

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

March 27, 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 27th day of March 2024, at 9 a.m.

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

Staff members present included Jennifer Hanson, 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: 5 Members Present

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Don Coenen, member of the public, addressed the Board regarding water supply concerns, spring runoff, and requesting a waiver from the State of California for water going to the Delta for fish

Director Caulder left the meeting at 9:01 a.m. and returned at 9:02 a.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 28, 2024

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

PURCHASE OF OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT PICKUP TRUCKS

Approved the purchase of four 2024 Toyota Tacoma pickup trucks at a price not to exceed \$192,000, as authorized in the 2024 Water Capital Budget. M/S/C Hull/Heck, unanimously approved as submitted.

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PURCHASE OF MAINTENANCE REPLACEMENT PICKUP TRUCKS

Approved the purchase of three 2024 Toyota Tacoma pickup trucks at a price not to exceed \$115,000.00 from Freeway Toyota located in Hanford, California, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Hull/Heck, unanimously approved as submitted.

BEACON AMA METER SERVICE UNITS PURCHASE ORDER

Approved a sole source purchase order to Badger Meter, Inc. for the purchase of 2024 cellular and mobile read service units and related licenses in the amount of \$130,000 and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Hull/Heck, unanimously approved as submitted.

2024 USFS COLLECTION AGREEMENT FINANCIAL PLAN BETWEEN NID AND THE USFS

Adopted a resolution approving the 2024 Collection Agreement Financial Plan between Nevada Irrigation District (District) and the United States Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service Tahoe National Forest (USFS), and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Hull/Heck, unanimously approved as submitted.

2024 TALMO & ASSOCIATES INC. CONTRACT

Approved a contract to Talmo & Associates Inc. for the 2024 campground temporary workforce in the amount of \$420,000 and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Hull/Heck, unanimously approved as submitted.

CONVEYANCE AGREEMENT - HEMPHILL CANAL ENCASEMENT

Approved a Conveyance Agreement with Taylor Morrison of California, LLC for installation of approximately 1,128 lineal feet of 36" pipe, including 218 lineal feet upstream canal lining, and all appurtenances to encase and realign a section of the Hemphill Canal through Placer County Parcel 021-272-071. M/S/C Hull/Heck, unanimously approved as submitted.

WARRANTS, PROJECT AND FACILITY REPORT, AND INVESTMENT REPORT

Ratified the issuance of warrants by receiving and filing the check registers, the Project and Facility Report, and the Investment Transaction Report for the period February 17, 2024 through March 15, 2024. M/S/C Hull/Heck, unanimously approved as submitted.

GENERAL ORDERS

AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2024 CIP BUDGET

Sandra Dunlap, Director of Finance, presented the item.

The Board of Directors expressed their appreciation to the Finance team for a job well done.

Public Comment: None

Adopted Resolution No. 2024-09 - Authorizing an amendment to the FY 2024 CIP Budget in the amount of \$844,678; (1) To carry forward unspent appropriations from FY 2023 CIP projects in the amount of \$497,714, and (2) To increase CIP Project Budgets adding appropriations in the amount of \$346,964. M/S/C Bierwagen/Heck, unanimously approved.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Chip Close, Director of Water Operations, presented the item.

Board Discussion ensued:

- Milton Bowman Tunnel length
- Impacts to both Nevada and Placer Counties
- Forecasted scenarios
- PG&E's target date for completion of repairs and the volume they divert
- Scotts Flat – pumping water
- Utilizing storage to meet demands
- Voluntary conservation
- Crediting ag customers for cutting back
- 2024 Declaration of Surplus
- Rotation and how it works in the system
- Re-officing option
- Storage rotation
- Financial impacts and exploring cost recovery options
- Impacts on Hydroelectric, Water Operations and Recreation
- Receiving updates at future meetings
- Age of pumps
- Number of powerhouses down
- Notifying all customers via direct mail
- Overall communication strategy
- The tipping point when conservation may become mandatory
- Working with state representatives on the issue
- Emergency financial aid from the county to help with related expenses
- Capturing spring runoff
- Cities of Nevada City and Grass Valley are also being requested to participate in voluntary conservation
- History of Rollins and Scotts Flat reservoirs staying full
- Deadpool levels
- Initial notification from PG&E and related updates
- Discussion related to the surplus declaration and whether it needs to be rescinded
- Offering NID staff to assist with repairs
- Impact to Placer County Water Agency
- Clarification pertaining to Resolution Item 6 a-f and when implemented
- Authority delegated to the General Manager in the resolution and adding language to keep the Board informed and options

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- Water supply agreement
- Expressed appreciation to staff for their work
- Drought-resistant crops and planning
- Approaching the deadline for the start of crop planting season
- Reductions calculated on the previous year's usage
- Benefits of ponds
- 55% unimpaired flows and environmental flows

Public Comment:

- Deb Totoonchie, Nevada County Farm Bureau:
 - o Rollins Lake deadpool level
 - o Sedimentation
 - o Extending irrigation season
 - o Voluntary vs. Mandatory reduction
 - o Difficulties implementing and enforcing mandatory reductions
- Matt Manuel, local grape farmer:
 - o Shared his irrigation process, which begins as soon as water is in the ditch for his grapes
 - o His crops need water early, and cuts back on water after June
- Juan Browne, Nevada County Airport / Grass Valley Air Attack Base:
 - o Confirmed water availability for the Nevada County Airport and Grass Valley Air Attack Base to support operations throughout the season
 - o Inquired what failed at Spalding No. 1 or if critical energy infrastructure, and voiced it does not seem to relate to issues pointed out by FERC in earlier reports
- Don Coenen, member of the public:
 - o Inquired about NID's obligations, if any, to keep the Bear River from going dry
 - o Flexibility to operate and save water
 - o Inquired if the irrigation season could be held off

Michael Taylor, member of the public:

- o Expressed his appreciation for the Board working through this decision and open discussion
- o Concerned that reservoirs will not refill even with water back in flow from PG&E in June
- o Concerns regarding the lack of recreation on two lakes and the negative impact on Nevada County

A motion was made by Director Heck and seconded by Director Bierwagen to adopt Resolution No. 2024-10 - Declaring a water shortage emergency, authorizing extraordinary water conservation rules and regulations, and authorizing emergency activities and projects as related to Pacific Gas and

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Electric Company's (PG&E's) unplanned outages on the South Yuba Canal and Spaulding Reservoir, as amended, updating Page 4, Item 7 to read as follows:

“Actions taken by the General Manager pursuant to this Resolution will be reported in writing to the Board of Directors within 24-hours and also reported publicly to the Board of Directors at the next available board meeting. Any curtailment actions that require mandatory compliance from NID customers will require ratification by the Board of Directors at the next available board meeting. Reporting to the Board of Directors will continue for the duration of the emergency”.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

| | |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Heck, Division 1 | Aye |
| Bierwagen, Division 2 | Aye |
| Hull, Division 3 | Aye |
| Caulder, Division 4 | No |
| Johansen, Division 5 | Aye |

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Nothing new to report

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

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

- Attended a Nevada County Farm Bureau meeting

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

- Communicating with constituents concerned regarding the PG&E emergency issue

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

- Attended Nevada County Farm Bureau and Placer County Farm Bureau meetings
- Met with Shanti Landon, Placer County Supervisor
- NID Crop report received after the requested return date
- Requested agenda item regarding pesticide/herbicide applications and received Board consensus for future item

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

- Congratulated Robb Tucker, District 2 Nevada County Supervisor

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

- Attended a Nevada County Farm Bureau meeting
- Met with Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, Nevada County, and Congressman Kiley regarding agriculture and water

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION

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- None

The meeting recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 10:55 a.m.

Closed Session - Anticipated Litigation was declared at 10:55 a.m. pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(d)(2) or (d)(3). Significant exposure to litigation; one potential case.

Board Action: None

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:10 a.m. to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, April 10, 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