

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on September 7, 2022. 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
Counsel DEPAOLI	Legal Counsel, via zoom
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Carlie Henneman, WBC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
Wyatt Fereday, NDWR	AJ Jensby, NDWR	

Public Present via Zoom:

Wes Walker, MBK Engineers	Don Smith	Dave Hockaday, BOCC
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1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call

President SNYDER was absent. Director ACCIARI was on the phone.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the September 7, 2022 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

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport was at 7,754 acre-feet (18%) and Topaz was at 12,240 acre-feet (20%). The Tribe shut off on the 16th. There is a little bit of decree coming in. The Main, West and Tunnel are at an 1863 and the East is at an 1863 with ½ of an 1865. With the reservoir levels, there should be no problem getting storage water out that is ordered.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of September 30, 2022:

Cash in Checking	\$ 51,424.44
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Cash in Money Market	\$ 392,142.93
Cash in CDs	\$ 757,568.24
Total	\$1,2201,135.61

Secretary HALTERMAN stated the cash reserves are low, but the District has not received the August and September assessment payment from Lyon County. There is an error with the County's report and the totals are not zeroing out. Once the error is fixed, the County will send the District a check.

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

Payee	Check No.	Date	Amount
Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	100068	09/07/2022	\$1,027.80
City of Yerington	100069	09/07/2022	\$119.49
CT Corp.	100070	09/07/2022	\$415.00
D & S Waste Removal	100071	09/07/2022	\$150.00
Decision Support Technology	100072	09/07/2022	\$295.00
Giomi, Inc.	100073	09/07/2022	\$92.85
Jim Menesini Petroleum	100074	09/07/2022	\$153.59
NV Energy	100075	09/07/2022	\$5,395.02
Public Employees' Benefits	100076	09/07/2022	\$870.23
Purchase Power / Pitney	100077	09/07/2022	\$530.97
Quill	100078	09/07/2022	\$65.36
Southwest Gas Corporation	100079	09/07/2022	\$40.45
Desert Research Institute	100081	09/13/2022	\$13,139.32
Lyon County Recorder	100082	09/13/2022	\$28.62
MF Barcellos	100083	09/13/2022	\$4,566.12
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	100084	09/13/2022	\$34.37
THE PARTS HOUSE	100085	09/13/2022	\$385.37
Wells Fargo Card Services	100086	09/13/2022	\$2,247.59
Xerox Corporation	100087	09/13/2022	\$236.86
ABILA Dept 3303	100096	09/27/2022	\$205.77
D & S Waste Removal	100097	09/27/2022	\$213.82
PERS Administrative Fund	100098	09/27/2022	\$9,650.69
Standard Insurance Company	100099	09/27/2022	\$248.78
USBWC	100100	09/27/2022	\$2,159.58
Vision Service Plan - Nevada	100101	09/27/2022	\$186.05
White Cap Construction	100102	09/27/2022	\$1,696.79
Woodburn & Wedge	100103	09/27/2022	\$115,820.93

PAYROLL

09/30/2022 \$44,582.40

Grand Totals: \$204,558.82

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

C. Manager's Report

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 12,240 acre feet (20%) and Bridgeport is at 7,754 acre feet (18%). The gage data is available in the packet. The reservoirs are in much better shape than they were last year at this time. There is about a 4 ½ vertical foot difference at Bridgeport. It is anticipated that the next several weeks will be above average temperatures. There is currently no indication on what the long range forecast looks like. If interested, GM BRYAN can get an update from NWS and NOAA at next month's meeting.

The shop crew has been performing repairs and maintenance on the reservoirs and drains. The District is still waiting for the go-ahead on the Campbell East/West Split project. The report is currently in the 30-day SHPO review period. GM BRYAN met with California Safety Dams and the engineers from ITRC regarding the Bridgeport Gatehouse repairs. After discussing what needs to be done, ITRC is finalizing the report. If the report is approved the pool level will not be low enough to perform the repairs this year. GM BRYAN is hoping to pick a year where the pool is low enough that further drawdowns will not be necessary.

The District submitted an amendment request to NFWF to reroute money toward the modernization of the Colony Ditch and upgrades at the Bridgeport Gatehouse. Part of the amendment was to also perform future storage water leasing programs since that is what the original intent of the money was for. The District cannot do anything until the amendment is approved. The staff at NFWF has been in conversation with Bureau of Reclamation in hopes to extend the grant period as it expires in September 2024. GM BRYAN was told that staff hopes to have everything completed with the extension request in the next 4-8 months.

On September 20th, GM BRYAN gave a presentation at the Nevada Water Resources Association symposium. The presentation was how the District is operating and adapting to the current drought conditions. GM BRYAN stated it was a couple days of good presentations.

The annual Saroni Meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday October 11th at 9am.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DEPAOLI reported the WBC Motion relative to administration of instream flows reply is due October 11th. Counsel DEPAOLI will forward a copy to GM BRYAN and the Board. In regard to the Mineral County case, Counsel is working on a schedule for a Discovery Plan due to the Court on November 22nd.

E. Review and Approval of Monthly Storage Transfers

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

F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Wes WALKER reported they are working on the final report due to the State of California in about a month. There is the potential for program to go a couple more years so MBK is contacting those necessary to see if the approvals would come through. There are not any anticipated problems with State of California or State of Nevada at this time.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY stated NDWR gave a presentation at NWRA. Kip created a way to predict pumping amounts based on snowpack and reservoir levels; the presentation will be shared with the Smith Valley and Mason Valley groups soon. The end of the year meetings will go over classic things such as current year pumping vs last year, etc. Wyatt talked to GM BRYAN at the conference and gave updated pumping numbers for this year. The numbers are looking good as pumping is down significantly down from this time last year. Approximate numbers for this current year are 70,000 acre feet in Mason Valley (down from 112,000 acre feet) and 20,000 in Smith Valley (down from 36,000). Wyatt reminded everyone that the State Engineer will not punish anyone who is conserving water and appreciates those who voluntarily cutback or made conservation changes. AJ stated about 60 total wells between Smith Valley and Mason Valley had not yet reported; they are not the same wells each month though. Wyatt reported that all totalizing meters in both valleys are working for the first time in a while.

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

Carlie HENNEMAN reported that this is a big time of the season with a lot of fall planting going on- especially on the East Walker. On the water side, they are wrapping up a rough water season. Over the next few months they are figuring out some administrative things and working with the Tribe on the Lower End Conveyance.

8. Presentation and Consideration of FY 2021-2022 Audit Report by Sciarani & Co.

Secretary HALTERMAN advised the audit is not ready yet. Secretary HALTERMAN stated she has had phone, email and in person conversations during this past month regarding the following:

- Not switching to a new accounting system as the auditor is understanding the reports from the old system better. Jim made the recommendation to change software last year, and the District has spent a lot of money to purchase, learn, and implement the new software. The new software has been in use since July 1st and is working very well.

- Not using a depreciation software anymore and going back to the excel spreadsheet. Two years ago, Jim Sciarani made a strong recommendation to eliminate the spreadsheet and to use a depreciation software; the District purchased the software based on that recommendation and has been using it since. The request to go back to the spreadsheet was made because the reports do not look like the ones from Lyon County and are hard to read.
- A request was discussed to change all of our leases to follow our fiscal year instead of the timelines specified in the lease agreements to make it easier for auditing. Secretary HALTERMAN stated there are long standing leases and this may be difficult to change dates.
- Questioning why the District paid MacLeod Watts to do an actuarial report on our post-retirement contributions. Jim and Sandy with Sciarani & Co. met with GM BRYAN and Secretary HALTERMAN last year and stated the District had to hire someone to do the report as it had not been performed for five or six years. The suggestion is to now do the report in house. Secretary HALTERMAN stated she does not know how to do the report and was told last year by Jim and Sandy that it must be done by an outside actuary.

Secretary HALTERMAN stated there is a lot of emphasis on what software is being used and a lot of back and forth on what to do and what not to do operationally that seems to be overshadowing the progress of the audit. The auditors are now starting to look at the grants. Secretary HALTERMAN is not sure where the disconnect is and has offered to sit with the auditors to speed up the process. There have been emails and conversations stating the books look good and the audit will be done in record time, but we are already looking at November for presentation. Vice President MASINI asked if there have been any findings mentioned, Secretary HALTERMAN stated the only finding so far is the delegation of duties that is present each year. Treasurer NUTI asked if the software is working for the District; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the software is working great and one reason for the request to not switch is that there is an agency in Dayton that recently switched to Abila and Sandy suggested our services in training and troubleshooting for them.

GM BRYAN stated this item will be tabled and brought back to a future agenda.

9. Review and discussion of NV Energy’s proposed purchase of 0.63 acres of a portion of Douglas County APN 1022-29-201-002 for Topaz substation upgrades, 0.24 acres of an easement for a distribution powerline, also on Douglas County APN 1022-29-201-002, 0.05 acres of an access and grading easement, also on Douglas County APN 1022-29-201-002, for a total purchase price of \$78,700.00 and direction to General Manager and legal counsel with respect thereto.

GM BRYAN stated Alternative #2 was preferred by NV Energy in regard to re-routing the power line according to the previous discussions. Counsel DEPAOLI stated last week NV Energy was surveying the area and working on the Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA). As a result of the BLA, the area may be slightly different but Counsel DEPAOLI has not seen anything yet. There has been no discussion of change of compensation. Counsel DEPAOLI

suggested to table the item until the final maps and description are available. Counsel DEPAOLI does not expect the area to change significantly and hopes to finalize everything at the next board meeting.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to table the item until the final documents are received and reviewed; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

10. Director Comments

None presented.

11. Public Comment

None presented.

12. Adjournment

Director GIORGI made a motion to adjourn; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:28am.

ABSENT
Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director