

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on January 9, 2023. 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 |
| Counsel FERGUSON | Legal Counsel, via zoom |
| Jessica HALTERMAN | Secretary |
| Sandy NEVILLE | Water Rights Specialist |

Public Present:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC | Carlie Henneman, WBC | Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD |
| Wyatt Fereday, NDWR | AJ Jensby, NDWR | Kat Dow, WBC |
| David Hockaday, BOCC | | |

Public Present via Zoom:

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Don Smith 760-310-3262 | Wes Walker, MBK 760-310-3239 | Isaac Metcalf, NDOW |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|

1. Public Comment

None presented.

2. Roll Call

All board members were present.

3. Consideration of Minutes of the December 7, 2022 Regular Meeting

Vice President MASINI 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 is at 14,580 acre-feet (35%) and Topaz is at 23,620 acre-feet (40%). The reservoirs have room for water coming down at this point. There is no flooding expected from the reservoirs. Joanne stated there is 146" of snow at Leavitt Lake and everything is looking good.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of December 31, 2022:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash in Checking | \$ 178,128.42 |
| Cash in Money Market | \$ 846,297.71 |
| Cash in CDs | <u>\$ 757,568.24</u> |
| Total | <u>\$1,811,994.37</u> |

Secretary HALTERMAN advised there was a breakdown of the December 31st net position for all funds included behind the Treasurer's Report.

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

| <u>Payee</u> | <u>Check #</u> | <u>Post Date</u> | <u>Amount</u> |
|---|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Associated Concrete Pumping | 100210 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 1,704.45 |
| Desert Research Institute | 100211 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 7,579.58 |
| Jim Menesini Petroleum | 100212 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 115.38 |
| Lyon County Recorder | 100213 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 22.14 |
| MBK Engineers | 100214 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 1,990.50 |
| NV Energy | 100215 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 337.18 |
| Public Employees' Benefits | 100216 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 870.23 |
| Quill | 100217 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 180.00 |
| Sierra Office Solutions | 100218 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 81.44 |
| Southwest Gas Corporation | 100219 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 550.65 |
| USPS | 100220 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 224.00 |
| Xerox Corporation | 100221 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 228.35 |
| Yerington Ready Mix | 100222 | 12/07/2022 | \$ 4,915.89 |
| Ameritas Life Insurance Corp | 100223 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 1,027.80 |
| City of Yerington | 100224 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 83.73 |
| Desert Research Institute | 100225 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 12,896.32 |
| Giomi, Inc. | 100226 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 136.16 |
| MF Barcellos | 100227 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 2,765.54 |
| NV Energy | 100228 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 39.05 |
| NWRA | 100229 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 675.00 |
| PERS Administrative Fund | 100230 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 9,467.00 |
| Purchase Power / Pitney | 100231 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 653.75 |
| Quill | 100232 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 714.94 |
| Smith Valley Conservation | 100233 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 3,981.13 |
| Standard Insurance Company | 100234 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 248.78 |
| Sticks and Stones Buildings Material Inc | 100235 | 12/13/2022 | \$ 2,965.09 |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|------------|----|----------------------|
| THE PARTS HOUSE | 100236 | 12/13/2022 | \$ | 135.21 |
| True Value | 100237 | 12/13/2022 | \$ | 101.94 |
| Wells Fargo Card Services | 100238 | 12/13/2022 | \$ | 1,542.64 |
| ABILA Dept 2145 | 100240 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 205.77 |
| D & S Waste Removal | 100241 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 213.82 |
| MBK Engineers | 100242 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 2,115.00 |
| Municipal Treatment Equip | 100243 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 3,757.00 |
| Quill | 100244 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 814.82 |
| Sierra Office Solutions | 100245 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 73.95 |
| Standard Insurance Company | 100246 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 248.78 |
| USBWC | 100247 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 32,968.00 |
| Vision Service Plan - Nevada | 100248 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 186.05 |
| White Cap Construction | 100249 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 546.02 |
| Woodburn & Wedge | 100250 | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 47,589.00 |
| Hometown Health | | 12/16/2022 | \$ | 8,520.51 |
| Alhambra | | 12/19/2022 | \$ | 145.89 |
| Verizon Wireless | | 12/19/2022 | \$ | 292.66 |
| Spectrum | | 12/29/2022 | \$ | 224.90 |
| Alhambra | | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 98.42 |
| HomeTown Health | | 12/28/2022 | \$ | 8,615.17 |
| Paycor | | 12/20/2022 | \$ | 167.00 |
| Payroll Taxes | | 12/31/2022 | \$ | 5,761.50 |
| December Payroll | | 12/31/2022 | \$ | 33,378.19 |
| Grand Totals: | | | | \$ 202,156.32 |

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 23,580 acre-feet (39% capacity) and has stored 12,480 acre-feet since November 1st. Bridgeport is at 14,580 acre-feet (34% capacity) and has stored 7,847 acre-feet since November 1st. The USGS gages site figures and the SNOTEL sites figures are in the packet and are explained as follows:

- The upper valley gages in Bridgeport are frozen. GM BRYAN has fielded multiple phone calls over the past few weeks regarding flooding; the reservoirs nor the rivers are flooding right now. Everything that is flooding right now is coming from the sky and cannot be controlled. Peaked last week at 800cfs near Coleville and it was only 1 day. The daily storage has been 300-500 acre-feet in Topaz and less than that in Bridgeport.

- The SNOTEL report indicates there is 146" of snow with 43.4" of water at Leavitt Lake. Leavitt Meadows has 51" of snow with 14" of water; Lobdell has 68" of snow with 18.2" of water; Monitor Pass has 64" of snow with 19.3" of water; Sonora has 80" of snow with 22" of water; Summit has 78" of snow with 21" of water; and Virginia Lakes Ridge has 67" of snow with 16.3" of water. The reservoirs will definitely be full and there is no indication that the weather pattern is going to change over the course of the next few weeks.
- River Forecast Center report shows that the current conditions are above average and near 400 cfs range for Topaz and close to 300cfs for Bridgeport. The District is not a flood control district but will assist where we can. When the reservoirs get close to 70-75% and the forecast is the same, the District will be in constant meetings and communication with MBK, NOAA, and the River Forecast Center. There is not anything indicating there should be concern as of right now.
- The July 1 forecast shows the exceedance plots for East Walker near Bridgeport and West Walker below Little Walker.
- The April to July and March to July forecasts indicate 230K acre-feet going through the system on the West Walker and 99-110K acre-feet through the system on the East. Precipitation on the Walker report shows the basin is above average for this time.
- The SWE shows we are trending toward the record. The thaw-hard freeze patterns are good because it creates layers of ice and snow which will make the runoff longer.
- The soil saturation report shows that the soil was below average at the beginning of November but is now above average to date.

The shop crew has been performing scheduled repairs and maintenance as well as doing a lot of monitoring of the drains, low lying flood areas, and other areas of concern. The crew is making a list of areas of concern but most of the areas cannot be accessed without getting stuck. Due to the precipitation, several roads are too dangerous to drive. GM BRYAN recommend that ditch companies monitor stock water and take care of weed jams.

On December 15th, NDWR gave a presentation on projections for the 2022 pumping numbers in each valley. The meeting was well attended with participants from both valleys. There was good feedback from State as well as farmers; some of that feedback generated further discussions on working together. GM BRYAN will be reaching out to each group to set up a meeting before NDWR comes back in March to report what the ground water measurements were. After the March meeting, GM BRYAN is hoping to have meetings with each valley group to discuss the 2023 season.

On December 9th, GM BRYAN attended a meeting with Lahontan Water Quality Control Board and BRO regarding the agreement for the Bridgeport grazing waiver. BRO was active with the District years ago, but went wayside with the pandemic. The group is progressing now and a new report from UC Davis shows that on farm

changes have improved the water quality. Altering District property is not being considered at this point. The District will still be listed as cooperator and will keep collaborating with BRO and LWQCB.

GM BRYAN reported that a couple week ago Douglas County reached out to him to get permission to replace the playground equipment at Topaz. Being that it was just to replace what was already there, GM BRYAN gave them written approval. Their lease agreement is due for renewal in 2024, but they have expressed interest in meeting with the District well before then to discuss the lease. GM BRYAN will report back to the Board with the status of any meetings.

Last Friday, GM BRYAN met with representatives from UNR, DRI and the State Climatologist to discuss creating a Nevada Water Network that will be a collaboration amongst other users in Nevada. The program is grant funded through UNR and may provide opportunities to get funding for programs such as the aerial cloud seeding. The group is still figuring out what needs to be put together. There will be meetings on the 23rd and 30th of this month. GM BRYAN will keep the Board updated.

Last week GM BRYAN received word that Governor Lombardo did not retain DCNR's Acting Director Jim Lawrence but did appoint James Settlemeyer to the position. James is familiar with the Walker Basin. GM BRYAN hopes that the group can pick up where the MOU and gaging efforts left off. GM BRYAN will keep the Board informed of progress.

Due to weather, Dr. Styles did not come the week before last but will be at the District during the week of the 17th. If anyone needs to talk or meet with him, let GM BRYAN know.

On January 18th, GM BRYAN will be participating in the Nevada State Water Plan Stakeholder Advisory Board meeting. The group is being put together by NDWR to address drought. GM BRYAN will report back to the Board on how the meeting goes.

GM BRYAN will be attending the NWRA conference during the week of January 30th.

Vice President MASINI asked GM BRYAN if he has heard anything regarding the cloud seeding; GM BRYAN stated he had not talked to Frank for a few months but Rick is seeding the Central Valleys.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel FERGUSON stated he did not have an update. GM BRYAN stated the NV Energy agreement was signed and the process is in escrow right now.

E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

Wes WALKER advised that NFWF has given the approval to move forward with another year of the Stored Water Leasing Program. Wes expects good participation given the current conditions. First on the schedule is to get the regulatory approvals. MBK will have the necessary information to the State of California by the end of this week, there is a 10 day review period followed by a 30 day noticing period so the approval should be sometime in late February. After the State of California approval, it will be taken to the Federal Court which takes approximately 1 month for approval. The State of Nevada is the final step and that usually takes a few days. Hopefully the program is up and running in mid-July which is consistent with other years. The allocation will be set on March 7th and the landowner notices can be mailed out. The application period is expected to be April 1st to the middle of May with a final commitment by May 31st. The releases should start when the decree starts to fall off and could run a few weeks or a few months depending on the participation level.

F. 2023 Election Update

Secretary HALTERMAN reported that this is an election year and Districts 2, 3, and 4 are up for election. District 2 is currently represented by Jim Snyder, District 3 is currently represented by David Giorgi, and District 4 is currently represented by Richard Nuti. Nominations open on February 13th and close on March 15th. There is a \$25 nomination fee. The registration for any election is always open but for this election, the registration closes on March 21st. Any property or water right that has changed ownership, name, or any other change that would have resulted in a new or modified water card must have a new registration to reflect the changes. Letters will be mailed to all water right holders during the week of January 16-20th and the election, if necessary, will be April 4th. If there is no opposition in any District, the election will not be held.

6. Presentation by Chris Smallcomb with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2023 irrigation season.

Chris Smallcomb presented on the 2023 irrigation season weather and water outlook.

Highlights included:

- Tuesday morning there will be a snow event but should be finished around noon.
- There is a flood warning for small creeks.
- The odds of receiving 2” of water equivalent over the next two weeks is high; 8” is there, but mainly on the west slopes of the Sierras.
- The precipitation outlook is above normal for the next two weeks.
- The temperature outlook is near to above normal through January 15th but below normal through January 23rd. Any storms after this weekend could tend to be cooler.
- Atmospheric river landfall probability is fairly strong up to January 15th.

- The balance of January into early February shows equal chances of precipitation and the temperature outlook is below average.
- The spring into early summer outlook has a 3 out of 4 chance for above normal temperatures in April, May & June that may result in earlier than normal runoff.
- Snowpack is doing well. As of January 6th, the Walker River Basin was 241% of normal compared to 167% of normal last year.
- The Walker River Basin is already above the median snowpack for March.
- Soil moisture is above normal which is good, but it does prime the Basin for flooding with any major atmospheric river storms.
- The 5-10 day outlook shows rises on the river, but well below monitor/flood stages.
- Snowpack shows that if the Basin receives no more snow, it would be near or slightly above the median peak, but may have an earlier and sudden melt off; middle of the run scenario keeps the Basin above normal; with more storms, the Basin would be tracking near the historical map points.
- Water Supply Outlook shows the West Walker 138% of normal and 190% on the East Walker.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY reported things are looking good and the department is excited for this year. AJ will be out doing spring level measurements starting in February. NDWR may discontinue the fall level measurements as they are not very reliable since wells are shut off close to the measurement times. The spring to spring levels are more favorable in terms of recharge. Wyatt stated the December 15th presentation went well and there was a lot of great conversation and feedback.

Wyatt reported he has accepted a job with BLM and will be ending his employment with NDWR within the next month. He believes the District is in good hands with AJ, Kip, Adam and Chad.

Vice President MASINI asked if NDWR will be monitoring the use of supplemental wells during the Stored Water Leasing Program; Wyatt stated NDWR considers the leased water as used water. The leased water is used against the 4.0 duty and the department does watch to see who is using their well to supplement for the leased water. During the first year of the program, Wyatt did send out many letters to supplemental users that abused the right, but the past two years no one has abused their rights. Wyatt stated only supplemental rights can be monitored, primary rights cannot.

Treasurer NUTI asked if there would be a chance of getting water into some areas to help recharge the underground aquifer; Wyatt stated that is a possibility. Kip is taking the lead of aquifer storage and recovery. Wyatt recommended referring back to Kip's earlier presentation on ASR and AR permits. AR permits do not give a credit, but ASR does give a credit.

8. 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 she did not have much of an update, but wanted to introduce the new Water Program Manager, Kat Dow. Carlie also advised USGS had published a 60 page report on how groundwater pumping affects stream water efficiencies and encouraged everyone to read it; GM BRYAN stated he had emailed the document to the well user groups.

9. Director Comments

President SNYDER asked if there were ways to secure funding for flood prevention; GM BRYAN stated the District could reach out to Lyon County and Nevada Department of Emergency Management. GM BRYAN stated the County Commissioners declared a state of emergency for flood events and that may help in recouping costs. GM BRYAN stated that in 2017, Lyon County did give some money to offset some of the costs and the District did get equipment, but the promised reimbursement did not come once all was said and done. Treasurer NUTI asked how much was spent in 2017; Secretary HALTERMAN stated the cost after the County's contribution of \$30,000 the cost was approximately \$117,000 just for labor. GM BRYAN reported that TCID was able to recoup their costs through FEMA. Treasurer NUTI asked if being a reclamation project helped TCID get their reimbursement; GM BRYAN stated he was not certain, he could see it being a benefit. GM BRYAN stated he attended multiple meetings with Lyon County, Nevada Department of Emergency Management, and FEMA and the consensus was that all costs were going to be reimbursed, but even after submitting all of the paperwork they asked for, no money was reimbursed. At this point, the flood concern is not there yet. In 2017, it rained for 4 days and there was 4,000 cfs going through Antelope Valley for 16 days after that. The sediment was a concern then but there were the same problems of where to put it. It is not cost efficient to haul it behind Y hill and there is no room on the banks. Treasurer NUTI stated he was disappointed that at the state meeting they said money would be reimbursed but that was not the case. GM BRYAN stated the District did receive extra equipment but had to hire extra help to run the machines daily from the beginning of March through the beginning of August. Peri & Sons had an excavator and operator working during that time and the District did not get a bill. GM BRYAN stated he will reach out to the County to discuss funding.

10. Public Comment

None presented.

11. Adjournment

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn; Treasurer NUTI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:07am.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

David Giorgi, Director

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