

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on January 7, 2021. 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, via phone
Richard NUTI	Treasurer
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via phone
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary

**Public Present:**

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Taylor Thomas, USBWC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
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**Public Present via phone:**

Silas Adams, WBC	Dave Hockaday	Dave Kerr
Rob Lewis	Don Smith	Tim Bardsley, NOAA
Kris Leinassar	Mike Mantelli	Adam Sullivan, NDWR
Angela BEZZONE, MBK	Antonio	

**1. Public Comment**  
None presented.

**2. Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**  
Vice President Masini was absent. President SNYDER and Counsel FERGUSON were on the phone.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the December 7, 2020 Regular Meeting**  
Director GIORGI made a motion to accept the minutes; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**4. Water Master's Report**  
Joanne SARKISIAN stated there is currently 11,310 acre-feet in Bridgeport (29%) and 10,600 acre-feet in Topaz (19%). From November 1<sup>st</sup> to present, water stored is 4,084 acre-feet in Bridgeport and 4,401 acre-feet in Topaz. The minimum amount is being released from Bridgeport and 2.5 cfs from Topaz. Friday's storm did not add much to the snowpack. The SWE for the basin is at 50% of average to date. There is a total of 21" of snow on Sonora Pass and Summit Meadow has 18". Stock water is still being delivered. The ditch companies are getting ready for their annual meetings. Director GIORGI asked if stock water will be shut off because of the below average year; GM BRYAN stated the minimum is being released from each reservoir and there is still enough for stock water to be delivered so no more can be stored than is being stored right now.

**5. Staff Reports:**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer NUTI reported as of December 31, 2020:

Cash in Checking	\$ 161,836.48
Cash in Money Market	\$ 684,299.90
Cash in CDs	\$ 749,661.39
Total	\$1,595,797.77

Secretary HALTERMAN advised there is approximately \$518,000 outstanding in grant reimbursements and approximately \$147,000 due from ditch companies, leases, etc. President SNYDER asked if all of it was collectable; Secretary HALTERMAN advised it is all collectable.

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

***December 2020 Bills & Payroll***

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
121762	12/8/2020	AFLAC	35.70
121763	12/8/2020	Hunewill Construction Co.,	1,520.99
121764	12/8/2020	AT&T Mobility	116.29
121765	12/8/2020	MBK Engineers	13,381.75
121766	12/8/2020	Power Plan	1,158.41
121767	12/8/2020	Purchase Power / Pitney	402.50
121768	12/8/2020	Quill	310.96
121769	12/8/2020	Jim Menesini Petroleum	102.02
121770	12/8/2020	NV Energy	229.92
121771	12/8/2020	Alhambra	26.94
121772	12/8/2020	Southwest Gas Corporation	196.88
121773	12/8/2020	Standard Insurance Company	242.47
121774	12/8/2020	USPS	194.00
121775	12/8/2020	Wells Fargo Card Services	3,154.36
121776	12/8/2020	White Cap Construction	1,667.19
121777	12/8/2020	Woodburn & Wedge	67,668.00
121778	12/8/2020	Xerox Financial Services	164.44
121779	12/8/2020	Hoof Beat Gates & Corrals	1,225.56
121780	12/8/2020	Yerington Ready Mix	3,583.03
121781	12/14/2020	Mellon HSA Solution	23,800.00
121782	12/14/2020	PERS Administrative Fund	7,778.59
121783	12/14/2020	Giomi, Inc.	604.98

121784	12/14/2020	AT&T	152.51
121785	12/14/2020	Sticks and Stones Buildings	1,343.49
121786	12/14/2020	John Deere Credit	213.31
121787	12/14/2020	MBK Engineers	7,087.75
121788	12/14/2020	MF Barcellos	1,918.94
121789	12/14/2020	Nevada Energy Systems, Inc.	515.00
121790	12/14/2020	True Value	55.34
121791	12/14/2020	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	167.43
121792	12/14/2020	Quill	113.96
121793	12/14/2020	Verizon Wireless	449.89
121794	12/14/2020	Desert Research Institute	8,362.74
121795	12/14/2020	Allied Sanitation and Septic	120.00
121796	12/14/2020	Charter Communications	222.32
121797	12/14/2020	Sierra Office Solutions	73.76
121798	12/29/2020	AFLAC	35.70
121799	12/29/2020	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	907.60
121800	12/29/2020	ABILA Dept 3303	186.64
121801	12/29/2020	Associated Concrete Pumping	1,576.05
121802	12/29/2020	Lyon County Recorder	31.30
121803	12/29/2020	MBK Engineers	2,467.50
121804	12/29/2020	Power Plan	6,231.40
121805	12/29/2020	NV Energy	40.33
121806	12/29/2020	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	186.05
121807	12/29/2020	White Cap Construction	1,620.89
121808	12/29/2020	Woodburn & Wedge	62,750.40
121809	12/29/2020	City of Yerington	121.07
121810	12/29/2020	HomeTown Health	7,421.23
121811	12/29/2020	D & S Waste Removal	203.64
121812	12/29/2020	CALM Water Control Co., LLC	37,928.00
121813	12/29/2020	WEST Consultants, Inc.	117,919.85
121814	12/29/2020	Yerington Ready Mix	3,658.54
121815	12/29/2020	WEST Consultants, Inc.	7,452.80
PAYROLL		DECEMBER PAYROLL	32,391.70
<b>Total Bills &amp; Payroll</b>			<b>431,492.11</b>

President SNYDER inquired about the WEST Consultants bill; GM BRYAN stated they are the consultants performing the NRCS sediment EA plan and the grant will reimburse the District for the bill. Director GIORGI inquired about the Hoof Beats bill; GM BRYAN stated the bill was for the gates in Topaz, on the Colony Ditch and the Saroni Canal.

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

**C. Manager's Report**

GM BRYAN reported Bridgeport is currently at 27% and Topaz is at 18% with 4,084 acre-feet stored in Bridgeport and 4,411 acre-feet stored in Topaz since November.

The shop crew is finishing the Saroni Main turnout within the next week. The next project is replacing 2 gates and a drain/culvert at Wes Smith's property on E Walker Rd. Future BOR projects on the Saroni and Campbell are on hold until the District receives authorization to proceed. However, the District has begun to order computer hardware and other equipment for the Campbell project. The project will take two months and is tentatively planned for next winter.

The Nevada Division of Forestry has reached out to the District for approval to do groundwork to clear vegetation around the power poles. Because of the recent fires, the power company and NDF are working together to mitigate fire risk. The power company will pay for the project through statute. GM BRYAN has given Anna Higgins the go-ahead to proceed.

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Nevada Safety Dams performed their annual inspection at Topaz. The dam was listed as fair and there were a few recommendations on the report, but they fall in line with regular repair and maintenance.

On December 17<sup>th</sup>, GM BRYAN and Counsel DePAOLI met with the Lyon County Board of Commissioners regarding the cost of the C125 case. The Board of Commissioners approved up to 10% or \$30,000, whichever is less, to assist with the legal costs.

On December 31<sup>st</sup>, MBK filed the EAP plans for each reservoir. The maps were filed last year. The review takes 60 days and once they receive the final approval, the reports will be filed with Nevada and California as well as each county emergency management office.

GM BRYAN has been in contact with John Lee. There are approximately 43 wells on the list for him to check. John plans to be in the valleys from March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>. If anyone else is interested in getting on the list, contact the office and the staff will forward the information to John. His report will correspond with the self-reporting requirement.

GM BRYAN reminded everyone that the District's Zoom account is available for ditch company meetings but please give at least 1 week notice to have the meeting scheduled and set up.

Dr. Styles has completed some reports and is moving forward with changes.

**D. Legal Counsel’s Report**

Counsel FERGUSON stated he had nothing to report but was available to answer any questions. No questions were presented.

**E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update**

Angela BEZZONE with MBK stated they have received approval from the California State Water Control Board and District Court to proceed with the program. A draft has been submitted to the Nevada State Engineer and has been conditionally approved contingent on the final participation numbers. The coordination meeting with the stakeholders went well and they are all aware of proceeding with the Program. The District will start information landowners of the Program. After the apportionment, the application period will open on April 1<sup>st</sup> and will run until May 15<sup>th</sup>. The amount of water allowed will be based on the snowpack and hydrology. The releases will align with the drop in decree as it did in the 1<sup>st</sup> year of the Program.

**6. Presentation and discussion by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2021 irrigation season.**

Tim stated the year started out well with a great valley storm in November, but it did not drop anything in the mountains. Presentation points included:

- The above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation has continued into the fall.
- The Basin is at 50% and is comparable to 2015 to 2018. Both years began dry but had decent springs with a strong recovery.
- Soil moisture conditions are close to the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile and are similar to 2014. Only have 15 years of soil moisture data, but it is becoming useful.
- Overall outlook is not looking good, what little is coming later this week will be north of the basin.
- Very weak storm signal from mid-month and beyond.
- Expected to be 40% snowpack by January 20<sup>th</sup> if the current trend continues.
- 8-14 day outlook indicates a strong, dry bias.
- Basin is in a moderate La Nina.
- Forecasted river flows are 40-50% range.
- East Walker is currently 42% of average; West Walker is currently at 50% of average.

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

Secretary HALTERMAN received an email from Wyatt Fereday stating ‘2020 groundwater pumpage totals through December: Smith = 33,454 acre-feet; Mason = 82,650 acre-feet. These are the totals for metered wells only; the final inventory report will be slightly higher as we estimate usage for non-metered wells (i.e., stockwater, domestic).’

**8. Update and discussion on Order 1318 and other matters for the upcoming year 2021 by Nevada State Engineer Adam Sullivan.**

Adam SULLIVAN introduced himself as the Acting State Engineer as of December 1<sup>st</sup> when Tim Wilson retired. Deputy Administrator for 3 years, prior that Chief of Hydrology, here during drought. Adam intends to continue to work with all the users.

Order 1318 is requiring monthly reporting of pumpage data. Previously, staff has been collecting data themselves and updating the database and web app. They were funded by the Desert Terminal Lakes federal grant program, but funding is running out. The intent is to provide the same data availability without having to raise assessments or find other source of funding. NDWR would like to continue to make data publicly available and keep records updated. The records have improved significantly over the past few years thanks to staff. Adam talked to Wyatt, and he expressed his willingness and availability to help users throughout the season.

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

Silas ADAMS wanted to reiterate they still have they water participation program still running. Silas thanked the District for posting the information on the website. The Conservancy has finalized another acquisition in Smith Valley. They gained a 11cfs and some storage. They are a little over 51% of the program goal. President SNYDER asked which ditch the acquisition was on; Silas stated he was not certain he could disclose that information yet.

**8. Review and consideration of proposed agreement between WRID and United States Forest Service (USFS) resolving outstanding amounts owed to the District for the Water Rights shown on District Card No. 60109.**

GM BRYAN stated a copy of an agreement was in the packet. The District has been working with the forest service to resolve the past due assessments. The agreement lists out what they are willing to accept and pay. The amount is \$89,831.54 and includes all the past due assessments and the fees/penalties they are subject to pay through December 31, 2020. GM BRYAN is asking the Board to execute the agreement to get the assessments paid. Treasurer NUTI asked what the initial amount was; GM BRYAN stated with the County fees and penalties, the original bill was approximately \$140,000. But because they are a government agency, they subject to their own calculation of fees and penalties. We have changed the way they are billed and are now billed like the rest of the reserved water right holders. GM BRYAN stated a future agenda item is going to be to implement a past due policy on reserved water assessments. GM BRYAN stated the agreement would settle the outstanding debt through December 31, 2020. President SNYDER confirmed the federal rules will not exempt them from any future changes we make; GM BRYAN stated they would be subject to all the fees that a regular reserved water right holder is subject to. The USFS was delinquent on the USBWC assessments as well, so the billing contact information has been updated and they are being sent a bill directly from the District. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to execute the agreement between WRID and United States

Forest Service (USFS) resolving outstanding amounts owed to the District for the Water Rights shown on District Card No. 60109; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed.

**10. Director Comments**

Director GIORGI asked about the status of the property at 400 N Main St; GM BRYAN stated the property is still for sale. There is a new tire shop leasing the large building. We received appraisals for the Wabuska and Willhoyt properties; unfortunately, the appraisals were very low. There is the potential for doing a boundary line adjustment. GM BRYAN does not want to have to ask for higher assessments to fund the purchase. The staff is looking into other funding sources such as grants. Taylor THOMAS asked how the lease would work; GM BRYAN stated the two leases would go with the purchase. The property is in the prime location, but the building would need to be demolished and utilities would need to be updated.

Director GIORGI asked if the mine was still leasing the Wabuska property; GM BRYAN stated they are still leasing it and have a 20 or 25 year lease. Treasurer NUTI asked if they were using the property; GM BRYAN stated they had not altered the property yet. Treasurer NUTI asked if the bill had been paid; Secretary HALTERMAN stated they are current, and the last payment was received recently.

**11. Public Comment**

None presented.

**12. Adjournment**

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

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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