

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on June 7, 2022. 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 via phone
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via Zoom
Dale FERGUSON	Legal Counsel, via Zoom
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

Public Present:

Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Ed Ryan, SV/MVCD	AJ Jensby, NDWR
Don Smith	Rick Stone, RHS	Peter Stanton, WBC
Carlie Henneman, WBC		

Public Present via Zoom:

Dave Hockaday, LCBOCC	Frank McDonough, DRI	Wes Walker, MBK
Isaac Metcalf, NDOW		

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call

Director ACCIARI joined via phone.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the May 9, 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 16,420 acre-feet (36%) and Topaz was at 36,370 acre-feet (61%). The decree is on Full for the West today and the Tunnel and Main tomorrow. The East will be at an 1885 on Thursday. There is a little decree flow, but it is almost done. The demand is a 487 system wide. The storage balance for Upper Twin Lakes is 2412 acre feet and Lower Twin Lakes is 4680 acre feet with no water being released yet. Director GIORGI asked when water will be released from the lakes; Joanne stated it is up to the entitled users. Once the decree drops off, she expects water to be released to satisfy the irrigation needs. Jeff Hunewill usually calls a few days prior to water being released. Director GIORGI asked what the full storage capacity of the lakes

were; Joanne believes it is near 10,000 acre feet. Vice President MASINI asked how much water had been stored in Topaz; Joanne stated the percent has gone up and with the increase, GM BRYAN was able to do a reallocation of 5.5%. Since yesterday, approximately 400 acre feet was stored. Vice President MASINI asked how long the decree would run; Joanne stated, based on what is on the top, it may last through the week. Her and GM BRYAN will manage it the best they can.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer’s Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of May 31, 2022:

Cash in Checking	\$ 220,404.39
Cash in Money Market	\$ 822,322.31
Cash in CDs	<u>\$ 757,568.24</u>
Total	\$1,800,294.94

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

May 2022 Bills & Payroll

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
122530	5/11/2022	NV Energy	\$ 37.69
122531	5/11/2022	Southwest Gas Corporation	\$ 88.35
122532	5/11/2022	Wells Fargo Card Services Payment	\$ 4,354.02
122533	5/11/2022	White Cap Construction Supply	\$ 869.83
122534	5/11/2022	Smith Valley Conservation District	\$ 7,857.89
122535	5/11/2022	Truckee Tahoe Lumber Co.	\$ 2,385.18
122536	5/11/2022	Xerox Corporation	\$ 272.26
122537	5/9/2022	Les Schwab Tire Center	\$ 36.53
122538	5/9/2022	Purchase Power / Pitney Bowes	\$ 453.00
122539	5/9/2022	Quill	\$ 86.42
122540	5/9/2022	NV Energy	\$ 3,553.94
122541	5/9/2022	City of Yerington	\$ 133.31
122542	5/11/2022	AT&T	\$ 152.55
122543	5/11/2022	John Deere Credit	\$ 192.57
122544	5/11/2022	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	\$ 26.48
122545	5/11/2022	Lyon County Recorder	\$ 41.81

122546	5/11/2022	MBK Engineers	\$	13,139.25
122547	5/11/2022	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$	288.03
122548	5/11/2022	Public Employees' Benefits Program	\$	870.23
122549	5/11/2022	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$	371.15
122550	5/11/2022	Cal Poly Corporation / ITRC	\$	21,108.73
122551	5/25/2022	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	\$	1,027.80
122552	5/25/2022	ABILA Dept 2145	\$	411.55
122553	5/25/2022	Sticks and Stones Buildings Material Inc	\$	107.80
122554	5/25/2022	MF Barcellos	\$	4,599.55
122555	5/25/2022	Quill	\$	270.82
122556	5/25/2022	Standard Insurance Company	\$	248.78
122557	5/25/2022	Vision Service Plan - Nevada	\$	372.10
122558	5/25/2022	Woodburn & Wedge	\$	50,775.59
122559	5/25/2022	Desert Research Institute	\$	14,212.11
122560	5/25/2022	Xerox Corporation	\$	30.22
122561	5/25/2022	USBWC	\$	8,470.70
122562	5/25/2022	PERS Administrative Fund	\$	8,605.99
122563	5/25/2022	Marianne Leinassar	\$	500.00
PAYROLL	5/31/2022	MAY PAYROLL	\$	48,862.16

Total Bills & Payroll \$ 194,814.39

Director GIORGI asked if everyone had paid for the well water; GM BRYAN advised most users had paid and if they had not, they were taken out of the draw. Treasurer NUTI asked if the well would go for another month; GM BRYAN stated it was too early to tell. GM BRYAN stated there is enough room for an exchange on the West, but not on the East at this time and if both sides cannot participate, the well will not continue.

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 36,370 acre-feet (61%) and Bridgeport is at 16,410 acre-feet (36%). All the daily USGS gage readings are available in the packet. There was a 5.5% reallocation on the West, Tunnel and Main. The latest rainstorm increased the flows at Little Walker to approximately 1,000 cfs, but it is back down to 600. There is only 16" of water at Leavitt Lake and no snow. The SWE is at 55% to date.

The shop crew has been working on repairs and maintenance on the drains and has been working within the facilities on small repairs. They installed shelves in the vault for better space management and map storage.

On May 19th, GM BRYAN had a meeting with the Smith Valley well users. They have a list of questions to pass to NDWR. GM BRYAN has reached out to Wyatt Fereday and invited him to the next meeting on June 15th at 5pm at the courthouse in Smith. GM BRYAN has not heard from the Mason Valley well users yet.

GM BRYAN met with State Parks on May 10th and 12th. The meeting on the 10th was at the Flying M. Discussion ensued about the losses, the old channel, the new channel, outcroppings, and the remnants of an old dam. The decision was made that a beaver dam needed to be removed. NDOW completed the demolition on May 31st. The meeting on the 12th was at the Pitchfork Ranch. There was discussion on the roles of the District and the State. WBC participated as well. Discussion about creating protocols on the repairs and maintenance and emergency operations was held. GM BRYAN stated the meeting went well. Gaging was discussed with buy in from the State. The gages would be most beneficial above Flying M and below Rafter 7. GM BRYAN will work on funding options.

GM BRYAN stated there will be a workshop to discuss the Trout Unlimited Fishery Habitat project on June 23rd at 9am at the Cottonwood Ranch. An agenda will be emailed and posted soon. Trout Unlimited, NDOW, and engineer Rick Poor will be attending to answer questions and explain the project in more detail.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI had nothing to report under this item.

E. Review and Approval of Monthly Storage Transfers

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

F. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Wes WALKER reported there is 2,097 acre feet enrolled in the program with 1,370 acre feet being entered by WBC. MBK and the District are working on the final approval paperwork to submit to the California State Water Board and the Nevada State Engineer. There will be a final release plan in two weeks and the proposed plan is to start releases near the end of July.

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

AJ JENSBY reported that they are continuing to collect meter readings that have not been reported. There are approximately 30 users in each valley.

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 stated they are working with the State on funding 2 gages on the East Walker. In terms of program water, almost 2,000 acre feet has gone through Wabuska which surpasses all other years. Out of those 2,000 acre feet, 190 has made it to Walker and there is still some water left in Webber that will be released in batches. Director GIORGI stated he was told there was a board meeting last week where the subject of WRID storing water out of season was brought up. Director GIORGI asked why the Conservancy did not approach the WRID board to discuss the matter; Peter STANTON stated he did not recall that topic being discussed and he could provide the meeting minutes if requested.

8. Presentation and discussion on both aerial and ground-based cloud-seeding program by Rick Stone from RHS Consulting and Frank McDonough from DRI.

Rick STONE from RHS Consultants gave a presentation on aircraft cloud seeding. Highlights included:

- Seeding is most effective when the air temperatures are from 17 to 21 degrees Fahrenheit
- Clouds that have hard edges and are bright white have supercooled liquid water
- Examples on effective storm patterns in the central valleys of California
- The optimal seeding flight is 20-30 nm long, wind speeds of approximately 30-40 m/s and can yield approximately 1000-2000 acre feet per hour whereas ground seeding yields approximately 6-60 acre feet per hour
- Examples on winter end burning flares vs summer convective flares
- Explanation on historical seeding years vs water year percentages
- Discussion on opportunity recognition programs-
 - o X Band Radar, Satellite, Radiometer, Subbasin Precip Assessment QPE/QPF
- Proposed program cost discussion
 - o Primarily target the headwaters of the West and East Walker
 - o Season would be November 15th through April 15th
 - o Aircraft would fly for approximately 50 hours using 200g RHS winter end-burning flares and 25g ejectable flares
 - o Expected water production of 5000-600 acre feet per hour
 - o Expected yield of approximately 25,000 acre feet in a median winter
 - o Approximately \$350,000 startup costs
- Suggested to collaborate with partners such as DRI, State of Nevada, cities/counties; seek emergency drought relief monies

Frank McDONOUGH stated he agreed with Rick's presentation. The best location to seed is above Yosemite, but the ground generators cannot be placed there. Frank is pursuing the State program and some of the funds could be allocated to the aircraft project. Frank will be working with GM BRYAN to put the effort together. The Humboldt Basin is putting out a request to bring the State program back and WRID could be added to that request. The State program ran from the late 80s through 2010 as it was renewed each year. Unfortunately, the newer legislative and state representatives are

more focused on urban areas. The Bureau of Reclamation has shown interest in funding more water improvement programs.

Treasurer NUTI asked how long it takes to see the result of the aerial seeding; Rick stated it depends on the conditions, but normally it takes approximately 20-40 minutes from seeding to water on the ground. Director GIORGI asked how many clouds are targeted during one flight; Rick stated the entire storm bank will be targeted and the aircraft will fly back and forth and seed if the cloud conditions are right. President SNYDER asked what the next steps would be to get a program going; Rick recommended working with other agencies to lower the cost to the District, but the program can be started any time- the sooner the better so RHS can get an idea for what supplies and personnel they need.

9. Review and discussion on implementing an annual WRID Fee Schedule which outlines fees to the public and constituents regarding fees including, but not limited to, legal matters, water right history search, document search, meeting moderation & minute taking, preparation/printing/mailing of documents, ITRC Meter gate and Flume site design reports, and staff gauges.

GM BRYAN stated a fee page and an explanation of the fees are provided in the packet. Secretary HALTERMAN stated approximately a year ago the topic of having a fee schedule was discussed. Secretary HALTERMAN contacted TCID to inquire what their fees are and they charge for water transfers, water card changes, paper copies, emails, etc. Secretary HALTERMAN has put together a list for the Board to review, change, make suggestions based on last year's discussion and discussion since then. Proposed fees include:

- Water Right History Search: Most of these requests are from water right holders. The staff is getting increasingly more requests to research water right history, boundary line adjustments, etc. Some of the requests are taking 12-15 hours of staff time. Some agencies or users who have multiple cards (more than 35) request copies of their cards multiple times per year- or they make a change on the card multiple times per year resulting in printing them and mailing them.
- Ditch Company Document Search: With the ditch company opportunity to become Local Improvement Districts, more ditch companies are requesting staff to do historical record searches that are taking a minimum of 40 hours. The searches include finding Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, minutes, water right and stock documentation, and more. Also, ditch companies are having staff research water rights, boundary line adjustments, assessment charges, etc. One current project has taken more than two weeks' worth of staff time due to an error in the ditch company's assessment records.
- Meeting Moderation/Minute Taking: Staff is currently performing the minute taking, but the ditch companies are wanting to pay the staff member directly, which has been politely declined.
- Preparation/Printing/Mailing of Documents: Ditch companies are more recently have staff members prepare agendas, assessments, and correspondence to be mailed to the ditch users. This is costing the District time and money in paper, envelopes, and postage.

- ITRC Metergate Site Design Report & ITRC Flume Site Design Report: ITRC provided approximate design report costs. This will be included in the project agreement and the actual charge may change, but this will be included in the project agreement.
- Legal Matters: There have been instances where a user will ask the District to contact legal regarding back assessments, stealing water, NRS explanations, etc. Counsel DePAOLI stated the concern with charging for legal matters is that they represent the District, not the individual users. Providing copies of the legal invoices may be a matter of attorney/client privileges. Counsel DePAOLI suggests that the District be more careful in providing services that do not pertain to District matters.

Counsel DePAOLI stated the concern with the fee schedule is that the charges are going to be enforced but there will be a refusal to pay once the services are performed. Counsel DePAOLI recommended to get an agreement or understanding of the charges up front.

Vice President MASINI asked if grants were included; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the grant writing and management is currently part of the annual budget approval.

Director GIORGI asked what would happen if someone came in with a request and stated it was covered in the assessments; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the intent is not to charge for daily requests of water cards, water transfers, etc., but to have a policy in place that states after 'x' amount of time to perform the request, there would be a charge. For an example, there is an agency in Smith Valley who has 40+ cards that requests a few times per year, for staff to go through every one of their cards from the initial water right including all boundary line adjustments, name changes, and then answer all questions they have. The staff is not wanting to charge for each piece of paper printed or emailed, but daily duties are being put on the back burner due to the large projects.

Ed RYAN suggested staff put together a list or statement of what is included in the assessments. Secretary HALTERMAN stated she will work on fine tuning the list and creating something that identified included services.

10. Review and discussion on status of NV Energy's proposed purchase of 0.69 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 and direction to General Manager and legal counsel with respect thereto.

Counsel DePAOLI stated he received updated information on the topic yesterday. When it first came out, Counsel DePAOLI asked NV Energy for a proposed purchase agreement which he reviewed and requested changes. Counsel also asked that NV Energy look at what they were offering for the power line easement and as well as whether having a powerline across the parcel created any severance damage. Counsel DePAOLI heard yesterday that NV Energy is with changes to the agreement and they changed the purchase price to match the appraisal. For the 0.69 acres of land, the price is \$51,500, the easement itself is \$7,200, and they offered a severance for the powerline of \$20,000 for a total of \$78,700. Counsel DePAOLI believes there was a mistake on the paperwork as it states \$68,700 but adding all the portions totals \$78,700. GM BRYAN looked for another

appraiser with no success. Counsel DePAOLI is looking for thoughts from the Board on the price and direction to proceed with the discussion on the purchase agreement. Counsel stated there was no indication on how NV Energy is going to add the 0.69 acre to their parcel. The question remains will Douglas County request a parcel map or allow a boundary line adjustment and what is the time frame? Whichever way that goes, NV Energy should be responsible for the additional costs. Director GIORGI asked if the powerline easement makes the property unbuildable; GM BRYAN stated the parcel is quite large and the District can decide later to subdivide the parcel. President SNYDER asked if the District would be better off selling the entire parcel; GM BRYAN stated he would rather not sell any more land as it leads to bigger problems.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to give legal counsel and the General Manager the ability to continue pursuing the purchase of the property with NV Energy; Vice President MASINI offered a second. Director GIORGI asked if a lease agreement was every considered; GM BRYAN stated that was never approached as they wanted the permanent purchase. The vote was called for and passed.

11. Annual Review on the performance of the Walker River Irrigation District General Manager Robert C. Bryan and consideration of possible adjustment in compensation.

Counsel DePAOLI stated he received evaluations from each of the Board members and compiled ratings and comments. The ratings were from 1-5 where 5 was excellent and 4 was good- there was no need to go further as there were no ratings below a 4.

- Job Knowledge: 5; knows his duties and performs them well
- Interactions & Communications: 4.8; great communication skills
- Decision Making: 5; makes decisions in the best interests of the District
- Planning & Organization: 4.8
- Public Relations: 5
- Work Environment & Safety: 4.4
- Overall Performance: 5; has matured into a competent General Manager of the District
- Action Plan:
 - o Area of Strength: interaction with people within and outside of the District
 - o Area of Improvement: Continue communication with Board members
 - o Goals: continue with modernization of the District
 - o Salary Increase: range from 5-15%, average 8.4%, recommended effective date was May 2, 2022

Treasurer NUTI recommended a salary increase of 10% effective May 2, 2022; President SNYDER stated with inflation, the District may be falling behind and 10% would be minimum.

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to increase the GM salary by 10%; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and approved.

12. Director Comments

None presented.

13. Public Comment

None presented.

14. Adjournment

Vice President MASINI made a motion to adjourn; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director