

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on February 7, 2025. 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
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via Zoom

**Public Present:**

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Kat Dow, WBC	Carlie Henneman, WBC
Lauren Bartels, NDWR	Jodi Roan, NDWR	Jim Sciarani

**Public Present via Zoom:**

Dave Hockaday, LCBOCC	Angela Bezzone, MBK
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**1. Public Comment**

None presented.

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

All 5 members were present.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the January 7, 2025 Regular Meeting**

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

**4. Water Master's Report**

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport was at 23,060 acre-feet (54% capacity) and Topaz was 27,700 acre-feet (46% capacity). The releases are still at minimum, some stock water is still being delivered, and the first water orders are due February 27<sup>th</sup> for March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**5. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of January 31, 2025:

Cash in Checking	\$ 156,826.53
Cash in Money Market	\$1,021,212.34
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 809,239.57</u>
Total	\$1,987,278.44

**B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment**  
**Cash Disbursement Journals**  
**January 2025 Bills & Payroll**

<b>Payee</b>	<b>Check No.</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Amount</b>
HomeTown Health	300133	01/04/2025	\$ 8,859.84
Cal Poly Corporation / ITRC	101359	01/07/2025	\$ 119,976.81
Desert Research Institute	101360	01/07/2025	\$ 16,328.11
Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	101361	01/07/2025	\$ 148,288.80
NV Energy	101362	01/07/2025	\$ 65.97
Pape' Machinery Exchange	101363	01/07/2025	\$ 8,568.00
PrimePay	300132	01/10/2025	\$ 205.52
Verizon Wireless	300137	01/14/2025	\$ 440.63
AT&T	300138	01/14/2025	\$ 86.20
Ameritas Life Insurance	101364	01/15/2025	\$ 1,121.80
CD & POWER	101365	01/15/2025	\$ 870.48
City of Yerington	101366	01/15/2025	\$ 98.16
D & S Waste Removal	101367	01/15/2025	\$ 203.64
JASON MILLIGAN	101368	01/15/2025	\$ 3,325.00
JIM DECHAMBEAU	101369	01/15/2025	\$ 480.50
Jim Menesini Petroleum	101370	01/15/2025	\$ 956.11
Lyon County Recorder	101371	01/15/2025	\$ 48.31
MBK Engineers	101372	01/15/2025	\$ 3,771.75
NV Energy	101373	01/15/2025	\$ 271.58
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	101374	01/15/2025	\$ 31.98
Pitney Bowes Global	101375	01/15/2025	\$ 213.42
Public Employees' Benefits	101376	01/15/2025	\$ 2,610.69
Purchase Power / Pitney	101377	01/15/2025	\$ 266.16
SCOTT ROBINSON	101378	01/15/2025	\$ 3,325.00
Sierra Office Solutions	101379	01/15/2025	\$ 66.53
Wells Fargo Card Services	101380	01/15/2025	\$ 4,612.69
Woodburn & Wedge	101381	01/15/2025	\$ 28,546.09
Xerox Financial Services	101382	01/15/2025	\$ 30.22
NV Energy	101383	01/15/2025	\$ 40.33
Nevada Public Agency	300139	01/22/2025	\$ 4,857.00
Vision Service Plan - Nevada	300141	01/23/2025	\$ 171.48
Spectrum Business	300140	01/29/2025	\$ 237.99

John Deere Credit	101384	01/30/2025	\$	151.97
Quill	101385	01/30/2025	\$	307.51
Southwest Gas Corporation	101386	01/30/2025	\$	478.18
Standard Insurance Co	101387	01/30/2025	\$	211.21
The Ferraro Group	101388	01/30/2025	\$	7,500.00
U.S. Geological Survey	101389	01/30/2025	\$	24,982.00
Woodburn & Wedge	101390	01/30/2025	\$	40,149.35
Xerox Corporation	101391	01/30/2025	\$	202.85
MF Barcellos	101393	01/30/2025	\$	3,395.23
MBK Engineers	101394	01/30/2025	\$	2,648.75
Giomi, Inc.	101395	01/30/2025	\$	111.17
Sticks and Stones Buildings	101396	01/30/2025	\$	833.91
THE PARTS HOUSE	101397	01/30/2025	\$	251.74
JASON MILLIGAN	101398	01/30/2025	\$	2,650.00
SCOTT ROBINSON	101399	01/30/2025	\$	2,650.00
HomeTown Health	300135	01/31/2025	\$	2,703.36
HomeTown Health	300136	01/31/2025	\$	4,429.92
Payroll		1/15/2025	\$	16,149.57
EFPTS		1/15/2025	\$	2,580.63
Payroll		1/13/2025	\$	28,712.73
EFTPS		1/13/2025	\$	5,372.94
			Total Bills & Payroll	\$ 505,449.81
			<b>NFWF Submission</b>	<b>\$ (180,813.63)</b>
			<b>Total District Expense</b>	<b>\$ 324,636.18</b>

Vice President MASINI confirmed the Ferguson bill was the pipe for the drain project; GM BRYAN confirmed and stated the first half has been billed for reimbursement and the second half will be billed in October.

Vice President MASINI 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 stated there is a breakdown of the USGS gages in the packet. Topaz is currently at 27,730 acre-feet (46% capacity) and Bridgeport is currently at 23,290 acre-feet (55% capacity). Topaz has stored approximately 12,430 acre-feet since November 1<sup>st</sup> and Bridgeport has stored approximately 9,450 acre-feet. The latest storm did bump up the snow level and the basin went from 67% of median to 77% of median for today. The update from the weather service indicated the Walker basin has about a 30% chance to have an above average year. There is another storm

in the forecast next Wednesday that will potentially be a big help. The April-July flow forecast is near average with the East being a little higher than the West. January was one of the worst months in quite some time and the percentage dropped.

The shop crew is continuing the project on the West Drain. Due to the groundwater seeping in the last couple of weeks, progress has been slowed. The crew is running 6 pumps to keep the area dry so the pipes can be installed. All of the pipes should be in the ground by next week and then the headwall and slurry around the Nichol Merritt can be completed. There will be some cleaning and grooming to do once the area dries out and GM BRYAN would like to leave a wind row in the middle, so no one drives on it. Within the next couple weeks the long reach will be working at the G&H and the heavy excavators will be taken to Smith Valley to work on the Colony and Saroni. Once the long reach is done with the G&H work, it will be taken to Topaz to do some work at the diversion.

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, the District received a surprise inspection from NV OSHA. They inspected the office, shop, and yard. There were several safety violations but most of them were minor. The electrical panel in the janitor closet will need to be moved as it is too close to the sink and the other two electrical panels must have a 3-foot clearance all around so a few items will need to be moved. GM BRYAN stated a storage box will be purchased to store items instead of having the shop function as a storage facility. Sometime within the next couple of months, NV OSHA will send the District a certified letter that will note all of the findings and the timeline in which they will need to be fixed. There could also be fees associated with the findings, but since WRID is a small entity, the fees will be based on the number of employees. Once the findings are mitigated, the District will need to send pictures to OSHA and then they will visit for a subsequent walk through.

Last week, GM BRYAN attended the NWRA and Mid-Pacific Regional conferences in Reno. Both conference were good and there was great discussion on what is being discussed and what is coming from the State Engineer's Office. GM BRYAN will monitor the changes and will keep the Board apprised.

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, the Lyon County Commissioners will be discussing the conditional use permit for the Libra Solar Project. To recap, Libra Solar has a permit for a solar reserve in Mineral County, but the only access is via East Walker Road in Mason Valley. There is a District crossing that will be impacted by the traffic, so GM BRYAN is working with Libra Solar. Libra Solar has made a proposal to pave the road from Hwy 208 to Reese River Road, but several of the area residents are not in support of the project. There is also a proposal for power lines from through the Wildlife Management Area going north to BLM land that Libra Solar is proposing. GM BRYAN has been working with Libra Solar and other agencies because all of the proposed projects will impact the Wabuska Drain directly and there is a potential that the projects will affect the drainage. GM BRYAN will stay involved and keep the Board apprised.

On February 24<sup>th</sup>, the District will be having the annual ditch rider meeting. They will be given their tablets, decree sheets, ditch tables, and lease agreements. If there is anything specific anyone would like the ditch riders to know, please let GM BRYAN know before the meeting.

This week the 83<sup>rd</sup> legislative session started. There is a stack of bills pertaining to water and one on cloud seeding. GM BRYAN will keep track of the language and will keep the Board apprised.

The annual spring-to-spring water level meeting with NDWR has been scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>. The Smith Valley group will be from 10a-12p at the Smith Valley Library and the Mason Valley group will be at the WRID office from 2p-4p.

Director GIORGI asked where the power lines will be going; GM BRYAN stated there is already a dedicated easement that goes through the Wildlife Management Area and behind Chico's.

President SNYDER asked if any of the federal funding issues were impacting the District; GM BRYAN stated his phone rang a lot last week. The grants that the District have were not affected.

**D. Legal Counsel's Report**

Counsel DePAOLI stated he is trying to see what legislation has already introduced and is likely introduce related to water. Counsel DePAOLI will work with Bert to relay information. Some things were worked on in between sessions and a lot of it has to do with continuing the program to retire groundwater rights in over appropriated basins. Counsel DePAOLI stated they will need to have an attorney client information session to cover things going on related to both the change applications and the litigation with Mineral County.

**E. Stored Water Leasing Program update**

Angela BEZZONE reported that USGS finalized the gage data and that it has been updated in the reports and submitted to California State Water Resources Control Board. There was slightly more water delivered to Wabuska than originally reported at the gage. MBK is completing the program summary report to look at the system and to observe the participants and users' experiences. The report will include the pros and cons of the program. MBK will be scheduling meetings with the agencies and users they have not met yet.

**F. 2025 Election Update**

Secretary HALTERMAN stated this is an election year and Divisions 1 and 5 are up for election with the election date being Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup>. Vice President Masini is currently representing Division 1 and Director Acciari is currently representing Division 2. Nominations open on February 18<sup>th</sup> and close on March 18<sup>th</sup>. There is a \$25 nomination fee. Registration is always open and those users who are new

water right holders or have changed any information since registering, must register by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Letters have been mailed to all users with election and registration information. If there is no opposition in either District, no election will be held.

**6. Presentation and Consideration of FY 2023-2024 Audit Report by Sciarani & Co.**

Jim SCIARANI presented the completed audit report. Jim stated the audit was delayed due to Secretary HALTERMAN being out of the office a few times. Highlights included:

- Overall, it was a good year.
- Graphs were presented that showed cash and investments have increased since last year, assessments increased the revenue, there was a profit gain this year, operating expenses were high last year due to flood mitigation and modernization costs, and the legal expenses were lower last year due to no major court cases.
- There was over \$750,000 received in federal grant reimbursement so there was a single audit.
- What is new: acquired the Colony Ditch.
- Page 12- Not able to ascertain to acquire capital infrastructure with the Colony so nothing was booked. Assessment revenue increased due to the increase in rates. The delinquent assessments were small this year; Secretary HALTERMAN has been doing a good job in collecting the outstanding assessments.
- Page 13- shows the revenue over expenditure amounts. The reservoir did have a loss of \$80,000 due to the flood mitigation expenses.
- Page 38- shows the details of the ditch company transactions. With the ditch companies, Secretary HALTERMAN has 25 sets of books to keep track of. President SNYDER asked for clarification on what the ditch companies were; Jim stated Secretary HALTERMAN must perform the payroll bookkeeping for the private ditch companies.
- Page 36- is the balance sheet on the federal grants.
- Page 37- shows the profit and loss on the federal grants.
- Page 10- is the balance sheet that lists the assets. The total is \$3.4 million in liquid assets.
- Page 11- is the second half of the balance sheet that shows the current liabilities. There is a total of \$916,000.
- Pages 1-4- is the independent auditor's report and opinions. The District's financial position has improved over the last year. Every balance sheet account is analyzed and trued up. There were approximately 40 journal entries for the District; Lyon County has zero. Part of the opinion is to test internal controls. The audit testing includes payroll testing, cash disbursement testing, among other testing.
- Page 40-41- is the compliance report. Jim stated they are required to do testing and reporting on deficiencies. There were three significant weakness findings this year- bank reconciliation timeliness, booking of receivables, and reconciling the federal grants. The bank reconciliation did not reflect an accurate outstanding check balance; the accounting system was pulling checks that had been cleared and this has been corrected. The receivables were not being reported to the correct accounts. Jim recommended having a report from the accounting system that shows all receivables. Jim also recommended having a separate excel sheet to reconcile the receivables. The federal grant reconciliation process needs to be timelier. Jim stated the June 2024 payables were included in the July receivable and needs to be billed for reimbursement

- in June. Jim suggested that the process includes two people looking at the reimbursement requests.
- Page 53- there should be a Corrective Action Plan, but it was not completed in time for the audit presentation. Jim will work with Secretary HALTERMAN to have that completed as soon as possible.
  - Management Letter- includes concerns that are not necessarily significant enough to put into the audit report. Concerns include billing of the assessments. The testing indicated there was approximately \$60,000 difference in billing and payments. The issue was a timing problem where some delinquencies were taken off of the list when they should have been left on the list. There was a receivable from Douglas County that was not relieved when the payment was received. The error was a software error that did not post the payment. The third concern is that the receivables were reversed to the payable accounts instead of the receivable accounts. The last concern is that Secretary HALTERMAN was told to book the payables as of June 30<sup>th</sup> and she did but reversed them in the current year and that should not have been done.

Jim stated there are a few changes for next year- the single audit requirement was raised from \$750,000 to \$1 million in federal funding.

President SNYDER stated Secretary HALTERMAN has been giving a monthly net position but requested more information on the net position in the audit; Jim stated the net position shows the current assets minus the current liabilities and shows the liquidity.

President SNYDER asked if it made sense for Sciarani & Co. to assist with the budgeting to project what to expect over the next year. Jim stated he could present a budget that includes what was budgeted vs what was actually received and spent. Jim stated if the District wants to provide budgets for each fund, Sciarani & Co. could assist with projecting them. At year end, Secretary HALTERMAN must convert the District from a cash basis to a full accrual basis by booking expenses and receivables to actual.

Jim stated Secretary HALTERMAN had a lot on her plate this year with being out of the office, so the audit was delayed, and it was difficult to get things done at the pace it should have been done.

Treasurer NUTI offered a motion to accept the FY 2023-2024 Financial Audit Report as presented; Director ACCIARI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

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

Lauren BARTELS reported that the annual meeting will be March 12<sup>th</sup> from 10a-12p at the Smith Valley library for the Smith Valley users and then 2p-4p at the WRID office for the Mason Valley users. Jodi and Lauren have been in the field getting measurements. This year the annual meeting is a month earlier, so the April 1<sup>st</sup> readings will not be available. The meeting will discuss trends in pumping, discuss the 2024 pumping numbers and setting the 2025 goals.

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

Carlie HENNEMAN reported the Conservancy closed on a Smith Valley property and, with that sale, acquired 617 acre-feet of Newland water and almost 600 acre-feet of supplemental rights. President SNYDER asked what property the sale was; Carlie stated it was Rob Lewis' Dreyer Ranch. Treasurer NUTI asked if the Conservancy owns the land; Carlie stated the Conservancy purchased the water and FIM purchased the land. Carlie believes the intention is for FIM to move groundwater to the property if not, they will plug the well. Director GIORGI asked what the final payment per acre was; Carlie was not sure of the amount.

**9. Director Comments**

None presented.

**10. Public Comment**

None presented.

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

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Jim Snyder, President

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Marcus Masini, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer

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Dennis Acciari, Director

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David Giorgi, Director