of snow depth. The precipitation was at 155% as of this morning. Joanne mailed letters to those who need to fix their take outs. The cleanup on the East is almost done.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of November 30, 2021:

Cash in Checking	\$ 186,475.45
Cash in Money Market	\$ 795,221.32
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 749,661.39</u>
Total	\$1,731,358.16

**B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment
NOVEMBER 2021 BILLS & PAYROLL**

<u>Check</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Effective</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
122259	11/2/2021	CA State Water Resources	VOID
122260	11/2/2021	California Dept. of Fish and	\$ 850.00
122261	11/2/2021	CA State Water Resources Control	\$ 28,990.00

122262	11/8/2021	AFLAC	\$	35.70
122263	11/8/2021	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	\$	1,027.80
122264	11/8/2021	Associated Concrete Pumping	\$	1,580.77
122265	11/8/2021	MBK Engineers	\$	2,089.50
122266	11/8/2021	Public Employees' Benefits	\$	870.23
122267	11/8/2021	Purchase Power / Pitney	\$	100.00
122268	11/8/2021	Quill	\$	112.39
122269	11/8/2021	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$	340.44
122270	11/8/2021	NV Energy	\$	222.76
122271	11/8/2021	Alhambra	\$	136.85
122272	11/8/2021	Southwest Gas Corporation	\$	137.03
122273	11/8/2021	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$	3,124.22
122274	11/8/2021	Xerox Financial Services	\$	306.93
122275	11/8/2021	City of Yerington	\$	130.25
122276	11/8/2021	Sierra Office Solutions	\$	29.88
122277	11/8/2021	Yerington Ready Mix	\$	1,037.53
122278	11/29/2021	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	8,37.79
122279	11/29/2021	Benefit Wallet	\$	23,800.00
122280	11/29/2021	TED & DEBRA FITZPATRICK	\$	119.86
122281	11/29/2021	BATH, RONALD J	\$	120.20
122282	11/29/2021	NAN YER LLC	\$	333.81
122283	11/29/2021	NEVADA-UTAH CONFERENCE	\$	245.14
122284	11/29/2021	DGHP, INC	\$	1,227.98
122285	11/29/2021	208 INVESTMENTS, LLC	\$	413.14
122286	11/29/2021	WALKER LAKE WORKING	\$	228.64
122287	11/29/2021	DAVID E WATSON	\$	27.17
122288	11/29/2021	JIMMIE A RICHARDS	\$	26.20
122289	11/29/2021	JOHN R SCHERSCHEL	\$	115.20
122290	11/29/2021	GREENFIELD STORAGE LLC	\$	133.20
122291	11/29/2021	GREGORY SMITH	\$	198.11
122292	11/29/2021	DAVID & DAWNA WARR	\$	221.04
122293	11/29/2021	EDWARD FERRANTO	\$	1,639.64
122294	11/29/2021	GARY SILVA SR	\$	43.98

122295	11/29/2021	WILLIAMS, MURL E JR REVOCABLE TRUST	\$	83.60
122296	11/29/2021	RICHARD D & TINA M ROBERSON FAMILY	\$	33.80
122297	11/29/2021	ROGER B MCNAMARA	\$	584.35
122298	11/29/2021	JOHN HOY ET AL	\$	998.98
122299	11/29/2021	GREGORY B WATTS	\$	998.98
122300	11/29/2021	CURTIS FAMILY TRUST	\$	1,618.57
122301	11/29/2021	GEORGE LABBE	\$	2,994.36
122302	11/29/2021	BLANCA TURNER	\$	60.48
122303	11/29/2021	DAVID & KATHLEEN ROOTS	\$	295.51
122304	11/29/2021	ZACHARY & ANTONIA ROOTS	\$	295.50
122305	11/29/2021	TODD BRETHERAUER	\$	656.34
122306	11/29/2021	LAURIE EVANGELISTA	\$	665.94
122307	11/29/2021	KRIS JOHNSON	\$	38.28
122308	11/29/2021	BODENSTEIN FAMILY TRUST	\$	66.21
122309	11/29/2021	ALBERT BOZSIK	\$	382.98
122310	11/29/2021	SAMUEL RUBIO	\$	6,499.37
122311	11/29/2021	DENNIS MILLER	\$	2,330.74
122312	11/29/2021	WILLIAM STONE	\$	679.46
122313	11/29/2021	ALBERT SKINNER	\$	806.40
122314	11/29/2021	THERESA YORK	\$	569.07
122315	11/29/2021	ABILA Dept 2145	\$	195.98
122316	11/29/2021	Gioni, Inc.	\$	655.84
122317	11/29/2021	AT&T	\$	154.94
122318	11/29/2021	Sticks and Stones Buildings	\$	1,215.45
122319	11/29/2021	Associated Concrete Pumping	\$	2,674.09
122320	11/29/2021	Lyon County Recorder	\$	35.16
122321	11/29/2021	MF Barcellos	\$	2,734.45
122322	11/29/2021	True Value	\$	54.97
122323	11/29/2021	Power Plan	\$	1,218.12
122324	11/29/2021	NV Energy	\$	37.26
122325	11/29/2021	Standard Insurance Company	\$	241.03
122326	11/29/2021	Verizon Wireless	\$	301.03

122327	11/29/2021	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	\$	186.05
122328	11/29/2021	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	68,478.93
122329	11/29/2021	Xerox Financial Services	\$	30.22
122330	11/29/2021	HomeTown Health	\$	7,752.74
122331	11/29/2021	Desert Research Institute	\$	18,513.64
122332	11/29/2021	Allied Sanitation and Septic	\$	151.43
122333	11/29/2021	CDTFA Special Taxes and Fees	\$	10,547.55
122334	11/29/2021	Connolly Crane Service	\$	945.00
122335	11/29/2021	Mason Valley Tire	\$	20.00
122336	11/29/2021	Truckee Tahoe Lumber Co.	\$	3,367.22
122337	11/29/2021	Yerington Ready Mix	\$	6,202.97
PAYROLL	11/30/2021	NOVEMBER PAYROLL	\$	33,417.16

Total Bills & Payroll \$ 258,183.53

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 19,500 acre-feet (33%) and Bridgeport is at 10,480 acre-feet (25%). The shop crew has completed the meter gate and instream device installations on the Saroni and are currently fixing catwalks & fences, grooming, and other repairs & maintenance. The Lateral A pipe project will begin soon. A payment agreement was signed by Nuti & Fenili.

GM BRYAN reported on the Campbell WaterSMART grant is progressing as the Bureau of Reclamation responded to the revised cultural study by stating the approval process will be approximately 3-4 months. The east/west split project will not happen this year but will hopefully begin next off-season. GM BRYAN will give an update as it is available.

Nevada Safety Dams and the Division of Water Resources completed the annual dam inspection at Topaz on November 15th. The report came back as a fair assessment. The Bridgeport inspection will be December 15th.

GM BRYAN reported there is a website open to the public- openETdata.org- where anyone can look at the water usage on land. The data has been collected for nearly 70 years, but the website is now open to the public. The site will show water applied to the land, evapotranspiration, and a few other features. There is a field model and a grid model available for viewing. DRI and a few other agencies have contributed data. Treasurer NUTI asked if the data is obtained via satellite; GM BRYAN stated satellites fly over every couple of weeks and obtain the data.

GM BRYAN gave an update on the well project. An invoice for \$6,200 is for the work that has been completed. The estimate of \$29,800 is for the work to be done and the re-installation of the well; this is a further breakdown from last month's estimate. There is an additional estimate in the packet that outlines work to be done if the proposed work and bowl replacement does not fix the problem. The Board has already approved to move forward with the first quote on replacing the bowls and re-installing the pump. GM BRYAN will contact Carson Pump to get on the schedule to move forward. Director GIORGI asked if the District would be charged if they put the pump back and find more wrong; GM BRYAN stated the second quote is a 'what if' quote on work that may need to be done if the problem is not fixed with the work on the first quote. Sandy has reached out to other companies for quotes but has not received any yet.

Rick Stone submitted a proposal for operational period of 2/1-4/30/22 in the amount of \$205,953. GM BRYAN stated the salaries have been questioned, but they are locked-in as the pilots need to be ready to go when the conditions are right. GM BRYAN has talked to Frank with DRI. They will be doing their ground seeding, but they are working with lobbyists on finding more funding and cooperating agencies. DRI is hoping to get a long lasting, multiple year program through the State of Nevada or Department of Water Resources where the entire basin would be contributing instead of just this District.

The Bridgeport Ranchers Organization had a meeting on December 1st to discuss the reintroduction of gaging in the Bridgeport Valley. Joanne participated in the meeting and gave GM BRYAN an update. At the last meeting, BRO had discussion on getting the gages back into Bridgeport and they were looking at a private company. From the indications of a few people and Joanne, the consensus is going toward using USGS for the gages. That would be ideal as then all the gaging is consistent. The US Board is having a meeting on January 14, 2022 to discuss the gaging. GM BRYAN stated the gages are a huge benefit, but they benefit more than just the District and other individuals and agencies should contribute. Treasurer NUTI asked what percentage the ground generators increase the snowpack; GM BRYAN stated the generators increase the snowpack approximately 3%. Treasurer NUTI put the air seeding cost into perspective of acres of hay and how many acres it takes to pay for one season. Vice President MASINI stated everyone in the watershed benefits from the program and other agencies (i.e. City of Yerington, Tribes, etc.) should be involved. GM BRYAN stated the District users should not have to contribute all the cost when the assessment base only covers 80,000 in an over 235,000 acre boundary. The US Board assesses approximately 137,000 acres and their boundary includes neighboring valleys that also benefit from the program. Joanne stated the US Board will talk about the program at the next meeting. Director ACCIARI asked if there was a deadline to respond to Rick; GM BRYAN stated a deadline was not given. GM BRYAN stated the District has budgeted \$30,000 to DRI for nearly 20 years and if money comes available, the District should be one of the first ones to receive it for an air seeding program. Treasurer

NUTI asked if the \$30,000 could be budgeted for air seeding; GM BRYAN stated it could, but in the years that air seeding was available through the DRI program, the District just paid for the ground generators and got the air seeding for free.

GM BRYAN stated he has talked to a few members about a letter he received from NV Energy requesting to purchase about an acre of land on Topaz Park Road. They are asking for an easement for a pole line and the offer is \$60,750. GM BRYAN is working with legal on looking into the zoning and pricing. GM BRYAN will send the information to all Board members and will update as he gets information.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel FERGUSON had no updates to report.

E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

GM BRYAN advised the reports for 2021 have been submitted, all the participants have been paid and reimbursements received. The 2022 program petitions have been submitted and the notices are published. The large group meeting for the 2022 program is in the process of being scheduled.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY reported the majority of Smith and Mason Valley readings are finished, but they are waiting for a few more numbers. Smith Valley had an average drop of eleven feet basin-wide from Fall 2020 to Fall 2021. Most of the major drop sites were north of the river. Those readings are not as beneficial as the spring to spring readings as far as aquifer recharge. The hydrographs are available on the website. Mason Valley had a far less drop. The pumping numbers are expected to be among the top five highest years. There are significant wells within the City that still have not reported as they can pump until the end of the year. GM BRYAN stated a few users have asked if they need to continue to report in the off season; Wyatt stated the way the order is written, monthly reporting should continue in the off-season. Wyatt also stated that if a user has the end number and beginning number, the off-season reporting is not as imperative. Director GIORGI asked if the office was open; Wyatt stated it is open, but an employee must let visitors in as the door is still locked.

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 there will be an open house on March 5, 2022. The grow houses will be open, public booths set up, and free food. The time will most likely be 8am to 5pm on a weekend day and will include activities for children. The Conservancy did dispose of the former Ritter property according to BOR allowance. It was a land-only purchase. There was a large planting day that included 1100 native vegetation plants planted on the Pitchfork property.

- 8. Presentation and discussion of FY 2020-2021 Audit Report by Sciarani & Co.**
Secretary HALTERMAN stated the auditors are technically finished with the audit, but they did not have time to review and present it. They will hopefully be ready next month.
- 9. Director Comments**
None presented.
- 10. Public Comment**
None presented.
- 11. Adjournment**
Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.

ABSENT
Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director