A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on December 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

Marcus MASINI Director

Bridget BANTA Secretary

Robert BRYAN General Manager

Gordon DEPAOLI Legal Counsel

Joanne SARKISIAN Water Master

**Public Present:**

Steve Besso Chad Walling Wayne Bull Silas Adams

Isaac Metcalf George Lindesmith Chris Moltz Jim Paccinelli

Steve Tomac Steven Fulstone

**1**. **Public Comment:**

None presented.

**2**. **Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

All members present.

**3.** **Consideration of Minutes of the November 7, 2017 Regular meeting.**

Director ACCIARI made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**4.** **Water Master’s Report**

Water Master SARKISIAN advised the reservoirs are storing water. Bridgeport is currently at 89% of capacity and Topaz is at 84% of capacity. Stock water is running at 83 cfs systemwide.

**5.** **Staff Reports including, but not limited to, those items listed:**

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Cash in Checking $172,290.66

Cash in Money Market $1,574,079.28

Cash in CD’s $1,240,611.33

Total $2,986,981.27

1. **Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment.**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***November 2017 Bills & Payroll*** | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| Check Number | Effective Date | Vendor Name | Check Amount |
| 119894 | 11/14/2017 | AFLAC | 265.93 |
| 119895 | 11/14/2017 | Frontier | 277.34 |
| 119896 | 11/14/2017 | Giomi, Inc. | 223.77 |
| 119897 | 11/14/2017 | High Desert Internet | 174.95 |
| 119898 | 11/14/2017 | AT&T | 131.18 |
| 119899 | 11/14/2017 | AT&T Mobility | 455.25 |
| 119900 | 11/14/2017 | John Deere Credit | 1,010.37 |
| 119901 | 11/14/2017 | NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS | 179.01 |
| 119902 | 11/14/2017 | Les Schwab Tire Center | 357.98 |
| 119903 | 11/14/2017 | Lyon County Recorder | 33.79 |
| 119904 | 11/14/2017 | MBK Engineers | 671.22 |
| 119905 | 11/14/2017 | MF Barcellos | 3,809.58 |
| 119906 | 11/14/2017 | True Value | 7.96 |
| 119907 | 11/14/2017 | O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. | 71.44 |
| 119908 | 11/14/2017 | Public Employees' Benefits Program | 803.29 |
| 119909 | 11/14/2017 | Quill | 142.27 |
| 119910 | 11/14/2017 | Reno Gazette Journal | 185.48 |
| 119911 | 11/14/2017 | Jim Menesini Petroleum | 1,211.41 |
| 119912 | 11/14/2017 | NV Energy | 215.63 |
| 119913 | 11/14/2017 | Alhambra | 12.95 |
| 119914 | 11/14/2017 | Southwest Gas Corporation | 53.52 |
| 119915 | 11/14/2017 | Verizon Wireless | 325.12 |
| 119916 | 11/14/2017 | Wedco Inc. | 278.56 |
| 119917 | 11/14/2017 | Wells Fargo Card Services | 12,368.61 |
| 119918 | 11/14/2017 | Western Nevada Supply Company | 8,903.20 |
| 119919 | 11/14/2017 | Wild West Chevrolet | 23.18 |
| 119920 | 11/14/2017 | D & S Waste Removal | 60.00 |
| 119921 | 11/14/2017 | Desert Research Institute | 1,463.66 |
| 119922 | 11/14/2017 | Sierra Office Solutions | 83.70 |
| 119923 | 11/14/2017 | Pape' Machinery Exchange | 124,171.40 |
| 119924 | 11/14/2017 | Petty Cash | 242.00 |
| 119925 | 11/28/2017 | Ameritas Life Insurance Corp | 1,220.60 |
| 119926 | 11/28/2017 | Hunewill Construction Co., Inc. | 79.25 |
| 119927 | 11/28/2017 | Quill | 368.07 |
| 119928 | 11/28/2017 | California State Board of Equalization | 7,172.07 |
| 119929 | 11/28/2017 | Standard Insurance Company | 219.96 |
| 119930 | 11/28/2017 | Vision Service Plan - Nevada | 191.88 |
| 119931 | 11/28/2017 | Wedco Inc. | 328.04 |
| 119932 | 11/28/2017 | HomeTown Health | 6,163.49 |
| 119933 | 11/28/2017 | Momentum Technology Group | 210.00 |
| 119934 | 11/28/2017 | BERKLEYNET | 1,305.00 |
| 119935 | 11/28/2017 | Quill | 223.76 |
| 119936 | 11/28/2017 | NV Energy | 10.86 |
| 119937 | 11/28/2017 | Wells Fargo Card Services | 2,727.82 |
| 119938 | 11/28/2017 | Xerox Financial Services | 139.44 |
| 119939 |  |  | VOID |
| 119940 | 11/28/2017 | PERS Administrative Fund | 6,262.55 |
| 119941 | 11/28/2017 | USBWC | 72,129.47 |
| PAYROLL |  | Payroll for November 2017 | 28,344.39 |
|  |  | **Total Bills & Payroll** | **285,310.40** |

Director MASINI asked about the Wells Fargo card. GM BRYAN advised it is the Business Credit Card. The bills are itemized under the card. Director MASINI made a motion to accept the bills as paid. Director ACCIARI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

1. **Manager’s Report:**

GM BRYAN advised he handed out copy of the USGS numbers. He advised both reservoirs are continuing to store water. The pool at Bridgeport is at 37,760-acre feet, which leaves 4,595 of space until it is at full capacity. Topaz is at 49,920-acre feet, which leaves 10,000-acre feet. GM BRYAN and Counsel DEPAOLI had a phone conference with MBK last week regarding management operations for the off season. He advised the atmospheric river 3 weeks ago raised both reservoirs over a foot. It was a significant amount of water. GM BRYAN advised another atmospheric event may push Bridgeport over the edge to have to utilize siphons. He will be working with the water master regarding increasing flows from Bridgeport to provide more room in the reservoir. He will be working with MBK regarding the proper procedure for releases in the off-season. Treasurer NUTI asked if it is possible to keep the reservoirs where they are currently at and release the necessary water to hold the reservoirs at their current level. GM BRYAN advised it depends on the weather, daily temperatures and inflow into the reservoirs. He explained it is harder to tell because of the lack of USGS gages. He advised as the reservoirs get closer to capacity, WRID needs a plan on the procedures for keeping a safe capacity throughout the off-season. President SNYDER asked about developing a plan or protocol WRID can use every year. GM BRYAN advised a plan will be set in place. President SNYDER asked if WRID will be paying MBK every year to assist with the reservoirs and releasing of water. GM BRYAN advised in order for WRID to be able to obtain the information MBK has access to, WRID would have to purchase an expensive software program to assist in the protocols. Otherwise, GM BRYAN will be consulting with MBK regarding reservoirs and releasing water to keep the reservoirs at a safe capacity. GM BRYAN gave an update on the Saroni Canal grant. WRID has been given permission to order the pipe by the Bureau of Reclamation, but not allowed to break ground until the NEPA (National Environmental Protection Agency) study is complete. Everything is in order and will move forward as soon as the study is complete. The studies for the Saroni and Plymouth will likely take place at the same time. GM BRYAN advised the equipment and temp crews have finished working on the dams and completed some work for the Antelope Valley users and Antelope Mutual Water Company. Most of the equipment is located at the Saroni. The channel is buried at the top, so it can dry out. There needs to be repair and maintenance on the flash board structure because it is dangerous and needs updating. The shop and temp crew have been burning on the Saroni. He advised there are several culverts on the east, main and Wabuska drain as side jobs for the WRID crew. On November 29, GM BRYAN received the California Safety of Dams reports for the Topaz and Bridgeport Reservoirs. The reports were good, and the dams are in good condition and they commended WRID for the repairs and maintenance performed on the dams. On November 21, GM BRYAN met with Bridgeport Rancher’s Organization (BRO) and NRCS on WRID’s property in the flats near Gansberg’s property regarding the water shed approach and ideas for improving water quality. On December 5, GM BRYAN gave a presentation in Carson City for both Federal and State agencies. He spoke regarding the operations and protocol WRID used for the high-water year and run-off. Both federal and state organizations recognized the job WRID did with the 2017 water season. GM BRYAN advised Dr Styles will be in next week. He will be looking at the Saroni and lateral A. He is available to look at other locations if necessary. On the January 8, 2018 meeting, there will be an item on the agenda in regard to the USGS gages. Marsha with USGS will be giving a presentation on the gages. Treasurer NUTI asked if GM BRYAN reached out to the city and county for funding on the gages. GM BRYAN advised they have talked, but no one has advised they would be helping pay. GM BRYAN advised Tim Beardsly will be coming to give a presentation on the weather forecast again for the February meeting. GM BRYAN spoke about the cloud seeding program. DRI will be giving a presentation regarding the cloud seeding program in February with the weather service. Vice President GIORGI asked if they would be performing any cloud seeding this year. GM BRYAN advised no cloud seeding would be happening this year and legislation is looking at winter of 2018. GM BRYAN advised the back hoe and dump truck in the WRID yard are up for bid. The office is accepting sealed bids. The closing date is January 12. GM BRYAN advised he will be sending a letter out to the users for the 2018 water season. He advised the users were given too much leniency and WRID is trying to streamline the process and correlate practice with the rules and regulations. The letter will be going out two times prior to the 2018 water season.

1. **Legal Counsel’s Report:**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised he has nothing new to report. It is getting close to the time we should be hearing from the 9th Circuit.

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

Chad Walling advised the readings are all posted online. Smith Valley-on average there was an increase of about 15.5 to 16.5 feet increase in the groundwater levels. Still down 11.0 feet from the pre-drought numbers. Mason Valley-on average increase was about 9.5-10.0 feet increase in the groundwater levels. Still down from pre-drought 5-6 feet. Smith Valley pumpage- 9,400 acre-feet. 2006-9,300 acre-feet used. 2011-10,000 acre-feet. Mason Valley pumpage- 17,000 acre-feet. 2006-30,000 acre-feet. 2011-32,000 acre-feet. Walling advised they are getting ready to complete the annual pumpage reports. They will go out early next year to read the meters that were put in at Sunset Hills. Chad advised they were made aware that 2 of their deputy administrators have advised they are retiring. Susan Joseph Taylor and Rick Felling are both retiring. He will be posting for the job to assist him soon.

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

Silas Adams advised they hired their field manager and they are in the process of hiring field technicians.

**8. Consideration pursuant to Walker River Irrigation District Regulation No. 6A Sections 6A.6 and 6A.7 of Application No. 973-170821 of Honker Ranch Inc., of Smith Valley, Nevada, made for permission to permanently change the place of use of 12.3552-acre feet of stored Newland water from Topaz Reservoir heretofore apportioned by the Walker River Irrigation District to Lyon County APN 10-331-08 to a new place of use at Lyon County APN 10-061-02. After release from Topaz Reservoir, water will continue to be diverted from the West Walker River through the Colony Ditch to the new place of use APN 10-061-02.**

GM BRYAN advised the application came in August of this year. As of today, there were no written protests filed. The location of the reserved water right card is Dr Fry’s property further upstream by Norton Lane and Circle Drive. The new proposed place of use is further down the system. Chris Moltz advised he has worked with Bridget BANTA of WRID to ensure proper paperwork and maps were filed. The only thing changing is the place of use. They are working to get water use through nearby farmers property. They are talking to neighbors about pipelines. Director ACCIARI asked what ditch they were planning on getting the water out of. Steve Besso advised they would be coming down the Simpson Colony and through the Hunewill’s property all the way down. It would be a joint pipeline between Honker and Hunewill’s. Director ACCIARI advised the ditch rider only goes so far down the ditch and asked about the measuring device location. Besso advised the measuring device would be located at Hunewill’s. Director ACCIARI advised the Colony ditch needs to have a meeting to decide how far they want the ditch rider to go. Steve Besso advised they are willing to work with the district and the ditch company as necessary. Stephen Fulstone asked if the Honker Ranch has any other water rights as far as decree through Walker River. Chris advised they have a tail water permit through the State of Nevada. Treasurer NUTI asked if the proposed location is within the district boundaries. GM BRYAN advised Counsel DEPAOLI went over the description and it is within the district boundaries. Treasurer NUTI advised he doesn’t want the board to make a decision and have it come back to WRID because the Colony Ditch Company is unaware of this transfer. GM BRYAN there are some drains that have been abandoned and/or filled in. Some of the District’s drains have been buried without the proper procedure followed. GM BRYAN advised the drains are necessary to get the tail water out. As far as where the users get their water, that is the ditch company’s responsibility. Treasurer NUTI also asked if the Honker Ranch was planning on using this water for irrigation. Chris advised the water will still be used for irrigation. Treasurer NUTI asked Counsel DEPAOLI if this decision is opening up a precedence for future transfers. Counsel DEPAOLI advised he does not think this decision will open any precedence. The change application is for the place of use in the boundaries of the District. The approval of the change does not bind the ditch company. The Board cannot tell the ditch company to take the water down the ditch. President SNYDER confirmed it is up to the ditch company to decide if it is a hardship and other users. Counsel DEPAOLI advised it is the board’s responsibility to ensure this does not conflict with existing users. Whether the ditch has to deliver the water or not is between the ditch company and the user. Treasurer NUTI suggested tabling the agenda item until the Colony Ditch Company has talked about it. Director ACCIARI asked where Honker would want their measuring device. Besso advised wherever the Board is comfortable with. Honker would be okay with the measuring device on Hunewill Lane. Besso advised they have used this water before on a temporary basis. President SNYDER advised he would like to wait until the ditch company has a chance to weigh in on the issue. Stephen Fulstone advised there has to be some sort of legal access to the water to ensure the ditch rider can measure. He advised they need to make sure they do not harm another user. Fulstone would like to ask Jeff Hunewill what he thinks about the transfer. Treasurer NUTI suggested the Honker Ranch to sit down with the Colony ditch to see what they think. Director MASINI advised the boundaries have been laid out and the Newlands water has been notoriously moved around the district permanently and temporarily. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to table the agenda item to the next monthly meeting. Director MASINI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**9. Director Comments**

None presented.

**10. Public Comment**

None presented.

**11. Adjournment**

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 AM. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

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Jim Snyder, President David Giorgi, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer Dennis Acciari, Director

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Marcus Masini, Director