

Nevada Irrigation District
Board of Directors

MINUTES

October 14, 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 14th day of October 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

- Lily Marie Mora, treated and raw water customer
 - Thanked and complimented the District on the following:
 - District website and its ease of navigation
 - Recent presentation provided at a NCERC (Nevada County Economic Resource Council) meeting
 - Progress being made by the AWESC (Ag Water Efficiency Stakeholder Committee)
 - Encouraged the District to reach out for outside grant writing services, if not already done
 - Urged the board to contact elder care facilities for their support of Prop 4 funding
- Mark Henwood, owner of 920 acres in Railroad Commission Order (RCO) land and served water by NID
 - Expressed concerns about water rates

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- Appreciates the Board's consideration for annexation
- Shared his understanding of the LAFCo (Local Agency Formation Commission) process
- Urged the Board to accept a tolling agreement that was submitted to extend the 120-day litigation deadline related to water rates
- Expressed concerns about the annexation not being done before water bills go out in 2027, resulting in the inability to farm and irrigate property that has been continuously farmed for 131 years
- Requested the District continue with previous charging methodology

CONSENT AGENDA

The following Consent Agenda Items were commented on by the Board:

- Item 3D: Purchase of New Replacement Compact Pickup Trucks with Extra Cabs
 - Non-responsive bids and if timing can be adjusted in the future to increase the number of bid responses received
 - Pleased with cost savings of \$60,400
- Item 3E: District Policy #3040 – Reserves
 - Clarified target reserve percentages referenced for Funds 50 and 30 on Page 2 of the Staff Report are incorrect; and confirmed the language in the draft policy regarding annual reserves related to Funds 50 and 30 is correct

Public comment: None

MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 14, 2026

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

WATER RIGHTS SUPPORT CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Approved Amended Water Rights Support Contract #Ops 2026-01 with HDR Engineering, Inc., by increasing the contract amount by \$71,498, for a total contract authorization of \$171,276, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved.

LAKE WILDWOOD CLARIFIER GEARBOX REPLACEMENT CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Approved an increase of \$40,000 to the existing contract with MarTech Mechanical Analysis & Repair, Inc. for the Lake Wildwood Water Treatment Plant Clarifier A Gearbox Replacement Project and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate contract amendment. M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved.

PURCHASE OF NEW, REPLACEMENT COMPACT PICKUP TRUCKS WITH EXTRA CABS

Approved the purchase of five (5) 2027 Nissan Frontier King Cab S 4x4 pickup trucks from Razzari Nissan in Merced, California and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved.

DISTRICT POLICY #3040 - RESERVES

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-38 - Approving Updates to District Policy #3040 – Reserves. M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved.

CONSULTING SERVICES GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND CONTAINMENT DESIGN PROJECT FOR CHICAGO PARK POWERHOUSE GSU TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT (C0019)

Awarded a consulting contract to NV5, Inc. for geotechnical investigations and design services for the Geotechnical Investigations and Containment Design Project for the Chicago Park Powerhouse Generator Step Up (GSU) Transformer Replacement (Project) in the amount of \$117,052, plus a contingency of \$11,705, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved.

FRENCH DAM HYDRAULIC CYLINDER ACTUATOR REPLACEMENT/REFURBISHMENT PROJECT (#C0020)

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-39 – Amending the 2026 Annual CIP Budget in the amount of \$35,000 for the French Dam Hydraulic Cylinder Actuator Replacement/Refurbishment Project (#C0020), approved a \$20,000 increase to the Unico Mechanical contract, \$15,000 for miscellaneous supplies related to the work, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved.

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 September 12, 2026 to October 2, 2026. M/S/C Johansen/Heck, unanimously approved.

WORKSHOP ITEMS

2027 Operational Budget Workshop

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- History and progress made on reserves
- Clarified property taxes increased by 3% from 2026
- Regulatory burden cost per year
- Unifying and working together to better fight regulations
- Clarified what is included in Revenues
- Internal Services Revenue
- Revenue and state law
- Debt service, range of reserves and desired ratios
- Capacity fees ever zero out and what they can legally be used for
- Rate used for estimate interest earned in Fund 12 Capacity Fees
- Confirmed interest on long term debt for Cement Hill is being recovered
- Discussed camping and day use trends
- FERC relicensing expenses
- Reiterated importance of unity to fight regulatory burdens
- Inquired about conducting internal studies to look at future Hydro options and costs
- New Hydro field office and any idea of what Secret Town property will sell for

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- Confirmed Secret Town sales proceeds will go back to Hydro
- Discussed estimated 2% increase for power purchase agreement
- Confirmed approximately 75% of Watershed Capital Projects are paid with grant money
- Confirmed the District has applied for grants for Watershed Capital Projects
- Charging station
- Expressed appreciation for good fiscal management of Fund 85 – Pension Trust and OPEB
- Discussed unfunded liability obligations
- Expressed appreciation for the frugal budget and tightening of belts
- Regulatory requirements

Public Comment:

- Lily Marie Mora, treated and raw water customer
 - Inquired how often FERC relicensing is needed

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Attended the NCERC (Nevada County Economic Resource Council) meeting with Director Johansen and President Bierwagen, and provided a presentation
- Attended the Nevada County Sustainability Event in Truckee with Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and served on a panel
- Thanked Director Heck for organizing a meeting with Congressman Ami Bera, to help advocate for Scotts Flat funding, also attended by President Bierwagen
- Rolling out new public billing system soon
 - Customers who pay electronically will need to set up a new account number
 - Commended staff for a job well done
 - Outreach plan to educate the public
- Attended the third AWESC (Ag Water Efficiency Stakeholder Committee) meeting and an update will be coming to the Board soon

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

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

- Thanked everyone for their great work
- Presenting at Nevada County Media this afternoon about water efficiency
- Will be attending the Resilient California Summit next week with Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance, and Sue Hoek, Nevada County Supervisor, District 4

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

- Great feedback received regarding the presentations made at the Nevada County Economic Resource Council and Sustainability Summit
- Looking forward to the end of irrigation season
- Rain in the forecast
- Toured Placer County Water Agency pump stations and appreciates the tour

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

- Holding a meet- and-greet at Dueling Dogs Brewing Company tomorrow evening

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- Impressive clearing improvements made by the District in the high country
- No \$3- charge with the new billing system
- Need to work together
- Looking for every revenue source we can
- Tail water recharge, potential of adding source of revenue, and possible feasibility study

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

- Thanked Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and Gabe Aronow, Director of Engineering, for a great presentation on Saturday at Scotts Flat to inform owners and residents about potential impacts from work that will be done on the spillway
- Requested a discussion regarding staffing at the Cascade Shores Gate, as residents that live there cannot get access
- Facilitated a meeting with Congressman Ami Bera last week to educate him about the District, water system and the severe need for funding for the Scotts Flat Spillway; and shared highlights

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

- Commended Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, for providing a great presentation at the Nevada County Economic Resource Council meeting, which he and Director Johansen also attended, and shared highlights
- Receiving inquiries about the District pursuing more conservation projects

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION

- Mark Henwood, owner of 920 acres in Railroad Commission Order (RCO) land served water by NID
 - Followed up to comments he made at the beginning of the meeting during Public Comments on Items Not on the Agenda
 - Provided written comments to the Board
 - Said there would be an increase of fire danger

Dustin Cooper, District Counsel, announced that he did not anticipate any reportable Board action following closed session.

The meeting recessed at 10:19 a.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 10:30 a.m.

Closed Session Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation, was declared at 10:30 a.m., pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(2): Two Cases.

Board Action: None

Closed Session Conference With Labor Negotiators was declared at 10:30 a.m., pursuant to Government Code § 54957.6 District Representatives: Jennifer Hanson, General Manager; Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager; Minasian Law, LLP, District Counsel; and Leibert Cassidy Whitmore, special counsel. Employee Units: Unrepresented and AFSCME.

Board Action: None

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Closed Session – Public Employee Performance Evaluation. Title: General Manager was declared at 10:30 a.m., pursuant to Government Code section 54957.

Board Action: None

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:18 p.m. The Board is scheduled to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, October 28, 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