

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on March 7, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the District Board Room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by President SNYDER.

Present:

Jim SNYDER	President
Marcus MASINI	Vice President
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Counsel DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via Zoom
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	AJ Jensby, NDWR	Jodi Roan, NDWR
Laura Bartels, NDWR	Kat Dow, WBC	Carlie Henneman, WBC
Wayne Bull, NDOW	Robie Irvin, NDOW	Jim Sciarani
Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD	Loretta Singletary, UNR	Michael Taylor, UNR
Beatrice Gordon, UNR	Gabrielle Boisrame, UNR	Elizabeth Koebele, UNR

Public Present via Zoom:

Wes Walker, MBK	Tim Bardsley, NOAA	Scott Parker
Shawn Stavang		

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum

All 5 board members were present.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the February 7, 2024 Regular Meeting

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

4. Recess as Board of Directors and convene as Board of Corrections for corrections of assessments pursuant to NRS 539.680

The Board of Directors recessed and the Board of Corrections convened at 10:05am. President SNYDER called for any corrections to the assessments; none were presented.

5. Adjourn as Board of Corrections and reconvene as Board of Directors

The Board of Corrections adjourned and the Board of Directors reconvened at 10:06am.

6. SNOWPACs team research presentation on the hydrologic and economic impacts of climate change in the Walker River Basin & Western US.

Michael TAYLOR stated SNOWPACs is a USDA funded project that is focused on impacts of the changing snowpack effects on agriculture and agricultural communities. There are projects in the Walker Basin as well as in Colorado. There is about a year and a half left of the Walker project. They are looking for feedback on the presentation and information on what information can be helpful. Gabrielle BOISRAME gave a PowerPoint presentation. The highlights included:

- The Great Basin is an area of great extremes.
- There have been recent record setting droughts as well as snow levels.
- On average, there have been longer, more extreme droughts.
- Climate change is predicted to alter the timing of water availability due to a reduced snowpack.
- The SNOWPACs team uses a headwater model, water allocation model, a groundwater model, and an agricultural economics model for data presentation.
- Based on the models, it is predicted to have warmer annual temperatures by the end of the century.
- The modeled water demand shows that the irrigation season may be lengthened, but more irrigation water will be needed.
- The modeled streamflow change shows a lot of uncertainty.
- WRID storage reservoirs are limited to a certain capacity, therefore storage increases will be minimally helpful in the hottest, driest years. Additional reservoirs could help during the first year of drought, only if there is water to fill them.
- Irrigation efficiency (i.e., changing from flood irrigation to sprinklers, etc.) reduces demand variability and increases irrigated acreage.
- An unintended consequence of efficient irrigation is declining groundwater levels as water is not absorbed into the ground.
- Findings from a recently published hydro-economic model of the Walker Basin shows reduced snowpack storage is expected to cause a decline in irrigated farm acreage and agricultural output.

Michael TAYLOR stated there are journalism graduate students present taking videos and pictures in effort to make the information more digestible to the public. The students asked all attendees to sign a media release. Treasurer NUTI asked what would happen if it were not signed; a student stated the person would be blurred out. Joanne SARKISIAN stated WRID has permits for additional reservoirs and asked if those reservoirs would change the data; Gabrielle stated there would be a minimal impact past the first drought year. Treasurer NUTI stated that using last year and this year's water availability, additional reservoirs could be beneficial for lower water years. Treasurer NUTI stated the current reservoirs can only hold 50% of the water they are permitted to hold. President SNYDER asked for a higher resolution of a slide; Bea stated she could send it. Director GIORGI asked how many people on the project have an agricultural background; Bea stated she grew up in an agricultural family and Rosemary Carroll's family were cattle farmers. Gabrielle grew up in the Central Valley and her parents were in Agricultural Economics. Treasurer NUTI asked if the water being transferred by the Walker River Conservancy was taken into effect on the models; Gabrielle stated parts of modeling were specifically designed to study the

impact of the transfers. The newer transfers have not been modelled. Gabrielle stated the models can be changed according to the water being transferred. Treasurer NUTI stated there will be a definite impact. Michael stated the paper that Dr. Baah-Kumi wrote does discuss the potential impact of water leaving the valleys via instream flows.

7. Presentation and Consideration of FY 2022-2023 Audit Report by Sciarani & Co.

Jim SCIARANI stated the only figure that changed from last month was the fund balance on the Leasing Grant. The fund balance was due to a previous year payment being misapplied and reducing the receivable. Vice President MASINI asked if the opinion was that it was stated fairly; Jim stated the opinion is stated on pages 1-4 and the opinion is that it is stated fairly. Jim stated the findings are noted on page 43-44. As a side note, Jim added that there was a management letter that brought small things to the Board’s attention- the clearing account and a recommendation on the US Water Board clearing account.

Vice President MASINI made a motion to accept the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Audit Report; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

8. Water Master’s Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport is at 40,560 acre-feet (96% capacity) and the plan is to get to around 41,000 before the releases are increased. Topaz is at 55,160 acre-feet (92% capacity). The releases are 49cfs from Bridgeport and 8.98cfs from Topaz. There are 57cfs at Hoye Canyon so there is water coming down the natural channel. Joanne stated the delivery today is 67cfs system wide. On March 29th, the US Board will approve the Plan of Distribution and the Tribe’s water will start on April 15 and will end on October 12. The excess water going through Wabuska is NDOW water.

9. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of February 29, 2024:

Cash in Checking	\$ 100,340.65
Cash in Money Market	\$ 685,162.58
Cash in CDs	\$ 757,568.24
Total	\$1,543,071.47

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

Walker River Irrigation District

February 2024 Bills & Payroll

Payee	Check No.	Trans. Date	Amount
Ameritas Life Insurance	100801	02/07/2024	\$ 1,086.70
Associated Concrete	100802	02/07/2024	\$ 2,775.30

Codale Electric Supply	100803	02/07/2024	\$	1,029.34
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	100804	02/07/2024	\$	8,582.83
Pape' Machinery Exchange	100805	02/07/2024	\$	17,136.00
PDM Steel Service Centers,	100806	02/07/2024	\$	4,770.00
Quill	100807	02/07/2024	\$	656.00
Sierra Office Solutions	100808	02/07/2024	\$	39.37
Truckee Tahoe Lumber Co.	100809	02/07/2024	\$	568.88
Alhambra	300066	02/13/2024	\$	113.41
Allied Sanitation and Septic	100811	02/13/2024	\$	125.00
City of Yerington	100812	02/13/2024	\$	90.80
CMC TIRE INC SPO	100813	02/13/2024	\$	1,089.43
CSC	100814	02/13/2024	\$	25.00
Giomi, Inc.	100815	02/13/2024	\$	2,002.23
Grainger	100816	02/13/2024	\$	66.98
JASON MILLIGAN	100817	02/13/2024	\$	2,080.00
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	100818	02/13/2024	\$	271.59
PDM Steel Service Centers,	100819	02/13/2024	\$	2,989.96
PERS Administrative Fund	100820	02/13/2024	\$	12,555.46
Pitney Bowes Global	100821	02/13/2024	\$	35.00
Public Employees' Benefits	100822	02/13/2024	\$	870.23
Raley's	100823	02/13/2024	\$	238.80
SCOTT ROBINSON	100824	02/13/2024	\$	2,080.00
Southwest Gas Corporation	100825	02/13/2024	\$	819.24
Standard Insurance	100826	02/13/2024	\$	320.34
USBWC	100827	02/13/2024	\$	42,268.74
Wedco Inc.	100828	02/13/2024	\$	299.90
Wells Fargo Card Services	100829	02/13/2024	\$	3,996.05
Woodburn & Wedge	100830	02/13/2024	\$	26,587.70
Xerox Corporation	100831	02/13/2024	\$	393.24
Associated Concrete	100832	02/28/2024	\$	2,392.50
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	100833	02/28/2024	\$	8,600.00
JASON MILLIGAN	100834	02/28/2024	\$	1,920.00
Jim Menesini Petroleum	100835	02/28/2024	\$	395.09
John Deere Credit	100836	02/28/2024	\$	41.38
Lyon County Recorder	100837	02/28/2024	\$	23.37
MBK Engineers	100838	02/28/2024	\$	10,564.00

MF Barcellos	100839	02/28/2024	\$	1,774.38
NV Energy	100840	02/28/2024	\$	377.57
Pitney Bowes Global	100841	02/28/2024	\$	10.91
SCOTT ROBINSON	100842	02/28/2024	\$	1,920.00
Standard Insurance	100843	02/28/2024	\$	640.68
Sunbelt Rentals	100844	02/28/2024	\$	16,300.00
Truckee Tahoe Lumber Co.	100845	02/28/2024	\$	1,641.00
USBWC	100846	02/28/2024	\$	19,948.64
Wedco Inc.	100847	02/28/2024	\$	218.48
Wells Fargo Card Services	100848	02/28/2024	\$	10,086.54
White Cap Construction	100849	02/28/2024	\$	1,150.83
Woodburn & Wedge	100850	02/28/2024	\$	37,064.35
Xerox Financial Services	100851	02/28/2024	\$	60.44
Payroll		2/29/2024	\$	35,924.77
EFTPS		2/29/2024	\$	6,115.27
Total Bills & Payroll			\$	293,133.72

Director GIORGI asked what the expenses were for the Colony; GM BRYAN stated they are pipes and supplies for the modernization project that is being funded by the NFWF grant. Vice President MASINI asked what the legal charges were for that were being billed to NFWF; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it was for the costs for running the Stored Water Leasing Program and the transfer requests.

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

C. Manager’s Report

GM BRYAN reported Topaz is at 55,160 acre-feet (92% capacity) and Bridgeport is at 40,530 acre-feet (96% capacity). Since November 1st, 28,040 acre-feet have been stored in Topaz and 12,770 acre-feet have been stored in Bridgeport. GM BRYAN has been continuing to meet with MBK to monitor the pool levels and plan for future operations. With the current weather, it has been cool and we have been able to exercise the permit to store. Topaz’s target is 41,000 acre-feet and Bridgeport’s target is 1200-1300 below full. GM BRYAN will continue to work with the Water Master and the MBK Engineers to monitor the pools and plan the releases.

The shop crew is continuing with the Colony modernization project. There will be another pour tomorrow and hopefully will have all of the concrete done by April so that the electronics can be installed.

GM BRYAN met with NV State Parks on February 23rd. A presentation was given regarding the gaging on the East Walker. It is proposed to install gaging at Rough Creek, near the Morgan Unit bridge, and at the East Walker bridge. NV State Parks will be the lead on the gaging, but they are looking for contributors. USBWC has delegated money to assist. WBC, NDEP, NDOW, and possibly the Tribes will be contributing. The goal is to keep the gages funding and to keep them online. GM BRYAN will keep the Board updated on the progress.

GM BRYAN received correspondence from Qualis who is representing Sky Fiber. They want to install a fiber optic line on Miller Lane. GM BRYAN has been working with private property owners, ditch companies, and Lyon County to mark existing infrastructure as the company will be putting the line underground. President SNYDER asked if there was a map on the routing; GM BRYAN stated there is a map but it is very vague and has no infrastructure marked.

Next week, GM BRYAN and Water Rights Specialist NEVILLE will be attending a SCADA training at CalPoly/ITRC. GM BRYAN does have other scheduled meetings during that time and will be meeting with Dr. Styles as well. There will be a flow measurement class at the District around September 3-5th and GM BRYAN will send out information when everything is finalized. The cost per person is \$100.

On March 22nd, GM BRYAN will be giving a presentation to the Subcommittee for Public Lands on behalf of the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Natural Resources.

GM BRYAN provided a draft budget for the upcoming fiscal year. It is a rough draft and he requested feedback as it will be addressed at next month's meeting.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI stated he had nothing to report.

E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Wes WALKER stated the applications will be mailed tomorrow. Those are due by May 15, 2024 and the agreements, which will be sent once the application is received, will be due by May 31, 2024. If there is a re-allocation before the May 31st deadline, participants will be required to submit an additional application. MBK is expecting to get the order from the California State Board within the next week or two. Gordon can begin to work with the courts to get the decree amended then MBK will apply for the Nevada approvals. Depending on how hydrology plays out, the program can start as early as the middle of July.

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

AJ JENSBY reported that the spring water level measurements had been completed. They are working to analyze the data and get a presentation put together. AJ will work with GM BRYAN on setting up meetings for both valleys. AJ introduced Lauren Bartels as the new Basin Engineer. Lauren is excited to work with everyone.

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

Carlie HENNEMAN stated the lake is creeping up and is at the highest level since 2012. The Conservancy is getting ready for the irrigation season.

12. Presentation by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2023 irrigation season.

Tim Bardsley presented on the 2024 irrigation season weather and water outlook. Highlights included:

- The Regional Temp and Precipitation have been on the warm side.
- There are a couple of small storms on the horizon.
- The atmospheric river is going north of us.
- The 15 day outlook shows a low chance of greater than 2" of water equivalent.
- The 8-14 day temperature outlook is trending to favor milder and drier.
- The seasonal March-May outlook is trending to be warmer with equal chances of being wet or dry.
- The snowpack conditions are at 102% of median.
- The snowpack this year is similar to 2010 and 1996 which both had late snow and flood concerns.
- The soil moisture is right at the median for this time period.
- The observed stream flows on the Walker are close to median.
- The April-July water supply forecast projects the West Walker to be 134KAF/ 103% of median/85% of average and 40.1KAF/ 98% of median/ 67% of average for the East Walker.
- There was a significant snowpack recovery in February and so far in March.

10 MINUTE BREAK

13. Discussion and consideration of storage water allocation for the 2023 irrigation season.

GM BRYAN presented a breakdown of the acre base, current pool level, evaporation and transportation loss, and minimum pools for each of the reservoirs. GM BRYAN recommended an allocation of 66-70% on the East and 63-70% on the West. Director GIORGI asked what the change in moisture content due to the last storm; GM BRYAN stated the SWE went from 76-102% over the last couple of weeks. Director GIORGI asked how much water that was; GM BRYAN stated that is the actual snow water content. Tim BARDSLEY noted there was a 5" gain on the SWE on all sites in the Walker Basin. Wes WALKER stated with the current snowpack, there is a minimal chance to store on the East but there is a little bit more of a chance on the West. Director GIORGI stated he does not

necessarily like the re-allocation because it makes it hard to plan crops; GM BRYAN stated a de-allocation is worse.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to set the storage allocation at 70% for both reservoirs and to allow the General Manager to decide on a re-allocation; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

14. Discussion and determination of the season for delivery of storage water in 2024 as provided in Section 9.3 of District Regulation No. 9.

GM BRYAN stated the season has historically started on April 1st. There was a certain instance when the Board approved to begin the season on March 8th. There is not a huge demand right now, and most users wait until April to order storage water even if the season opens earlier.

Director ACCIARI made a motion to open the season on April 1st; Vice President MASINI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

15. Discussion and determination of the last date to allow irrigation season changes in place of use of storage water from reservoir to reservoir as provided in and required by Section 6.1 of District Regulation No. 6.

GM BRYAN advised that if the reservoir to reservoir transfers are allowed, a cutoff date should still be set. GM BRYAN has been discussing the topic with the Water Master and they feel that May 1st should be the latest allowance. Last year the transfer was approximately 400cfs. Treasurer NUTI asked if the date could be moved later on if the scenario changes; Counsel DePAOLI stated the Board can change the date later if the circumstances allow.

Vice President MASINI made a motion to allow reservoir to reservoir transfers to occur no later than May 1st; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

16. Consideration for making available and delivering well water for the District Well under Nevada State Engineer Permit No. 25813, Certificate No. 8861 to lands within the District beginning April 1, 2024.

Vice President MASINI confirmed the well did not run last year; GM BRYAN stated it was only turned on for maintenance and repair. GM BRYAN recommended the well be started on April 1st as there is interest from users. The well can run until the Water Master cannot make the exchange or there is an issue with the well. The rate was \$20 per acre foot previously. Vice President MASINI asked how the rate was figured; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it is calculated based on the projected energy costs and does have a buffer for the previous maintenance. President SNYDER recommended increasing the fee to \$25 per acre-foot. GM BRYAN stated the drawing will be held on the 15th of each month and the payment is due by the last business day of the month. Vice President MASINI asked if the water needed to be used within that month; GM BRYAN stated it should be used as it is not guaranteed after that month.

Director ACCIARI made a motion to start the well on April 1st and charge \$25 per acre-foot; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

17. Director Comments

Director GIORGI stated the new pipe at the old Brackenberry property was full of weeds and will be washed out if it is not cleaned. GM BRYAN stated there is a huge weed issue in the drains right now.

18. Public Comment

None presented.

19. Adjournment

Director GIORGI made a motion to adjourn; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:44am.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director