

A meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on February 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
Richard NUTI	Treasurer, via phone
David GIORGI	Director
Dennis ACCIARI	Director
Robert BRYAN	General Manager
Gordon DePAOLI	Legal Counsel, via zoom
Jessica HALTERMAN	Secretary
Sandy NEVILLE	Water Rights Specialist

Public Present:

Jim Kinninger	Joanne Sarkisian, USBWC	Peter Stanton, WBC
Carlene Henneman, WBC	Silas Adams, WBC	Ed Ryan, MV/SVCD
Ron Mellen, MV/SVCD	Wyatt Fereday, NDWR	AJ Jensby, NDWR

Public Present via Zoom:

Dave Hockaday	Tom Renner	Mike/Stacy Verboom
Tim Bardsley, NWS	Chris Smallcomb, NOAA	

1. Public Comment

Jim Kinninger provided and read a statement regarding Hudbay Minerals. Lyon County is working on a lands bill for various BLM properties. One request is from Hudbay Minerals and they are requesting 23,000 acres of land in the northern part of Smith Valley and west Mason Valley. The mine is proposed to be ten times larger than the Anaconda mine. Hudbay wants the land to be their own property so they can avoid federal oversight. The same oversights are the ones that will impact the ground water aquifers. Hudbay will be presenting at a meeting in Smith Valley on March 2nd at 7:00pm. Mr. Kinninger would like the Board to attend the meeting and put the item on a future agenda for discussion. Mr. Kinninger, Judith Harker, and Leslie Sonne have been doing research in attempt to fully understand the effects of the project.

2. Roll Call

Vice President MASINI was absent.

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

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

4. Water Master's Report

Joanne SARKISIAN reported Bridgeport was at 16,250 acre-feet (39%) and Topaz was at 30,010 acre-feet (51%). Joanne is releasing minimum flows and some stock water is still being delivered. The office is gearing up for the season and orders for decree will start on February 26th. Director GIORGI asked what the decree will start at; Joanne stated she was unsure.

5. Staff Reports:

A. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer NUTI reported as of January 31, 2022:

Cash in Checking	\$ 112,192.69
Cash in Money Market	\$ 936,180.98
Cash in CDs	\$ <u>757,568.24</u>
Total	\$1,805,941.91

B. Consideration of Bills and Payroll for payment

January 2022 Bills & Payroll

<u>Check Number</u>	<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Vendor Name</u>	<u>Check Amount</u>
122379	1/7/2022	MBK Engineers	\$ 3,625.00
122380	1/7/2022	O'Reilly Automotive, Inc.	\$ 25.91
122381	1/7/2022	Pitney Bowes Global Financial	\$ 213.42
122382	1/7/2022	Power Plan	\$ 1,134.60
122383	1/7/2022	Purchase Power / Pitney	\$ 154.28
122384	1/7/2022	NV Energy	\$ 40.13
122385	1/7/2022	Alhambra	\$ 113.87
122386	1/7/2022	Sierra Office Solutions	\$ 30.52
122387	1/7/2022	Trimble, Inc.	\$ 6,972.00
122388	1/7/2022	DGHP, INC	\$ 56.83
122389	1/12/2022	AT&T	\$ 152.29
122390	1/12/2022	NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS	\$ 17.28
122391	1/12/2022	Lyon County Recorder	\$ 36.66
122392	1/12/2022	Mason Valley Equipment	\$ 1,975.14
122393	1/12/2022	MF Barcellos	\$ 3,808.49
122394	1/12/2022	True Value	\$ 46.97
122395	1/12/2022	Jim Menesini Petroleum	\$ 79.77
122396	1/12/2022	NV Energy	\$ 330.61
122397	1/12/2022	Wells Fargo Card Services	\$ 13,055.69
122398	1/12/2022	Desert Research Institute	\$ 10,470.01
122399	1/12/2022	Battle Born Media, LLC	\$ 2,250.00
122400	1/12/2022	PERS Administrative Fund	\$ 9,005.94
122401	1/12/2022	Petty Cash	\$ 700.00
122402	1/12/2022	USBWC	\$ 68,441.58

122403	1/28/2022	AFLAC	\$	35.70
122404	1/28/2022	Ameritas Life Insurance Corp	\$	1,027.80
122405	1/28/2022	ABILA Dept 2145	\$	195.98
122406	1/28/2022	Ferguson Enterprises, Inc.	\$	9,735.71
122407	1/28/2022	John Deere Credit	\$	391.38
122408	1/28/2022	Nevada Energy Systems, Inc.	\$	400.00
122409	1/28/2022	Sciarani & Co.	\$	11,000.00
122410	1/28/2022	Standard Insurance Company	\$	241.03
122411	1/28/2022	Xerox Financial Services	\$	60.44
122412	1/28/2022	City of Yerington	\$	121.07
122413	1/28/2022	Allied Sanitation and Septic	\$	80.00
122414	1/28/2022	Smith Valley Conservation t	\$	3,133.55
122415	1/28/2022	Xerox Corporation	\$	222.69
122416	1/28/2022	Nevada Employment Security	\$	2,768.41
122417	1/28/2022	USBWC	\$	164.24
PAYROLL	1/31/2022	JANUARY PAYROLL	\$	29,888.79
Total Bills & Payroll			\$	182,203.78

Director GIORGI questioned what the Desert Research Institute bill was for; Secretary HALTERMAN stated it was for two months of SCADA work performed by Shawn. President SNYDER asked if there was a breakdown of the Wells Fargo bill; Secretary HALTERMAN stated no breakdown was put in the packet, but the physical bill was presented. The amount of the bill was more than normal due to publication costs for the Stored Water Leasing Program, a new printer, and six months of services by Spaeth Technology as he moved and is now catching up on the billing.

Director GIORGI 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 reported Topaz is at 30,010 acre-feet (50%) and Bridgeport is at 16,230 acre-feet (38%). The morning numbers are at 92% of average for the day.

The shop crew has completed the Lateral A project and has returned to regular maintenance on other canals. They are actively burning along the drains and will clean the drains starting at the south end of the valley and move north.

GM BRYAN attended the NWRA conference in Las Vegas last week. There was a lot of interesting discussion on current issues in the Walker Basin. Wyatt with NDWR did a presentation of his poster on the groundwater decline. USGS did a presentation on ground levels and aquifers as well as the hydromapper and lower end conveyance.

The Colony Local Improvement District process is continuing. We are waiting for confirmation from legal counsel on the specifics of the special election. The Colony has its annual meeting this Saturday so hopefully more information is available by then.

Counsel DePAOLI and GM BRYAN have been working with DCNR and are hoping to see something soon from the director. GM BRYAN and Counsel DePAOLI hope to have meetings with the director and the Nevada State Engineer to discuss the issues on the East Walker corridor as well as to discuss and implement a long term agreement for access and cleaning on state lands. Treasurer NUTI asked if it was possible to talk to the state representatives before they pass legislation on state lands and to give people access. GM BRYAN stated he would prefer to go in that route. GM BRYAN would like to see the representatives contact agencies before they convey lands to the state as there is a concern for access and cleaning. Treasurer NUTI stated before they pass legislation, they need to look at these issues.

GM BRYAN did get an update from Lyon County on the Hudbay issue. The lands bill is still in the very early stages of the process. The County has yet to acquire any land, and the lands encompass areas all over the County. Once the County is notified of the lands, they will hold workshops for the public to attend. Hudbay is still trying to put together a mining operation near the old Anne Mason site. Will continue to have discussions w/ the state on ground water impacts.

Carson Pump has completed the acid rehab and is now starting the patches in casing on the District Well. They are still on schedule to be completed well before April 1st.

Dr. Styles will be running a water measurement class from April 26th through April 28th. The class was originally scheduled before the pandemic, but it was cancelled. The class will be lecture in the morning and field practice in the afternoon with the chance to do actual measurements.

D. Legal Counsel's Report

Counsel DePAOLI had no updates to report.

E. Storage Water Leasing Program Update

GM BRYAN stated there was an issue with the publication in Mammoth Times. They were given the information in time, but it did not make it to publication. The issue has been resolve and the publication has started now. The publication should be completed on February 17th and if there are no comments at that time, California will issue an order quickly and we would be back on track.

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

Wyatt FEREDAY presented a poster that compares the 2012-15 and 2020-21 droughts in Mason and Smith Valleys. Overall, Smith Valley has been hit harder than Mason Valley. The latest drought is, on a per year basis, worse than the 2012-15 drought. On a per year decline, the effect has been much worse. Wyatt stated it is unknown why this drought is worse, but it could be due to lower soil moisture. In both basins, they achieved near full recovery from the 2012-15 drought, but the main point is that is scary to think we got to the same or worse resource conditions in a fewer number of years. President SNYDER asked if the poster was available online; Wyatt stated an abstract is available right now but he will email the final poster to Bert and he can distribute it. Director ACCIARI asked when the measurements were taken; Wyatt stated the recent numbers are based on the fall measurements. The poster does show data on the past 20 years of decline. The poster corresponds well with Gwen with USGS's presentation. Her analysis shows that as the aquifer declines, the streamflow was also affected. Director ACCIARI asked if more measurements will be done; Wyatt stated the spring measurements will be done in the next few months. President SNYER asked what the impact is likely to be if Highbay does pump 7,000-16,000 acre-feet and where will they get the water; Wyatt stated both basins are fully budgeted for water rights. No new water rights will be given so Highbay will need to purchase the rights from existing owner. There is a lot of unused ground water rights, so conceivably there could be an increase in pumping, just not an increase in water rights. A lot of the dewatering tends to be very localized, the effect to the aquifer is not as rapid as it may seem. Typically, a lot of the mines do not consume a lot of the water they pump, they return it to the ground. NDWR will not issue any water right that will have a negative impact on other water right holders. Jim Kinninger stated he talked to Steven Fulstone who talked to BLM and if the mine goes through, the grazing rights will be terminated and that is something to think of as well. Peter Stanton asked if there is a difference in water level decline based on location; Wyatt stated water level declines are greater farther away from the river. Gwen's presentation indicated as the water seeps from the river, the wells seem to be supported by that water. The further away from the river, the greater the decline.

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

Silas ADAMS stated that their staff attended the NDRA conference and learned a lot. Silas reported the open house has been postponed with no reschedule date available. There are a few change applications in the process of approval- one is a permanent change application and the other is a temporary. Silas stated he has taken another position in Colorado and Carlene will be taking over his role in the Conservancy.

8. Presentation and discussion by Tim Bardsley and Chris Smallcomb with NOAA regarding the current year weather and water outlook for 2022 irrigation season

Chris Smallcomb presented a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- After an exceptionally wet October, January was very dry with no precipitation (historical record since 1909)
- It has been 40 days since the last precipitation at the Reno Station. The record is 56 days.
- Tied with the 3rd biggest winter dry streak

- Very low probability of an atmospheric hitting land within the next two weeks
- There is a chance to get a small amount of precipitation in the next 1-2 weeks
- February is trending to be dry
- There is a little bit of a precipitation signal for the beginning of March

Tim Bardsley presented a PowerPoint presentation. Highlights included:

- Current snowpack is about 90% of normal
- East and West Walker have good observed flows
- 38-40 days of no snow
- Record dry January
- Unusual modest mid-winter SWE loss
- The water supply outlooks are declining
- Odds are lower than a 50/50 chance at having median amount of snowpack
- There are years where the snowpack has been worse, and the water year turned around
- Snowpack spatial comparison between 1/1/2022 and 2/4/2022 shows decrease in the lower elevations
- Soil moisture is high
- Water year flow forecast shows 88% of mean on the West Walker and 66% of mean on the East Walker
- April-July 2022 water supply forecast indicates approximately 80% on the West Walker and 80% on the East Walker
- Drought status has improved from extreme drought in October to moderate drought in February

9. Director Comments

None presented.

10. Public Comment

None presented.

11. Adjournment

Director ACCIARI made a motion to adjourn; Director GIORGI offered a second. The vote was called for and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58am.

Jim Snyder, President

Marcus Masini, Vice President

Richard Nuti, Treasurer

Dennis Acciari, Director

DRAFT

Lyon County is in the early stages of putting together a Lands Bill for various parts of the county in order to acquire Federal (BLM) land to be given to the county and then used by the county or sold for development.

One of the requests for some of this land comes from HudBay Minerals. They are requesting 23,000 acres, that's 40 sq miles, in northern Smith Valley.

Some of that 40 miles goes over the Singatey Range down to the community of Mason. It will effect both the aquifers of SV & Mason Valley.

This mine will be TEN times larger than the Anaconda Mine!

HudBay wants this Lands Bill because if they own the property it would allow them to avoid federal over site.

Those same over^{bite}_{site} requirements are the ones that will give the best outcome for ground water protection of the our aquifers.

HudBay stated they will need between 7,000 a/f to 16,000 a/f. Annually. Currently they have an option on all the water from RightWay Industries who own the pivot lines adjacent to the mining claims.

HudBay is coming to SV on March 2nd at 7 PM, at the SV HS.

I encourage you to do two things:

1. Come to this meeting and lend your voice for the protection of the Aquifer.
2. Put this issue on your agenda so it can be discussed at length. Judith Harker, Leslie Sonne and myself have been doing research with the County, HudBay, BLM and the State in an attempt to fully understand the effects of this mammoth proposed project.

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