

Nevada Irrigation District
Board of Directors

MINUTES

June 24, 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 24th day of June 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 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

- Tyler Blagg, member of the public
 - Requested clarification regarding the timing of workshops and public hearing for the 2027 water rate setting and budget
 - Inquired if there would be a hearing to set the 2027 rates six months before they go into effect

SPECIAL ORDERS

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION - SERVICE AWARDS

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and Chip Close, Director of Water Operations, presented the item.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Hire Date</u>
<u>10 Years</u>		5/02/2016
Davin Chittock	Utility Worker I	
Robert Jackson	Water Distribution Supervisor	4/01/2016
<u>30 Years</u>		6/17/1996
Monica Reyes	Director of Recreation	

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INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO REVIEW

Received a presentation from Michael Kronbetter, with PFM Asset Management for the Investment Performance Review for the Quarter ended March 31, 2026.

Board Discussion:

- Portfolio earning curve and any future projections
- Inquired if the \$124 million in portfolio is primarily from reserves
- Thanked PFM Asset Management for improving the balance of the portfolio
- Confirmed reserves include 6 months of operations
- Discussed designated uses
- Planning for capital improvements and accessing funds from reserves
- Reduction in revenue due to extending effective date to January 1, 2027

Public comment: None

CONSENT AGENDA

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, noted that there was a correction made to Page 77 of the May 27th Minutes (Item 4C) to correct the roll call for substitute motion.

President Bierwagen pulled the following items for discussion at the request of Directors:

- 4A: Minutes from the regular meeting on May 13, 2026
- 4D: Lake Wildwood Treatment Plant Clarifier Tank A Restoration Project
- 4E: N. Auburn Treatment Plant Clarifier Structure 2 Restoration Project
- 4F: Purchase of a New, Replacement Compact Excavator
- 4H: French Dam Hydraulic Line Replacement & Inlet Gate Actuator Refurbishment

Public comment: None

MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL MEETING ON MAY 20, 2026

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

MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 27, 2026

M/S/C Heck/Fowler, unanimously approved as amended to correct roll call of substitute motion on Page 77.

SUPPORT FOR ACWA'S VISION FOR OUR WATER FUTURE

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-27 - Support for the Association of California Water Agencies' Vision for Our Water Future. M/S/C Heck/Fowler, 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 May 1, 2026, through June 12, 2026. M/S/C Heck/Fowler, unanimously approved.

CONSENT ITEMS PULLED FOR DISCUSSION

MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 13, 2026

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Reflecting Board/staff responses to public comments to correct misinformation or misunderstandings in future minutes

Public Comment: None

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

LAKE WILDWOOD TREATMENT PLANT CLARIFIER TANK A RESTORATION PROJECT, NID CONTRACT NO. M2026-03

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance, responded to questions raised by the Board.

Board Discussion:

- Inquired about wide bid differentials and if there was any feedback as to reasoning
- Contingencies built in on some and not on others
- Awarding to the lowest bidder
- Accuracy of bids
- Confirmed follow-ups are done with bidders and site visits
- Inquired if there is a "not to exceed" price
- Confirmed fixed bid
- Testing done on old paint, metals and mold
- Discussed change orders

Public Comment: None

Awarded the Lake Wildwood Treatment Plant Clarifier Tank A Restoration Project (NID Contract No. M2026-03) to Redwood Painting Company, Inc. of Pittsburg, California, in the amount of \$464,361.00, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Heck/Fowler, unanimously approved.

NORTH AUBURN TREATMENT PLANT CLARIFIER STRUCTURE 2 RESTORATION PROJECT, NID CONTRACT NO. M2026-04
RTN AUBURN TREATMENT PLANT CLARIFIER STRUCTURE 2 RESTORATION PROJECT, NID CONTRACT NO. M2026-04

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance, responded to questions raised by the Board.

Board Comment:

- Delta between bids
- Schedule
- Clarification why there is no contingency

Public Comment: None

Award the North Auburn Treatment Plant Clarifier Structure 2 Restoration Project (NID Contract No. M2026-04) to Redwood Painting Company, Inc. of Pittsburg, California, in the amount of \$379,104.00, and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Fowler/Heck, unanimously approved.

PURCHASE OF A NEW, REPLACEMENT COMPACT EXCAVATOR

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance, responded to questions raised by the Board.

Board Comment:

- Constituent found similar excavator (different make) for nearly \$20,000 less and the Board discussed the differences
- Requested clarification of how Sourcewell works and the bidding process
- Cost for attachments
- Bobcat equipment, the lack of right to repair and cost
- Discussed the advantages of owning equipment that can be repaired in-house
- Inquired how soon the item was needed
- Compared simplicity of equipment between Kubota and Bobcat
- Confirmed replacing existing Bobcat excavator and that the old one has worked well for the District
- Bobcat controls and training in-house

Public Comment:

- Tyler Blagg, member of the public:
 - Obtained a quote nearly \$20,000 less by calling vendor directly

Staff responded it was not the same equipment.

- Looking at the District trying to save some money
- It took him a few minutes and text

Approved the purchase of one (1) 2026 Bobcat E38 R2-series compact (mini) track excavator from Doosan Bobcat North America, Inc., through the local Bobcat dealer in Grass Valley, California, and authorize the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Heck/Stephens, unanimously approved.

CONTRACT FOR THE FRENCH DAM HYDRAULIC LINE REPLACEMENT & INLET GATE ACTUATOR REFURBISHMENT PROJECT (PROJECT NO. C0020)

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and Gabe Aronow, Director of Engineering, responded to questions raised by the Board.

Board Comment:

- Clarification received regarding timing and weather
- Actuator built by private firm
- Double-wall piping not required
- Concerns about delta in the bids and why
- Depth of valve

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- Confirmed divers video their work
- Competitive bidding
- Age of reservoir and if work will result in any modernization
- Confirmed project to include in-kind replacement
- Status of old dam
- Field trip
- Possibility to make more automated
- Gauging station
- Any bidder feedback regarding the difference in the amounts of bids
- High bidder

Public Comment: None

Awarded a construction contract with Associated Underwater Services (AUS) for \$167,543 plus a 10% contingency totaling \$184,297 for the French Dam Hydraulic Line Replacement & Inlet Gate Actuator Refurbishment Project and authorized the General Manager to execute the necessary documents and any contract change order within the contingency amount. M/S/C Heck/Stephens, unanimously approved.

WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP – ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Human sign-off and including when and how human sign-off occurs in the policy
- Using AI to help create and refine the policy
- Replacing the word “must” throughout the policy with “shall”
- 3300.3.1 – Requested clarification and then suggested removal of “equity”
- Hydro and security when using AI
- Employee use of AI and signing-off – Employee accountability
- Human sign-off and AI hallucinations
- Employee accountability and AI driven mistakes
- Staff confirmed all water releases are done by chain of command
- Initial first step and good start
- Sufficient placeholder for now and anticipate it will evolve in coming years
- Font used for District policy is difficult to read
- Feeding draft AI policy into another AI system for feedback
- Adding the word “appropriate” human review

Public Comment: None

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, reported on the following items:

- Chip Close, Director of Water Operations, provided a water report
- PG&E update

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- Bear River kept in higher flow to assist yellow-legged frog egg masses
- Grant updates:
 - Hired local grant writer/organization to help identify state, federal and private grants, particularly the three high-priority projects (Scotts Flat Spillway, Elizabeth George to Lake Wildwood Pipeline Extension and the South Yuba Canal)
 - Working with an organization to develop Prop 4 grant dam safety funding for Scotts Flat, and have received letters of recommendation from Regional Water Authority and Mountain Counties Water Resources Association
 - Supplying a written concept for the South Yuba Canal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for a wildfire protection plan for a planning grant
 - Spoke with Placer and Nevada County Resource Conservation Districts about potential grants and other funding for farmers and ranchers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

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

- Appreciates the grant update and requested an update at every meeting
- Spoke in support of working with the Resource Conservation Districts
- Mandarins are doing great, pumpkins are planted and fields are tilled for corn

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

- Calls from numerous constituents regarding rates and opportunities to correct misinformation in the community
- Reminding the public that the rate ceiling was set on May 27th, not the actual rate
- People appreciate being informed

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

- No report

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

- Three weeks from the middle of irrigation season
- Shared about positive interactions with NID employee, Davin Chittock, and expressed appreciation for his willingness to engage and for being a great forward facing employee

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

- Meeting with constituents and the positive takeaway when getting them the facts

MEETING ADJOURNED at 10:59 a.m. The Board is scheduled to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, July 8, 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