

# NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES

June 7, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District convened in special session at the District's main office located at 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 2022, at 4 p.m.

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

Staff members present included Jennifer Hanson, General Manager; Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager; Doug Roderick, Engineering Manager; Chip Close, Water Operations Manager; Keane Sommers, Hydroelectric Manager; Steve Prosser, Maintenance Manager; Monica Reyes, Recreation Manager; and Kris Stepanian, Board Secretary. Dustin Cooper, District Counsel, attended remotely.

#### STANDING ORDERS

- Call to Order: President Bierwagen called the meeting to order
- President Bierwagen led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: 5 Members Present

#### PLAN FOR WATER MATRIX AND PROCESS CHECK-IN

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item and announced that the next Strategic Planning workshops, currently scheduled to occur in July, will take place at the Gold Miner's Inn in Grass Valley.

Board discussion ensued regarding future meeting dates and accessibility to the calendar on the website.

#### Public Comment:

- Stewart Feldman, member of the public, confirmed that the public will continue to be provided the opportunity to participate in person and via Zoom for those meetings occurring at The Gold Miner's Inn for Strategic Planning

#### PLAN FOR WATER COMMUNICATION / OUTREACH UPDATE

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item and introduced Carolyn Frost with Tytanium Ideas, Inc., who provided a presentation.

Board discussion ensued regarding responses to social media comments, analytics, and key performance indicators, pushing information out to other groups, Google Analytics

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and Google My Business, NID's social media platform incorporating Plan for Water on every post, content preparation, outreach helping to educate customers of the District.

Public Comment:

- Stewart Feldman, member of the public, requested more Plan for Water focus on the District's website and suggested web links to social media sites be available on the website
- Brad Fowler, member of the public and the local agriculture community, commented on the District's efforts to increase community engagement, reaching the peripheral community, and offered a reminder that the core of the District has been engaged for 100 years and will continue to be engaged
- Carl McCosker, member of the public and the local agriculture community, spoke about sustainable agriculture in Nevada County, asked the Board to keep in mind its original formation purpose was to support agriculture, and expressed his desire to ensure that our agriculture is not destroyed

#### PLAN FOR WATER - PROPOSED STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Board discussion ensued regarding the Strategic Planning process, including:

- Capital Improvement Plan and Budget adhering to the Strategic Plan
- Assurance of a dependable water supply and strategic priorities
- Selected stakeholder groups to present the Board with a SWOT analysis for different viewpoints – General Manager will reach out to those groups
- General public members that are treated water customers will be able to complete a survey to obtain their feedback
- Work done from 2019 workshops will be brought back when reviewing previous efforts during an environmental scan
- Roles of stakeholders, managers, and the Board
- Watershed management

Public Comment:

- Brad Fowler, member of the public, commented on the countless hours that he wasted attending previous planning process meetings and other focus group meetings, and he hopes that this time it will be different

#### PLAN FOR WATER WORKSHOP #8 – NID RISK

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item that included an overview of risks to NID.

Board discussion ensued regarding risk probability, community perception of risk, dam safety, a more detailed risk matrix, FERC requirements, and financial risks.

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Public Comment:

- Molly Nakahara with Sierra Harvest commented on the following topics:
  - o Asked if future water needs and risk projections take the region's agricultural growth into account
  - o Commented on the need to increase croplands from 88 acres to over 1500 cultivated acres, and quadruple the current production on our rangeland to meet just 20% of the food needs of Nevada County
  - o Commented that farmers are very efficient water users, and can likely increase yields and water efficiency simultaneously
  
- Stewart Feldman, member of the public, expressed his appreciation for the presentation, and asked the Board to consider risks to others pertaining to consequences of land acquisitions and planning:
  - o Risk to local real estate market because of the need for disclosure of what might be Centennial Reservoir
  - o Fire liability of District-owned properties
  - o Risk of losing opportunities & resource management participation from other groups and organizations
  
- Dianna Gamzon, member of the public, expressed her appreciation for the presentation
  
- Mark Henry, member of the public, expressed his appreciation for the presentation and commented on Mr. Feldman's comment regarding the impacts and risks to those who are not shareholders
  
- Mike Pasner, resident and ag water user from Penn Valley, commented on the risks associated with the continued use of aquatic and terrestrial herbicides

This presentation will continue at the next Plan for Water Workshop, scheduled for July 12, 2022.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:10 p.m., to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 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