

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

September 11, 2024

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 11th day of September 2024, at 9 a.m.

Present were Rich Johansen, President (Division V), Ricki Heck, Vice President (Division I); and Directors Chris Bierwagen, (Division II); and Trevor Caulder (Division IV).

Karen Hull, (Division III) was absent.

Staff members present included Jennifer Hanson, General Manager; Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager; Doug Roderick, Director of Engineering; Chip Close, Director of Water Operations; Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance; Sandra Dunlap, Director of Finance; Monica Reyes, Director of Recreation; Naomi Schmitt, Director of Human Resources; Dustin Cooper, District Counsel; and Kris Stepanian, Board Secretary.

STANDING ORDERS

- Call to Order: President Johansen called the meeting to order
- President Johansen led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: 4 Members Present / 1 Member Absent, as noted above

President Johansen called for a moment of silence to reflect on 9/11.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- None

CONSENT AGENDA

Public Comment: None

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON AUGUST 28, 2024

M/S/C Bierwagen/Heck, approved as submitted.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Heck, Division 1	Aye
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Hull, Division 3	Absent
Caulder, Division 4	Aye
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

September 11, 2024

FY2025 BUDGET REVISED CALENDAR

Director Bierwagen made a motion to receive and file the FY2025 Budget revised calendar. Director Heck seconded the motion.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Heck, Division 1	Aye
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Hull, Division 3	Absent
Caulder, Division 4	Aye
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC) YUBA -BEAR PROJECT RELICENSING CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) SUPPORT SERVICES - SOLE SOURCE

Director Bierwagen made a motion to award a sole source agreement in the amount of \$317,298 to HDR Engineering, Inc. for consulting services related to the FERC Yuba-Bear Project Relicensing CEQA compliance, and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. Director Heck seconded the motion.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Heck, Division 1	Aye
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Hull, Division 3	Absent
Caulder, Division 4	Aye
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

WARRANTS, PROJECT AND FACILITY REPORT, AND INVESTMENT REPORT

Director Bierwagen made a motion to ratify the issuance of warrants by receiving and filing the check registers, the Project and Facility Report, and the Investment Transaction Report for the period August 17th through August 30th. Director Heck seconded the motion.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Heck, Division 1	Aye
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Hull, Division 3	Absent
Caulder, Division 4	Aye
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

WORKSHOP ITEMS

PG&E UPDATE

President Johansen introduced Brandon Sanders with PG&E, who provided an update.

Board discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Schedule/Timeline of repairs for Spaulding 2

September 11, 2024

- Global supply chain
- Repairs clarified
- Very specialized parts
- Request to share draft repair schedule with NID staff
- Bypass possibility
- Filling Scotts Flat Reservoir
- Farmers buying seed now and planning for next year's crops
- Working 24/7 and with same commitment level as previous repairs

Public Comment:

- Michael Taylor, member of the public:
 - Maintenance issue with valves and turbines
 - Rotating parts regularly to support always having a backup

2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (CIP) BUDGET

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager introduced the item, and Doug Roderick Director of Engineering, led the presentation:

Board discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Proposed amounts in presentation and the Board's ability to direct modifications
- Determining how much the District can afford each year
- Keeping expenses lower
- Sustainability of CIP
- Local contractor work in 2025
- Who pays for repairs needed due to widening of roads
- Lake Wildwood Treatment Plant work scheduled for 2026
- Operations PLC lifecycle
- Tarr Canal Diversion – Current and future capacity
- Pet Hill Extension – status and request for discussion
- Water Operations Department Vehicle Replacements - 1 ¾ ton under electric vehicle requirement
- Maintenance Department Vehicle Replacements
 - More expensive vehicles due to different size and uses
 - Vacuum Excavator Truck – 1st time purchasing a back-up
- Dispersed camping in Bowman area managed by Forest Service
- Christmas Tree Spill Gate location
- French Lake – age of pump and RAM and handwork
- Scotts Flat Spillway and grant from Department of Energy
- South Yuba 8.5 Mile Slide Repair long-term solutions
- Checking with Firesafe Council regarding equipment for sale
- Selective logging
- Upper Middle Yuba Watershed forest restoration
- Charging stations at District facilities
 - Increasing charging stations in phases
 - Heavy cost of grid upgrades
 - Meeting regulatory requirements / carb regulations & 2027 requirements

September 11, 2024

- Upgrade only at Grass Valley facility and plan to address other facilities
- Penalties for non-compliance
- Cost in terms of rates
- Exemptions / variances
- CARB (California Air Resources Board) coming to Nevada County – info on YubaNet
- Appreciation for priority scores provided
- Shopping out vehicles

Public Comment:

- Michael Taylor, member of the public:
 - Sherriff's Department patrol areas of dispersed camping utilizing their atv's
- Amanda Hixson, with Sierra Harvest and member of the public:
 - Inquired how District disposes of retired vehicles
 - Requested bear lockers at NID campgrounds

Director Caulder left the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

FERC RELICENSE COSTS & PLANNING - YUBA-BEAR PROJECT (FERC NO. 2266)

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Board discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Climate change considered
- Government requirements
- How to estimate costs in the future
- Annual savings
- Amount of capital costs going towards campgrounds
- Forest Service and their mission
- Concern regarding potential negative impact to forest and watershed
- \$150,000 previously earmarked for recreation

Public Comment: None

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Participated in an ERC (Economic Resource Council) meeting along with Director Johansen
- Selected for a grant from the Department of Energy
- Peter Wade, new Director of Power Systems, beginning the end of the month

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

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

- No report

September 11, 2024

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

- Working with constituents
- Attending various public meetings

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

- Pet Hill Extension
- Participated in an ERC (Economic Resource Council) meeting along with Jennifer Hanson, General Manager
- Notified Board of the passing of past NID employee, Dick Eckenberg, Project Manager for the Yuba Bear Project
- Securing future of agriculture and RCD Project

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION

- None

Dustin Cooper, District Council, announced no reportable Board action was anticipated.

The meeting recessed at 10:43 a.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 10:50 a.m.

Closed Session – Existing Litigation was declared at 10:50 a.m., pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1). In re Petition for Assignment of State-Filed Application 5634 and Accompanying Water Right Application 5634X01 of Nevada Irrigation District and the Pending Request for Releases from Priority of State-Filed Applications 5633 and 5634 in Favor of Water Right License 11120 (Application 10221) of South Sutter Water District

Board Action: None

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:15 a.m., to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the District's Business Center located at 1036 West Main Street, Grass Valley, California.

Submitted By


Kris Stepanian, Board Secretary

Director Jack Division I reported on the following items:
Working with consultants
Attending various public meetings

Director Johnson Division V reported on the following items:

- Part 411 Extension
- Part 411 in an ERQ (Economic Resource Council) meeting along with Jennifer
- Instructor General Manager
- Attended Board of the passing of past NID employee Dick Erickson Project
- Manager for the Yuba Boat Farm
- Securing future of agriculture and food system

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION

None

Dustin Cooper, District Council, announced no reportable Board action was anticipated.


The meeting recessed at 10:43 a.m. and resumed in Closed Session at 10:50 a.m.

Closed Session - Existing litigation was discussed at 10:50 a.m. pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(b)(1) in re Petition for Reassignment of State-Fired Appointee 2524 and Accompanying Water Right Application 2534X07 of Nevada Irrigation District and the Pending Request for Release from Priority of State-Fired Applications 2533 and 2534 in Favor of Water Right License 1178 (Application 19257) of South Sierra Water District.

Board Action: None

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:15 a.m. to convene in regular session on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the District Business Center located at 1036 West Main Street, Grass Valley, California.

Submitted By:


Kim Stepanian, Board Secretary