A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on February 7, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM at the district board room, 410 N. Main St, Yerington, Nevada by President Jim SNYDER.

**Present:**

Jim SNYDER President

David GIORGI Vice President

Richard NUTI Treasurer

Dennis ACCIARI Director

Marcus MASINI Director

Bridget BANTA Secretary

Robert BRYAN General Manager

Gordon DEPAOLI Legal Counsel

Joanne SARKISIAN Water Master

Jessica SMITH Bookkeeper

**Public Present:**

Tim Bardsley Tom Renner Gary Godde Ed Ryan

Chad Walling Silas Adams Dale Borsini Nat Lommori

Rob Lewis Don Renner Frank McDonough

**1. Public Comment:**

None presented.

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

All five board members present.

**3. Consideration of Minutes of the January 8, 2018 Regular meeting.**

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to approve the minutes. Director ACCIARI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**4. Water Master’s Report:**

Water Master Joanne SARKISIAN advised they are working on the weir. They have opened the radials to let it dry out. New boards will be delivered Friday. There is a broken gate in the middle. They are going to block it off for the 2018 water season. She advised there is not much decree water and it doesn’t look like there will be much this water season.

**5. Staff Reports including, but not limited to, those items listed:**

1. **Treasurer’s Report:**

Treasurer Nuti gave the treasurer’s report as of January 31, 2018 as follows:

Cash in Checking: $15,058.90

Cash in Money Market $1,563,705.36

Cash in CDs $1,240,611.33

Total $2,819,375.59

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***January 2018 Bills & Payroll*** | | | |
|  |  |  |  |
| Check Number | Effective Date | Vendor Name | Check Amount |
| 119982 | 1/8/2018 | AFLAC | 265.93 |
| 119983 | 1/8/2018 | Frontier | 277.34 |
| 119984 | 1/8/2018 | AT&T Mobility | 359.31 |
| 119985 | 1/8/2018 | Mason Valley Equipment | 267.43 |
| 119986 | 1/8/2018 | PDM Steel Service Centers, Inc. | 5,691.44 |
| 119987 | 1/8/2018 | Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC | 212.02 |
| 119988 | 1/8/2018 | Quill | 387.32 |
| 119989 | 1/8/2018 | Jim Menesini Petroleum | 818.55 |
| 119990 | 1/8/2018 | NV Energy | 253.55 |
| 119991 | 1/8/2018 | Standard Insurance Company | 252.24 |
| 119992 | 1/8/2018 | Stanislaus Farm Supply | 99.99 |
| 119993 | 1/8/2018 | Wells Fargo Card Services | 20,629.46 |
| 119994 | 1/8/2018 | Xerox Financial Services | 139.44 |
| 119995 | 1/8/2018 | HomeTown Health | 6,638.74 |
| 119996 | 1/8/2018 | D & S Waste Removal | 90.00 |
| 119997 | 1/8/2018 | Desert Engineering | 278.94 |
| 119998 | 1/8/2018 | Connolly Crane Service | 1,260.00 |
| 119999 | 1/8/2018 | Studio 33 | 679.00 |
| 120000 | 1/11/2018 | Ameritas Life Insurance Corp | 2,441.20 |
| 120001 | 1/11/2018 | Giomi, Inc. | 358.55 |
| 120002 | 1/11/2018 | AT&T | 127.61 |
| 120003 | 1/11/2018 | Sticks and Stones Buildings Material Inc | 46.41 |
| 120004 | 1/11/2018 | John Deere Credit | 2,536.02 |
| 120005 | 1/11/2018 | NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS | 441.83 |
| 120006 | 1/11/2018 | Lyon County Recorder | 26.66 |
| 120007 | 1/11/2018 | MF Barcellos | 3,909.32 |
| 120008 | 1/11/2018 | True Value | 33.67 |
| 120009 | 1/11/2018 | Jim Menesini Petroleum | 808.20 |
| 120010 | 1/11/2018 | NV Energy | 37.12 |
| 120011 | 1/11/2018 | Alhambra | 35.52 |
| 120012 | 1/11/2018 | Southwest Gas Corporation | 519.87 |
| 120013 | 1/11/2018 | Verizon Wireless | 317.33 |
| 120014 | 1/11/2018 | White Cap Construction Supply | 1,258.80 |
| 120015 | 1/11/2018 | Woodburn & Wedge | 14,376.29 |
| 120016 | 1/11/2018 | City of Yerington | 105.91 |
| 120017 | 1/11/2018 | Sierra Office Solutions | 49.26 |
| 120018 | 1/11/2018 | Circle Bar N Ranch | 15,000.00 |
| 120019 | 1/11/2018 | Petty Cash | 261.91 |
| 120020 | 1/29/2018 | Ferguson Enterprises, Inc. 1423 | 70,000.00 |
| 120021 | 1/29/2018 | Artistic Fence | 148.80 |
| 120022 | 1/29/2018 | High Desert Internet | 174.95 |
| 120023 | 1/29/2018 | Hunewill Construction Co., Inc. | 2,068.32 |
| 120024 | 1/29/2018 | Associated Concrete Pumping Material Belting | 1,864.80 |
| 120025 | 1/29/2018 | BERKLEYNET | 1,305.00 |
| 120026 | 1/29/2018 | Mason Valley Quicknet | 410.00 |
| 120027 | 1/29/2018 | MBK Engineers | 1,745.50 |
| 120028 | 1/29/2018 | PDM Steel Service Centers, Inc. | 310.63 |
| 120029 | 1/29/2018 | Public Employees' Benefits Program | 803.29 |
| 120030 | 1/29/2018 | Quill | 493.45 |
| 120031 | 1/29/2018 | NV Energy | 21.00 |
| 120032 | 1/29/2018 | Standard Insurance Company | 224.80 |
| 120033 | 1/29/2018 | U.S. Geological Survey | 3,757.00 |
| 120034 | 1/29/2018 | Wedco Inc. | 916.52 |
| 120035 | 1/29/2018 | Western Nevada Supply Company | 8,384.00 |
| 120036 | 1/29/2018 | Xerox Financial Services | 164.44 |
| 120037 | 1/29/2018 | HomeTown Health | 6,638.74 |
| 120038 | 1/29/2018 | Desert Research Institute | 15,316.72 |
| 120039 | 1/29/2018 | Yerington Ready Mix | 2,477.63 |
| 120040 | 1/29/2018 | Nevada Employment Security Division | 807.59 |
| 120041 | 1/29/2018 | Wells Fargo Card Services | 3,821.17 |
| 120042 | 1/29/2018 | PERS Administrative Fund | 6,548.72 |
| PAYROLL |  | Payroll for January 2018 | 31,343.53 |
|  |  | **Total Bills & Payroll** | **241,038.78** |

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to pay the bills. Director ACCIARI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

1. **Manager’s Report:**

GM BRYAN advised there is a quick update on the reservoir numbers. Currently Topaz is at 55,740-acre feet, or 93% of capacity. Bridgeport is at 37,980-acre feet, or 90% of capacity. The gates have been turned down to allow ditch companies to do any repair and maintenance necessary prior to water season. Most of the stock water has been shut off. They are working with the county on Sciarani Lane replacing some of the culverts. GM BRYAN gave an update on the Saroni Canal Water Smart grant. He advised the Bureau of Reclamation did make the funds available. The bill back is based on the breakdown on the application which is 51 % and 49%. The District pays for 51% and the remaining 49% gets billed back to Bureau of Reclamation. The cultural study has not been completed and will not allow us to start the project until it is completed. The projected time for the study is 4 months to a year. The shop crew took the long reach and heavy excavator from the top of the Saroni through the Desert Creek wash and cleaned throughout. There is a small amount of concrete to pour on the long-crested weir. GM BRYAN attended the Mid-Pacific Bureau of Reclamation Conference in Reno on January 17-19. He was asked by Dr. Styles to give a brief summation of the District’s modernization project. On January 25, GM BRYAN and Jessica Smith had a meeting with the county. He advised they are setting up a hazard mitigation plan for the county. They have put together several agencies and the District will be involved throughout that plan. They are scheduled to meet once a month from now until July. It will be plans for both floods and droughts. On February 1, GM BRYAN attended a statewide meeting regarding the levels of mercury in the reservoirs in California. He advised there are 135 reservoirs listed as mercury impaired and Topaz is one of them due to the level of mercury in the fish scales. Gordon is looking into the issue regarding the reservoir’s location in both Nevada and California. GM BRYAN will keep the board updated regarding the mercury issue in Topaz. The District has worked with the county and received approval for the site for SCADA at Pinegrove for radios and communication for WRID. We worked an agreement with the county to get radios at Pinegrove. We will be linking everything in a closed circuit linking everything from Topaz to Smith Valley to Bridgeport to the WRID office. It is allowing us to revamp the water orders. It will be centralized and shore up the link to all of the SCADA sites. GM BRYAN advised he is finalizing a letter to go to the users in the district. Water orders will be in by 11:00. If the order is not in by 11:00, the order will not go in. It is the responsibility of the users/water right holders to know what the balance is in their own prospective accounts. He requested users to work together. There will no exceptions aside from an emergency on the canals/ditches. The letter will give several points of contacts to get information to the office. These are the same rules and regulations from 1922. WRID is trying to get the most current information to the state engineer. Rob Lewis requested to know if there was a new ditch rider for the Colony. GM BRYAN advised the Colony will be meeting this Saturday and should be deciding at the meeting.

1. **Legal Counsel’s Report:**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised he is trying to figure out the information necessary and whether the studies are going to be necessary for the mercury levels in Topaz. Nevada also has Topaz on the list for mercury levels in the fish. Counsel DEPAOLI advised he is looking into Nevada’s plans for the mercury problems. Treasurer NUTI confirmed the reservoir is not the source of the problem. Counsel DEPAOLI advised it could just be a natural issue. GM BRYAN spoke to the office that conducted the tests on the fish. He advised the fish were tested and the mercury limit was over by .02 in a bass. The bass put Topaz over the mercury limit. The trout tested under the level.

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

Chad Walling advised they are still working on the recording of 2017. He advised they have hired another engineer, Sarah. She will be at the next meeting. Treasurer NUTI confirmed there will be a 30% shrink factor for the duty. Walling advised that is the plan for the season.

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

Silas Adams advised a couple tech positions opened up along with a mechanical specialist. He advised the Sutter grazing lease is up for bid. Deadline is February 26 at 2:00 pm.

**8. Presentation and discussion by Tim Bardsley with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2018 irrigation season.**

Tim Bardsley gave an update on the current year weather and water outlook for the 2018 irrigation season. There is no precipitation in the near future and less than 10% chance of ending March with above average snow pack.

**9. Presentation and update on Walker Basin Cloud Seeding Project for Water Year 2017 conducted by Desert Research Institute using ground-based cloud seeding generators.**

Frank McDonough with DRI gave a presentation on the cloud seeding project for water year 2017. Cloud seeding can increase snowfall for up to 15% if the proper situations are presented in the clouds. He advised the cloud seeding project was suspended for water year 2017 due to above average snowfall. McDonough gave an update for the water year 2019 for the Walker Basin. He advised the aircraft seeding is ideal and the state of Nevada might fund 25 hours of aircraft for 6-8 storms. The funds will also cover 1 ground-based generator for the duration of the winter. WRID’s requested assistance would be $30,000 for 2 additional ground generators.

**10. Discussion and consideration of resolution to solicit proposals to lease District land at Bridgeport Reservoir for grazing purposes which may consider, but not be limited to, the following bid criteria: (a) term; (b) grazing season use; (c) area to be leased; (d) number of animal units; (e) minimum bid, if any; (f) other requirements; (g) date for submission of written bids; and (h) allowance of oral bids at bid opening.**

Jessica SMITH went over the grazing contract and advised it expired December 31, 2017. She advised the grazing dates are May 15th-September 30th each year. Treasurer NUTI requested to know if the cattle grazing would add to the damage of the reservoir. GM BRYAN advised there is a limit to the amount of cattle allowed for this lease. There is no indication from Lahontan Water Quality that the lease would cause any further damage. There is a maximum head of cows allowed on the property so as not to cause more damage to the reservoir. Vice President GIORGI asked about the location of the samples being pulled from the reservoir. GM BRYAN advised the lease does not hinder the sample pulling as they are pulled from the creek locations at every one of the ranches. Director MASINI confirmed the lease was for 2 years. Counsel DEPAOLI advised it is a 2-year lease with a 3-year option making it a total of 5 years if the lessee wants. Vice President GIORGI made a motion to set bids for the Bridgeport property lease for grazing purposes. Director MASINI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**11. Discussion and consideration of resolution establishing the District office hours for the irrigation season of March 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018 as required by District Regulation No. 4.**

GM BRYAN advised historically the office hours have remained 7:30-3:30 Monday-Friday throughout the water season. Director MASINI made a motion to keep the hours the same at 7:30 -3:30. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**12. Discussion and consideration of storage water allocation for the 2018 irrigation season.**

GM BRYAN advised he would like to wait to approve an allocation until the March meeting. He would like to store as much water as possible between now and March 1st. He advised there is 1.5 vertical feet left in Bridgeport until the syphons turn on. He advised Topaz has 1.63 vertical feet until the water reaches the spillway. GM BRYAN provided a handout for the precipitation update. He provided a report from Angela with MBK. She is recommending WRID to store as much water as possible in the month of February. She recommends WRID waits to allocate the stored water in March after considering potential losses in the system. GM BRYAN provided a report for the calculation of water and allocation at this point. He went over the calculations to determine the allocation based on today’s numbers, pan evaporation and evaporation. WRID would be unable to give 100% allocation based on the calculations. The Tribe has requested to start their water April 15. GM BRYAN advised he would like to wait on voting on an allocation until the March meeting to see what the reservoir levels are after storing the month of February. GM BRYAN would also like to put the District well on the March agenda. Treasurer NUTI asked if the storage water in the reservoir can be used to support the decree for the Tribe. Counsel DEPAOLI advised the water in the reservoir is not water the tribe can call on to fill their 1859 water right during the 180 days. The tribe’s water right is dependent on the natural flow of the river. GM BRYAN advised we will be documenting much more than in the years past especially regarding the transportation losses. Water Master SARKISIAN and GM BRYAN will be working together to report conveyance of losses. Dale Borsini asked about creating a pool amongst the users to avoid a legal battle if they are not getting their full 1859 decree right. He advised it won’t go over well with two full reservoirs and the Tribe being shorted their water. President SNYDER asked if WRID can ask for a voluntary pool and/or can the District mandate users to give up water to make sure the tribe gets their water. Counsel DEPAOLI advised the District cannot mandate users to donate water to the Tribe’s decree right. As far as allowing the water to be given voluntarily, the District needs to remember there are licenses for both reservoirs for what the water can be used for and where it can be used. Water that is in river and at its natural flow will be available for any priorities. You cannot designate the voluntarily given water as tribal only. If the District wants to label it as tribal only, there is a process that must be followed. Water Master SARKISIAN advised she will be working with GM BRYAN tracking exactly what is storage coming down and what is decree coming down. The numbers will show if there is no decree and advised if there is no decree coming in, then no one will get water unless they have a storage right. Treasurer NUTI advised he thinks WRID would be setting up a precedence if we entertain the possibility of donating stored water for the purpose of the Tribe. The Newland/storage water right holders have legally stored the water in the reservoirs and have the right to that water. The Tribe does not have a legal right to the water in the reservoirs for their 1859 decree. Nat Lommori advised there are times where people have received decree or storage and have sent it back to the river. He wanted to know if we can track that and use it for measuring purposes. Water Master advised she is unable to measure it without gages and there is no guarantee the water will be delivered from day to day. GM BRYAN recommended to table this item on the agenda and vote in the March meeting. Director ACCIARI made a motion to table the agenda item until the March regular board meeting. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**13. Discussion and determination of the season for delivery of storage water in 2018 as provided in Section 9.3 of District Regulation No. 9.**

GM BRYAN recommended to start the delivery of storage water April 1, 2018. Vice President GIORGI asked if the date can be changed at the March board meeting. GM BRYAN advised they can table this agenda item until the March board meeting. Director MASINI asked how long the storage water has been starting March 1. GM BRYAN advised it was only last year due to the excess water in the system. GM BRYAN advised he has talked to storage only water right holders and has not had anyone want their water before April 1. Director ACCIARI made a motion to table the agenda item until the March Board meeting. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**14. Director Comments:**

Vice President GIORGI asked about the District well. GM BRYAN advised he would put the District well on the March agenda.

**15. Public Comment:**

None presented.

**16. Adjournment:**

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 A.M.

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Jim Snyder, President David Giorgi, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer Dennis Acciari, Director

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Marcus Masini, Director