

Nevada Irrigation District  
Board of Directors

MINUTES

April 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 22<sup>nd</sup> day of April 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; Dustin Cooper, 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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Jeff Harter, member of the public:
  - Rate increase protest letter confusion
  - Efficiencies of government entities
  - Urged NID to be more efficient
  - Recommended more projects be completed in-house
- Leilani Vevang, member of the public:
  - Thanked the Board for their support of timbering

President Bierwagen congratulated Director Heck for recently getting married.

April 22, 2026

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION - SERVICE AWARDS**

Employees were recognized for their years of service.

**Name**

**Job Title**

**15 Years**

Don Bird	Safety Analyst II
Rob Graham	Cross Connection Control Technician II
Cindy Ware	Safety Technician II

**20 Years**

Phil Goguen	Electrical Systems Superintendent
Ken Bartsch	Equipment Operator
John Foppiano	Water Distribution Operator II

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Clarification/comments made by the Board regarding Consent Agenda items:

- Item 4D: Warrants and Investment Report
  - Unfunded state obligations on CalPERS (California Public Employees' Retirement System)
  - Self-insuring / separating from the state
- Item 4B: New Hydro Office – Whitcomb Building Stucco Repair
  - Staging
  - Type of stucco
  - Process
- Item 4C: Beauchaine Consulting Accounting Services Contract Amendment
  - Audit timeline and improvements made

Public comment on Consent Items:

- 4C: Beauchaine Consulting Accounting Services Contract Amendment
  - Jeff Harter, member of the public:
    - Reason for contract increase

**MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 8, 2026**

**M/S/C Johansen/Fowler, unanimously approved as submitted.**

**NEW HYDRO OFFICE – WHITCOMB BUILDING STUCCO REPAIR**

**Approved a contract for stucco repairs on the new Hydroelectric office on Whitcomb Avenue, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Johansen/Fowler, unanimously approved.**

April 22, 2026

BEAUCHAINE CONSULTING ACCOUNTING SERVICES CONTRACT AMENDMENT

**Amended the consultant services contract with Beauchaine Consulting Group, LLC in the amount of \$150,000 for a total contract authorization of \$250,000, for the initial one-year term ending December 31,2026, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Johansen/Fowler, unanimously approved.**

WARRANTS AND INVESTMENT REPORT

**Ratified the issuance of warrants by receiving and filing the check registers and the Investment Transaction Report for the period March 28, 2026 through April 10, 2026. M/S/C Johansen/Fowler, unanimously approved.**

**GENERAL ORDERS**

WATERSHED DEPARTMENT CIP BUDGET AMENDMENT, CONTRACT AWARD AND TIMBER SALE

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Spillway staging areas needed for Scotts Flat Spillway Repair Project
- Potential costs
- Advantages and disadvantages of other methods
- Measuring timber
- Stumps
- 5% contingency
- Proposals and deciding factors
- Spacing of trees when past generations logged this property

Public Comment:

- Jeff Harter, member of the public:
  - 30-ft. distance between trees and providing appropriate canopy
  - Size of trees
- Leilani Veevang, member of the public:
  - Expressed that she appreciates the hard work done by the District and that more people need to know
  - Appreciates the public will be viewing this property
  - Educating the public about a health forest

**Approval for Selective Logging at Scotts Flat (CIP No. T0007) Adopt a resolution approving a budget amendment to the Fund 70, FY 2026, for Selective Logging (CIP No. T0007), award contract to Black Dog Enterprises, approve timber sale agreement with Trinity River Lumber Co., and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Johansen/Fowler, unanimously approved.**

April 22, 2026

## **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

### **WORKSHOP - WATER RATE IMPLEMENTATION GUARDRAILS**

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

#### Board Discussion:

- Clarified that the water rate guidelines would be implemented by a resolution, and not by policy
- Proposition 218 cost
- Multi-year projects
- Flexibility
- Director Stephens was thanked for bringing this item forward
- Annual workshops
- CIP project costs and evaluating increases based on two customer classes
- Fixed and volumetric costs based on best practices and Prop 218
- Guardrail to take into consideration any capital expenditures of potential money coming in for raw water and treated water separately
- Capital money coming in or relief of any unfunded mandates to be considered against the CIP
- Confirmed staff does not have authorization to expend any funds without appropriation by the Board
- Updating the District website to include a Proposition 4 page with ability to sign-up to support
- Confirmed the District's process for Proposition 218 protest and objection letters received and inquired as to approximate amounts received to date
- Change in reserves due to new water rates implementation date of January 1, 2027
- Potential projects
- City rate increases
- Finding a way to help lessen the impact on customers from increased rates
- What might happen if water rates are not increased
- Letters of support - Prop 4 support
- Resiliency
- Solving problems
- Education and communication
- Outside funding
- Highschool Ranch and NID partnership
- Grants to help with water conservation
- Confirmed rate increase workshop for this year should occur in July/August
- Discussed annual rate implementation process
- Benefit of micro ponds and more efficient uses of irrigation
- Partnering with NRCS and RCD
- How we got here

April 22, 2026

Board consensus obtained to include:

- Workshop for Board approval of any annual rate increase
- Consideration of extraordinary revenue to reduce any particular annual rate increase
  - Modify to include “Take consideration any potential money coming in and impacts to raw water and treat water rates separately”
- Delay of rate increases, as already approved by the Board to January 1, 2027
- Decreased rate increase based on lower-than-expected capital projects
- Adding a bullet to include conservation assistance for irrigation users, such as seeking grants, and as the District is seeking grants, also exploring outside revenue or other revenue opportunities as a District

Public Comment:

- Tyler Blagg, member of the public:
  - Looking at any SIGMA impacts on the District
  - Any analysis as far as long-term attrition and possible water use reduction
  - Approximate cost to date of the Proposition 218 process
  - Inquired why the District did not hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party firm to handle protests
  - Asked if the Blue Point Mine customers would be impacted from rate increases and if they are included
  - What would happen if a drought year and looking at reducing water allocations
  - Suggested adding a bullet for conservation efforts to the guardrails
- Jeff Harter, member of the public:
  - Shared a philosophy
  - Paying for projects before they begin
- Lilly Marie Mora, member of the public:
  - Thanked Jennifer Hanson for her presentation at the recent Community Forum
  - Bringing people together to learn more
  - Concerned about sustainable rate
  - Understanding who is a customer of the District
  - Planning for a large attendance at the May 27<sup>th</sup> public hearing
  - Capital Projects
  - Proposition 4 support and FERC process support
  - Educating and providing the public with a way to get involved and to provide support
  - Adding a page regarding Proposition 4 to the District’s website
  - Using solar to save or generate revenue
- Walt McNeil, member of the public:
  - NID customer clarification
  - Cities of Nevada City and Grass Valley and other municipalities who get wholesale water from NID

April 22, 2026

- Expressed concerns regarding hydro power revenue and projections
  - Does not recall receiving a Proposition 218 protest
  - Understands the sample protest form included an incorrect year
- Will Corbett, member of the public:
- Spoke about a PG&E system with a water wheel, and asked why the District has not pursued a similar system
  - Bureaucracy and past decisions made by the District
  - Cost benefit to support old infrastructure is worth maintaining
  - Infrastructure and concerns about capital infrastructure expenses
  - Concerned proposed rates will put agriculture out of business
  - Inquired what happens if District does not comply with regulations
  - Expressed he would have rather had small rate increases the past years and gone through the gradual inflationary cycle
  - Commented on the protest letters related to Proposition 218 and the District's process

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at 11:57 a.m.

#### WORKSHOP – DISTRICT OWNED WATERSHED PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Participate in a discussion pertaining to District-owned “watershed” property

#### Board Discussion:

- Timber sales and grazing leases
- Methods
- California Conservancy
- Working with ranchers on lower division
- Potential to partner
- Proud of the work Watershed Department is doing
- Article about beavers and colonization
- Looking forward to a field trip
- Prescribed burning
- Possible pathway to work with ranchers and push for funds regarding conservation path forward for them
- How much land is currently being grazed
- Retreating areas
- Bear River burn scar
- Tours

#### Public Comment:

- None

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

April 22, 2026

- Community Outreach
  - Attended Placer County Farm Bureau meeting
  - Attended Placer County Ag Commission meeting
  - Spoke at a Nevada County Community Forum
- Water/snow report

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

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

- No report

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

- 2.5" of water as of this morning and is grateful for recent storms
- Was asked to attend a community meeting at the Thermalands on Thursday
- Looking forward to upcoming field trips

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

- Heard Director Fowler speak at recent meeting with John Renwick and complimented him on a job well done
- Recently got married and had a wonderful honeymoon

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

- Received 2.75" of rain as of this morning
- Looking forward to community meeting tomorrow
- Complimented Director Fowler for being well spoken and balanced at his recent meeting with John Renwick
- Expressed appreciation for the item to create guardrails around water rates implementation

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

- Shared he has received a record number of calls recently

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:30 p.m. The Board is scheduled to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, 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