

Nevada Irrigation District
Board of Directors

MINUTES

July 22, 2026

The Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District convened in regular session at the District's main office located at 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, on the 22nd day of July 2026, at 9 a.m.

Present were Chris Bierwagen, President (Division II) and Brad Fowler, Vice-President (Division III); and Directors Ricki Heck (Division I); Earl Stephens (Division IV); and Rich Johansen (Division V).

Staff members present included Jennifer Hanson, General Manager; Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager; Chip Close, Director of Water Operations; Gabe Aronow, Director of Engineering; Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance; Peter Wade, Director of Power Systems; Sandra Dunlap, Director of Finance; Monica Reyes, Director of Recreation; Naomi Schmitt, Director of Human Resources; Jackson Minasian, District Counsel; and Kris Stepanian, Board Secretary.

STANDING ORDERS

- Call to Order: President Bierwagen called the meeting to order
- President Bierwagen led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: 5 Members Present

President Bierwagen called for a moment of silence for former General Manager, Jim Chatigny and his wife, who both recently passed away.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Lily Marie Mora, member of the public
 - Thanked the Board for fire safety and stance on campfires
 - Encouraged shadowing of ditch tenders by interns
 - Suggested a phone application to provide important dates and information to customers
 - Spoke about agriculture being a large part of fire protection

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 8, 2026

M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved as submitted.

WARRANTS, PAYROLL FUND CERTIFICATE, AND INVESTMENT REPORT

Ratified the issuance of warrants by receiving and filing the check register, payroll fund certificate, and the Investment Transaction Report for the period June 27, 2026 through July 10, 2026. M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved.

GENERAL ORDERS

**FRENCH DAM HYDRAULIC CYLINDER ACTUATOR REPLACEMENT/REFURBISHMENT
(PROJECT NO. C0020)**

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, and Gabe Aronow, Director of Engineering, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Cost and what all is included
- Bids and follow up with bidders
- Hydraulic ram
- Refurbishing
- Decision and oversight on whether to refurbish or replace
- Specialist conducting the evaluation
- Life expectancy of actuator and any previous work done
- Labor expenses
- Benefit of rebuilding to our standards
- Parts made today vs. eighty years ago
- Estimate times cycled per year

Public Comment: None

Adopted Resolution 2026-28 - Amending the 2026 Annual CIP Budget in the amount of \$190,000 (including \$183,036 for the contract and \$6,964 for incidentals) and Awarded a contract to Zemarc Corporation for \$166,398 plus ten percent contingency for a total amount of \$183,036, for the French Dam Hydraulic Cylinder Actuator Replacement/ Refurbishment Project and authorized the General Manager to execute the necessary documents. M/S/C Stephens/Johansen unanimously approved.

STATUS ON VACANCIES, RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager introduced the item, and Naomi Schmitt, Director of Human Resources, provided a presentation.

Board Discussion:

- Confirmed reporting is due to a new legislative law that was passed
- Remaining vacancies clarified
- Inquired if there is a department with the most vacancies
- Metric used for vacancy percentage
- Retention rate
- Market adjustments given to help address retention
- Cost to recruit and retrain
- Turnover rate

Public Hearing Comments:

- None

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Adopted the Nevada Irrigation District 2025 Vacancy and Retention findings. M/S/C Johansen/Stephens, unanimously approved.

PURCHASE FUNDING AUTHORIZATION FOR REPLACEMENT DIESEL TANKS AND PUMPS (PROJECT C0067)

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, and Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Confirmed replacing like for like
- Confirmed no forecasted changes in regulations, or rules and requirements that would require a modification to this system in the near future
- Including the removal of existing tanks and disposal
- Discussion ensued regarding the size and end of life of tanks and if they may be sold as surplus
- Clarification of "all appurtenances"
- Spillage possibility
- Amount of diesel stored and any way to add storage
- Inquiry exempt from taxes and if the District purchases red diesel

Public Comment: None

Adopted Resolution 2026-29 - Amending the 2026 Capital Budget, to transfer \$139,093 from the Charging Stations Project budget (Project C0026) to the Diesel Tank and Pump Replacement Project budget (C0067) and approve the purchase and installation of replacement diesel storage tanks and fuel pumps for the Grass Valley main office from Core Engineered Solutions using Sourcewell cooperative contract pricing in the amount of \$243,191 plus a 10% contingency (\$24,319) and sales tax (estimated to be \$21,582) for a total of \$289,093 (rounded to nearest whole dollar. M/S/C Stephens/Johansen, unanimously approved.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Philanthropic grants
- Timelines and having matching funds available
- Grants and rates
- Prop 4 and requesting letters of support from District customers
- Fire protection and fires being put out by neighboring ponds with NID ag water
- Grants for ranchers
- Pipeline grant criteria
- Disadvantaged communities
- Fire hydrants and requesting help from fire districts
- Proportionality

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- Focus on pipelines and infrastructure
- Opportunities for backbone extension projects
- Thanked staff for work done
- Time required to prepare grant applications
- Project timing impacted by grant deadlines
- Appreciate thinking outside the box
- Unnamed lakes and number of lakes and ponds that can be named

Public Comment:

- Walt McNeil, member of the public
 - List of grants in recent history is disappointing and seems to be more in watershed
 - Suggested internal structure needs someone who focuses on grants and low interest loans
 - Recommended monthly or bi-monthly progress updates on grants and low interest loans
 - Offsetting rates with grants for capital projects
- Ronda Pascoe, member of the public
 - Spoke with President Bierwagen regarding concerns related to the 49 corridor
 - Wants to speak with the Board Member in her division
 - Urged the District to use third party professional grant writers
 - Inquired if Director Stephens was related to the Stephens, who were ranchers down off McCourtney Road

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, responded to comments related to grants, clarified the District is already working with outside consultants for grants, and shared that the public is welcome to contact the office with their address if needing to know what division they are in or use the interactive map on the District's website.

The meeting recessed at 10:36 a.m. and reconvened at 10:51 a.m.

AGRICULTURAL WATER EFFICIENCY AND STAKEHOLDER COMMITTEE

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Each Board member to select two committee members
- Committee members do not need to be in the Board members' division
- Timeframe for implementation
- Three members of the NID Board expressed interest in serving on the Committee

Board member names were drawn by David Galino, member of the public:

- Committee Members: Director Fowler and Director Johansen
- Alternate Member: Director Stephens

Public Comment:

- Lily Marie Mora, member of the public
 - Encouraged representation from Farm Bureaus and Sierra Harvest

Approved recommendation to establish an Agricultural Water Efficiency and Stakeholder Committee. M/S/C Heck/Fowler, unanimously approved.

2027 WATER RATE SETTING WORKSHOP

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Capital Improvement Project scoring process
- Costs
- Revenue lost due to pushing effective date of new rates from 7/1/2026 to 1/1/2027
- 9% increase
- Rate if tied to CPI
- Power purchase agreements and timing
- Timing of Scotts Flat – and savings of removing upper plunge pool
- Projects needed that are not on CIP Program and how they may worsen the revenue loss
- Working together
- Large water users and helping be more efficient
- Not overlooking the needs of all customers
- New Ag Committee
- Working with large water users
- FERC license demands
- Amortization
- Assumptions
- Total net
- Getting water users to make changes
- Leading by example
- Clear messaging
- Saving money over time

Public Comment:

- Mark Triolo, member of the public
 - Looks at rate increase as covering two things: operational increases and significant deferred maintenance, and inquired if possible for rates to revert down closer to 6% after these two areas are addressed
 - Continuous requirements and compounding increases
- Walt McNeil, member of the public
 - Spoke about the Hydro fund being less profitable than in past years and unable to help support water rates as it used to

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- Rate study showing large continuing expenses in Hydro Fund prohibiting transferring funds now and into the future
- Requested explanation where administrative money is going and why

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, responded:

- Recommended reviewing the recent workshop on Hydro Revenue and Reserves
- Administration costs loaded into Hydro budget include a lot of compliance and relicensing administration, regulatory programs and general administration
- Offered to meet with him to walk him through these numbers
- Using Hydro Power revenue for the 9%

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, reported on the following items:

- Yellow legged frogs at Rollins
- Healthy Rivers and Landscapes Program & Bay-Delta Plan Update
- 2027 Budgeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

Director Johansen, Division V, reported on the following items:

- Healthy landscapes include ranches with ponds
- Spoke about past NID General Manager, Jim Chatigny, and shared that he defended the District's water rights
- Thanked Lily Marie Mora for always looking for solutions and a path to work together for the betterment of the community

Director Fowler, Division III, reported on the following items:

- Appreciates today's discussion
- Interacting with rate payers
- Received a call from CalFire – expect to be a busy wildfire season and thank goodness for irrigated lands protecting this community
- Received a request regarding auto pay billing through ACH and a way to streamline

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, confirmed changes are coming soon.

Director Stephens, Division IV, reported on the following items:

- No report

Director Heck, Division I, reported on the following items:

- No report

Director Bierwagen, Division II, reported on the following items:

- Cleaning out one pond and building another one

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MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:21 p.m. The Board is scheduled to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the District's Business Center located at 1036 West Main Street, Grass Valley, California.

Submitted By

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kris Stepanian", is written over the printed name.

Kris Stepanian, Board Secretary

