**October 10, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Walker River Irrigation District (WRID) Board of Directors was held on October 10, 2016. 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

Bridget BANTA Secretary

Robert BRYAN General Manager

Robert MARTINEZ Water Master

Gordon DEPAOLI Legal Counsel

Jessica SMITH WRID Bookkeeper

**Public Present:**

Ed Ryan Chad Walling Steve Grimaldi Dave Zuch

Donette Huselton Steve Tomac Steven Fulstone

**Pubic Comment:**

Steven Fulstone wanted to give some background info on the Bridgeport Ranchers Organization (BRO). He advised California is requiring the Bridgeport ranchers to submit usage to the California water board. BRO has been providing this information via USGS devices, but since USGS has shut down that device, BRO has been working with USGS to get their own loggers and verify the accuracy of the measuring devices. BRO is attempting to get a contract with USGS to obtain loggers and have measuring done. The BRO board requested to agendize this with WRID. Fulstone advised the agenda item may not be phrased correctly at this time and asked the WRID board to table the item until BRO has met this month. They are trying to come up with a plan to come up with a water shed management program with the Bridgeport basin. BRO is trying to meet federal standards and they feel as if they have a good working relationship with WRID. BRO believes working on a basin plan to improve the water quality is beneficial to all involved.

**Roll Call:**

3 out of 5 members present with Dennis ACCIARI and David LITTLE being absent

**Approval of the September 7, 2016 Regular Board Meeting:**

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to accept the minutes. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Approval of the September 14, 2016 Special Board Meeting:**

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to approve the minutes. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Water Master’s Report:**

Water Master Rob Martinez advised the current decree is set at 1862 for East and Antelope Valley, and 1859 for the West, Tunnel and Main. No measurable rain for over 115 days. Storage at Topaz and Bridgeport both at 19%. Weber is storing water for the fisheries. Preliminary numbers are showing above 90% based on the average precipitation. Walker River Paiute Tribe went off September 11, 2016. Martinez advised there is still a considerable amount of water in the storage accounts. He encouraged people to work with their neighbors and call for the water. USGS is looking for more funding for more gages from the USBWC. The fall board meeting for the USBWC will be Friday, November 18.

Treasurer NUTI asked in regards to stock water, how Martinez bases his decision. He advised he looks at it with minimum flows and the minimal amount that needs to be put in the ditches for the stock to get the water. Ideally it should be put into the ditches that have a return back to the river. Treasurer NUTI asked if he is using storage as stock water. Martinez advised the stock water is decree and flow of the river and the decree says stock water is available.

**Staff Reports:**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Cash in checking: 52,633.95

 Cash in Money Market 1,941,655.99

 Cash in CD’s 1,240,611.33

 TOTAL 3,234,901.27

**Consideration of Bills:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *September Bills and Payroll* |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Check Number | Effective Date | Vendor Name | Check Amount |
| 119084 | 9/14/2016 | Ameritas Life Insurance Corp | 632.10  |
| 119085 | 9/14/2016 | Giomi, Inc. | 388.89  |
| 119086 | 9/14/2016 | Grainger | 164.89  |
| 119087 | 9/14/2016 | CODALE ELECTRIC SUPPLY | 4,212.84  |
| 119088 | 9/14/2016 | Hardesty's General Repair | 454.86  |
| 119089 | 9/14/2016 | High Desert Internet | 174.95  |
| 119090 | 9/14/2016 | AT&T | 119.90  |
| 119091 | 9/14/2016 | John Deere Credit | 178.69  |
| 119092 | 9/14/2016 | NAPA AUTO & TRUCK PARTS | 296.02  |
| 119093 | 9/14/2016 | MF Barcellos | 2,425.71  |
| 119094 | 9/14/2016 | True Value | 1.32  |
| 119095 | 9/14/2016 | O'Reilly Automotive, Inc. | 4.99  |
| 119096 | 9/14/2016 | Pitney Bowes Global Financial Services LLC | 641.90  |
| 119097 | 9/14/2016 | Public Employees' Benefits Program | 840.54  |
| 119098 | 9/14/2016 | Quill | 138.31  |
| 119099 | 9/14/2016 | R&E Fasteners, Inc. | 335.00  |
| 119100 | 9/14/2016 | Jim Menesini Petroleum | 109.22  |
| 119101 | 9/14/2016 | Schneider Electric USA, Inc. | 11,350.60  |
| 119102 | 9/14/2016 | Sciarani & Co. | 5,000.00  |
| 119103 | 9/14/2016 | NV Energy | 291.70  |
| 119104 | 9/14/2016 | Southwest Gas Corporation | 36.69  |
| 119105 | 9/14/2016 | Tyres International | 1,572.58  |
| 119106 | 9/14/2016 | U.S. Geological Survey | 3,446.00  |
| 119107 | 9/14/2016 | Valley Tire and Auto Service | 116.00  |
| 119108 | 9/14/2016 | Verizon Wireless | 205.54  |
| 119109 | 9/14/2016 | Walker River Irrigation District | 20.22  |
| 119110 | 9/14/2016 | Wedco Inc. | 1,563.41  |
| 119111 | 9/14/2016 | Wild West Chevrolet | 113.00  |
| 119112 | 9/14/2016 | Woodburn & Wedge | 48,245.18  |
| 119113 | 9/14/2016 | Yerington, City of | 111.16  |
| 119114 | 9/14/2016 | D & S Waste Removal | 110.00  |
| 119115 | 9/14/2016 | Desert Research Institute | 8,135.92  |
| 119117 | 9/19/2016 | Fernando Cordoba-Flores | 200.00  |
| 119118 | 9/20/2016 | Petty Cash | 152.55  |
| 119119 | 9/28/2016 | State Collections & Disbursement Unit (SCaDU) | 426.92  |
| 119120 | 9/28/2016 | State Collections & Disbursement Unit (SCaDU) | 631.00  |
| 119121 | 9/28/2016 | Arigoni, Robert | 1,685.00  |
| 119122 | 9/28/2016 | Omar Cortes | 88.12  |
| 119123 | 9/28/2016 | PERS Administrative Fund | 5,845.58  |
| 119124 | 9/28/2016 | BERKLEYNET | 2,568.00  |
| 119125 | 9/28/2016 | Endress & Hauser | 23,094.36  |
| 119126 | 9/28/2016 | Lee's Pest Control | 160.00  |
| 119127 | 9/28/2016 | Lyon County Recorder | 23.50  |
| 119128 | 9/28/2016 | PDM Steel Service Centers, Inc. | 1,959.81  |
| 119129 | 9/28/2016 | Quill | 80.19  |
| 119130 | 9/28/2016 | Cal Poly Corporation | 36,671.26  |
| 119131 | 9/28/2016 | Standard Insurance Company | 168.70  |
| 119132 | 9/28/2016 | Vision Service Plan - Nevada | 144.28  |
| 119133 | 9/28/2016 | Wedco Inc. | 2,250.00  |
| 119134 | 9/28/2016 | Wells Fargo Card Services | 6,325.12  |
| 119135 | 9/28/2016 | White Cap Construction Supply | 23.29  |
| 119136 | 9/28/2016 | Xerox Financial Services | 139.44  |
| 119137 | 9/28/2016 | HomeTown Health | 4,100.79  |
| 119138 | 9/28/2016 | Momentum Technology Group | 953.75  |
| 119139 | 9/28/2016 | Cruz, Maria | 350.00  |
| 119140 | 9/28/2016 | CT Corp. | 345.00  |
| 119141 | 9/28/2016 | D & S Waste Removal | 95.07  |
| 119142 | 9/28/2016 | Sierra Office Solutions | 118.84  |
| 4499 | 9/15/2016 | Bridget A. Banta | 1,315.59  |
| 4500 | 9/15/2016 | Jesus Cervantes | 1,770.23  |
| 4501 | 9/15/2016 | Oscar Cortez | 1,443.48  |
| 4502 | 9/15/2016 | Damian Diaz Alvarado | 811.62  |
| 4503 | 9/15/2016 | James Martens | 1,376.56  |
| 4504 | 9/15/2016 | Jessica A. Smith | 1,192.65  |
| 4505 | 9/15/2016 | Lupe Wagner | 1,056.89  |
| 4506 | 9/30/2016 | Robert A. Arigoni | 1,281.42  |
| 4507 | 9/30/2016 | Bridget A. Banta | 1,215.97  |
| 4508 | 9/30/2016 | Robert C. Bryan | 4,929.71  |
| 4509 | 9/30/2016 | Jesus Cervantes | 1,279.01  |
| 4510 | 9/30/2016 | Omar C. Cortes | 1,262.17  |
| 4511 | 9/30/2016 | Oscar Cortez | 1,140.86  |
| 4512 | 9/30/2016 | Damian Diaz Alvarado | 761.76  |
| 4513 | 9/30/2016 | Joseph E. Huggans | 776.08  |
| 4514 | 9/30/2016 | James Martens | 1,113.38  |
| 4515 | 9/30/2016 | Jason R. Milligan | 1,957.91  |
| 4516 | 9/30/2016 | Ronald Murray | 1,239.20  |
| 4517 | 9/30/2016 | Jessica A. Smith | 1,136.26  |
| 4518 | 9/30/2016 | Donald Swan | 645.32  |
| 4519 | 9/30/2016 | Lupe Wagner | 1,062.74  |
|  |  | ***Total September Bills*** | ***208,807.51***  |

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

**Bookkeeper’s Audit Update:**

Jessica Smith advised the audit was supposed to be finished last Friday. It has been delayed due to other out of town clients they are working on. Jim Sciarani stated it will be done for the next monthly meeting. Wade has come down to the office and had Jessica make entries to figure out the final numbers.

**Manager’s Report:**

GM BRYAN advised the current remaining storage is 4760.16 acre foot on the West and 2678.59 acre foot on the East yet to serve. He recommends people to work together to order water together to minimize the shrink as much as possible.

The shop crew did some cleaning on some laterals at the Wabuska drain in September next to Desert Hills and Moreda’s. There was some water drainage problems and needed repair. The crew has started repair and maintenance on the SCADA sites. The Campbell, Spragg and the Nichol Merritt are on the list this year. The projects will start after the first of November.

Currently working with the Saroni canal and the users on laterals A and B are finished taking water. The district crew is working on an in-stream measuring device to replace a sand bag diversion. This will be an accurate measurement for the ditch rider to be able to gage more accurate losses. The entire structure should be complete this week or beginning of next week. The annual Saroni meeting was held in late September. A presentation was given and gave a good demonstration and what took place in the canal throughout the water season. ITRC received some of the material and Dr. Styles looked at the information. The information was well received by the users. Other ditch companies in both Smith and Mason are interested in putting more data loggers in other canals. There are no automation gates towards the middle of the canals more towards the on-farm usage. WRID has been performing some ratings on the measuring devices and deciding how accurate the measuring devices are.

The District ordered new windows for the shop and they will be coming in to replace it. We also have a small window at the front door with a crack in it. It will be replaced tomorrow.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs are requesting information from the CLEARSCADA resource at individual ditch turnouts. This will have to be approved from each ditch company.

GM BRYAN talked about the Watershed Approach to Grazing Management meeting November 1, 2016 at 9:00 in Douglas County. This meeting is in connection to what Steven Fulstone was talking about earlier with the BRO. BIA is requesting USBWC to raise the assessments to pay for the gages.

**Legal Counsel’s Report:**

Counsel DEPAOLI advised he looked at the bill draft request at the legislature. There is an additional water bill since the last meeting to authorize de-minimus rain water collections.

**Review and Approval of the Monthly Storage Transfers:**

Treasurer NUTI made a motion to approve the monthly storage transfers. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Update:**

Per Steve Tomac, Jeff Dengel advised there were no updates fr NFWF.

**Walker Basin Conservancy Update:**

Steve Tomac advised the Aiazzi Ranch was the first part of Mason Valley to start the revegetation. Fields 6 & 7 are being pulled out of the revegetation. They have progressed to where it needs to be. The south Aguiar preliminary shrub survival is right at 50%. All of the atroplex received from the state nursery died. They are replacing those at no cost to WBC. There will be some replanting there.

The Walker River Ranch had about 100 acres of native grass that took well. There will be a new reseeding of about 100 acres that did not take so well. Trying to plant some larger experimental tracks of kosha. The Rafter 7 ranching lease expires this month and WBC will be reshaping a new permit that will include grazing permits. That will be out late fall for bid and a public notice will be posted.

**Update from Division of Water Resources:**

Chad Walling advised they come out monthly to measure irrigation wells. In Mason Valley they have measured just over 55,000 acre feet of pumping. His estimate for the year end is 66,000. Last year Mason Valley was at 75,000 acre feet pumped and this year it is down around 10,000 acre feet. In 2014 there is a 50,000 difference in pumping. That is a big improvement. Surface used in Mason Valley is at 118,000. The WRID Monthly Delivery totals for Mason Valley is 98,000 acre feet. There is a 20,000 acre feet difference. Significant increase in the use of surface water. The total water used in the Mason Valley is at 173,300 acre feet. The cumulative water use is up but the pumping is down. The benefit for this is the amount of re-charge to be seen.

Smith Valley has about 21,000 acre feet of ground water used to date. The pumping from last year was at 28,700 acre feet and looks down 3,700 acre feet from previous year. The surface water use is up and the total use of Smith Valley is higher, but the ground water pumping is down. He advised they go out twice a year to do ground water measurements. He will start in November and can get a beginning of the year to end of the year comparison. They do not measure every well, but they have a network of wells to measure to give an idea of what shape the basin is in. Starting January, they go out and measure every other well that is not for irrigation. He advised he will come back next month with Reed Cozens and present an irrigation weather station idea.

Vice President GIORGI asked how soon after they receive information from WRID can he see his use online. Chad Walling advised they still do not have a way to input the information into their mapping application. Vice President GIORGI requested to know if the rancher is still responsible for keeping track of how much more water they have to pump if they have used all of the storage water. Chad advised that is correct and he would be happy to meet with any individual user to see if they are on task.

**Discussion and Determination of request that Walker River Irrigation District join Bridgeport Ranchers Organization (BRO) as an active and assessed member.**

President SNYDER requested to know how much the membership would cost. Steven Fulstone advised it can change every year according to assessments. It has been as little as 15 cents and acre and now is a couple dollars an acre due to the data loggers and joining the law suit against Mineral County.

BRO needs to have a basin-wide strategy and would like WRID involved somehow to participate by either becoming a member or an active partner. President SNYDER requested to know the pros and cons for the District. Steven Fulstone advised WRID’s issue is nitrates, phosphates and utrophic condition of the Bridgeport reservoir for the fish. BRO is talking about combining forces together to get the reservoir cleaned up. If BRO and WRID can work together, it would be easier and better. President SNYDER requested to know how many acres we have in the Bridgeport Valley. Steven Fulstone advised WRID has several thousand. Vice President GIORGI made a motion to table the decision. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Steven Fulstone suggested to table until the December meeting. Treasurer NUTI requested Counsel DEPAOLI to put together something outlining what WRID is legally bound for with the reservoir. Counsel DEPAOLI advised he would put something together.

**BLM request for permission to gain periodic and continual access on the Bridgeport Reservoir Dam.**

GM BRYAN advised there is a handout in the meeting packet regarding BLM’s request. Steve Grimaldi, field surveyor for BLM, advised they are trying to locate corners on the property lines located in the Bridgeport reservoir. There is a lot of corner searches and his request is to gain vehicular access across the dam. He has a couple of pickups and UTV’s. He advised it is a long distance to get to by foot and access to the dam would make it faster and easier. In the long term, BLM wants to do some fuels mitigation search to keep fire on public land and off private land. This will be a long-term project and if WRID needs a record of use and what vehicles are used, he is willing to provide this. Treasurer NUTI requested to know if there is any reason not to let this happen. GM BRYAN advised it is a high hazard earthen dam and could open WRID up to liability. If WRID employees go into the dam and it has rained or snowed at all, they walk in and do not drive the dam. If it is wet there will be no vehicular access at all. President SNYDER requested to know if there is anything WRID needs to obtain from BLM. Counsel DEPAOLI requested to know if WRID required insurance or indemnity, would BLM be able to acquire that. Steve Grimaldi advised he would talk to the Bishop field management to ask about the indemnity. He advised he highly doubts the federal government will be suing WRID. Counsel DEPAOLI advised he is less concerned about personal injury and more towards the breakdown of the dam. Counsel DEPAOLI requested to know when and under what circumstances can they not make access across the dam. Steve Grimaldi advised WRID can rest assured they would not be crossing the dam in any kind of wet weather event. He would like to access the land to mark the boundaries for the public and private interests. Donette Huselton advised WRID should provide a waiver of segregation for the workmans compensation. She advised the ATV’s may be good, but the heavier vehicles could cause break down. Rules need to be made and written regarding weather and instances where the dam will not be accessed. Counsel DEPAOLI advised the best way to make a decision on this matter is to have the board give legal and GM BRYAN the ability to line out some rules and when the dam can be accessed. Counsel DEPAOLI requested to know if there is any other issues other than accessing the dam. GM BRYAN advised there is none. The only issue is the vehicles on the dam and the weather circumstances. GM BRYAN requested to know how many times BLM would need access from now until the end of the year. Steve Grimaldi advised probably no more than half a dozen times. Treasure NUTI made a motion to direct GM BRYAN and legal to work with BLM to develop conditions and the timing as to when and with what to make access to the dam and to address this as quickly as possible. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. Treasurer NUTI made a motion to have GM BRYAN work with Steve Grimaldi to gain immediate access from time-to-time. Vice President GIORGI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Determination of future date for special meeting to review and approve revised Rules and Regulations for WRID.**

There was a short discussion on when the special meeting should be held. Vice President GIORGI made a motion to set the special meeting for Wednesday, October 26, 2016 at 10:00. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

**Director’s Comments:**

None

**Public Comment:**

Treasurer NUTI commended the WRID employees and the presentation they gave at the Saroni annual meeting. It was very informative and he advised the users all learned a lot about the canal. President SNYDER requested to know if the bid for the Tera-Nap was what the Saroni was expecting. Treasurer NUTI advised it was pretty close.

**Adjournment:**

Vice President GIORGI made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Treasurer NUTI seconded the motion. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 am.

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Jim Snyder, President David Giorgi, Vice President

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Richard Nuti, Treasurer Dennis Acciari, Director

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ABSENT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

David Little, Director