



# GM Newsletter

January 2023

From The Desk of Jennifer Hanson, General Manager

## Water For Life

### IN THIS EDITION

Storm news (pages 2-4)

Book your summer campsite now (p.5)

Reservoir storage update (p.9)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Karen Hull  
President  
Division III



Rich Johansen  
Vice President  
Division V



Ricki Heck  
Division I



Chris Bierwagen  
Division II



Trevor Caulder  
Division IV

## Message from the General Manager

What a beginning of the year we've weathered! Since Christmas, there have been no fewer than eight storms fueled by atmospheric rivers. We've had 34.66 inches of rain at Bowman Lake. That's roughly three times greater than average.

This has been a stressor on NID infrastructure, yet through everything it has functioned as designed. NID staff is currently conducting thorough inspections, and our crews are out making repairs. We don't anticipate any disruption in service.

I'm so impressed with the commitment of our staff, who were out in the storms by day and night. They truly made a difference in how our community fared through the relentless storms. Next time you see an NID truck in your neighborhood, please give the workers a friendly wave or tip of the cap. Know you are in good hands with these men and women on the job.

Going forward, we must realize the drought is not over. We've received a gift from Mother Nature, but we must also be aware that conservation should be a permanent commitment and not a temporary action. We need cold weather to preserve the snowpack in the Sierra, our water source, which will melt in spring to fill our reservoirs and make water available for our farms, fields and households.

Let's hope for the best and plan for whatever the summer brings. Again, thank you for being NID customers and doing your part to ensure our community thrives, no matter the adversity.





The power of spilling dams was on full display during the storms, and the NID dam system functioned as it should.

During the brunt of the storms, Keane Sommers, Director of Power Systems, noted, "None of the flows are beyond the capacity of the District's dams or spillways to safely pass. The current flows are fairly routine in nature and similar to those experienced in prior years."

The dams have "spillways" designed to automatically release high flows prior to causing a dam safety issue. Despite the dramatics of cascading water, the flows from the dams were well below the threshold for high flow notification, which is 20,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at Rollins and Combie and 15,000 cfs at Scotts Flat. "Cfs" is the unit of measurement referring to the volume of water flow.

Rollins Reservoir (capacity of 65,998 acre-feet) and Combie Reservoir (capacity of 5,555 acre-feet) and Scotts Flat Reservoir (capacity of 48,547 acre-feet) filled and spilled as expected during the storms.

## Storms fill NID reservoirs *Dams spill as designed*



Above: Van Giesen Dam at Combie Reservoir spills. Check out the truck on the far left for perspective. Above right: Scotts Flat Dam spills.

---

## Storm Damage repairs begin

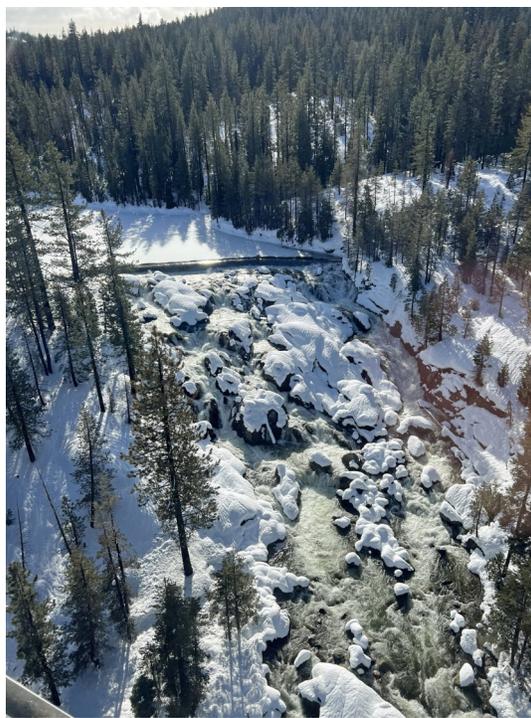
Keeping the water flowing was not the issue during the prolonged storms. Heavy rain, flooding and debris flows created all sorts of hazards along canals and roadways.

The preliminary tally indicates more than 50 trees fell; and multiple slides and washouts and several large boulders impacted the NID conveyance system. Through it all, maintenance, operations and hydropower crews worked around the clock to lessen the damage and keep the system up and running.

The repairs and cleanup has begun. Expect NID crews to be in your neighborhood as they work to get the conveyance system ready for spring.



During a storm break, the NID hydro team hightailed it to the high country for inspections



(Above) On Jan. 12, an NID hydroelectric communications technician inspects the dam at French Lake following the storms.

(Above left) The technician inspects and maintains radio equipment at the District's quartz peak repeater site.

(Left) Sawmill Lake and spillway on Jan. 12.



## Book your summer campsite today

The 2023 camping reservation period began on January 3, and campsites are going fast. Secure your site by phone or online.

**Scotts Flat Campground:** Phone (530) 265-5302 or in-person at our Scotts Flat Office located at 23333 Scotts Flat Road, Nevada City, CA 95959. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Fri-day. Reservations can also be made online at the Scotts Flat webpage.

**Faucherie, Aspen, and Silvertip Groups:** Phone (530) 265 - 5302 or in person at our Scotts Flat Office located at 23333 Scotts Flat Road, Nevada City, CA 95959. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. When leaving a message, please tell us the campground you want to book.

**Orchard Springs Campground:** Phone (530) 346-0073 or in per-son at our Orchard Springs Gate House located at 19085 Larsen Road, Grass Valley. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday.

**Long Ravine Campground:** (530) 346-6166 or in person at our Long Ravine Gate House located at 26909 Rollins lake Road, Colfax. Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday - Friday

**Peninsula Campground:** Phone (530) 477-9413 or online on our Peninsula webpage.

Reservations are being  
taken now for foothill  
and upper division  
campsites

[Click here to go to the  
NID Camping  
Reservation webpage](#)

**Note: scroll to the precise  
campground location for  
access to online registra-  
tion**





# Plan for Water

## Invitation to get involved

The next few monthly meetings will focus on topics of Stage 7 (Hydrology and Hydrography) and Stage 8 (Demand).

### **Stage 7 – Hydrology and Hydrography** (estimated three months)

This stage will seek to determine design assumptions, principles and standards of data-driven modeling as it relates to the hydrology and hydrography of NID's water systems while reconfirming previous efforts of FERC re-licensing models and determining appropriate climate and drought scenario analysis.

### **Stage 8 - Demand**

In this stage we seek to develop consensus on a number of considerations, including the Plan for Water planning horizon, frequency of updates, how staff and the Board will utilize the Plan for Water, and to define a clear set of assumptions to be utilized in the modeling of data.

- ◇ February: Res-Sim model used to simulate reservoir operations - review changes and improvements
- ◇ March: HMS model - simulation of the complete hydrologic processes of watershed systems
- ◇ April: Hydrology and Climate Change discussion

The public is invited to participate in a number of workshops covering 11 stages where questions and concerns can be addressed.

This planning process will benefit from public outreach that increases understanding of water resource challenges, and considers the community's long-term plans and priorities.

View the [Planning Matrix](#).

Workshops are held in person at the NID main office at 1036 W. Main Street in Grass Valley and via Zoom.

**The next meeting is on Feb. 21 at 4 pm**

Visit [nidwater.com](http://nidwater.com) for more information.

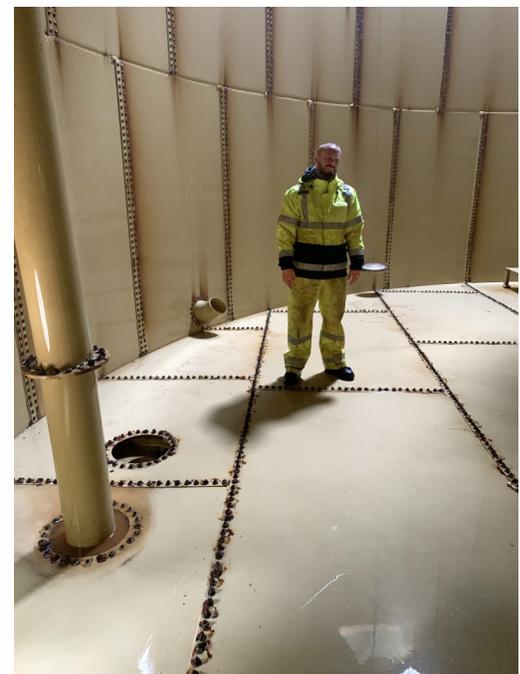
## Helping out a neighbor

*NID cleans a water tank in the Town of Washington after the storms force a “boil water order”*

After the recent storms clogged its water system with silt, the Town of Washington needed to issue a “boil water order” for residents.

While the town residents cleaned the system’s filters, NID pitched in to get the system up and running again.

The NID maintenance crew cleaned the town’s water tank. The District’s operations crew disinfected the tank, then repaired and set the altitude valve, which regulates high water levels.





## Bowman Lake

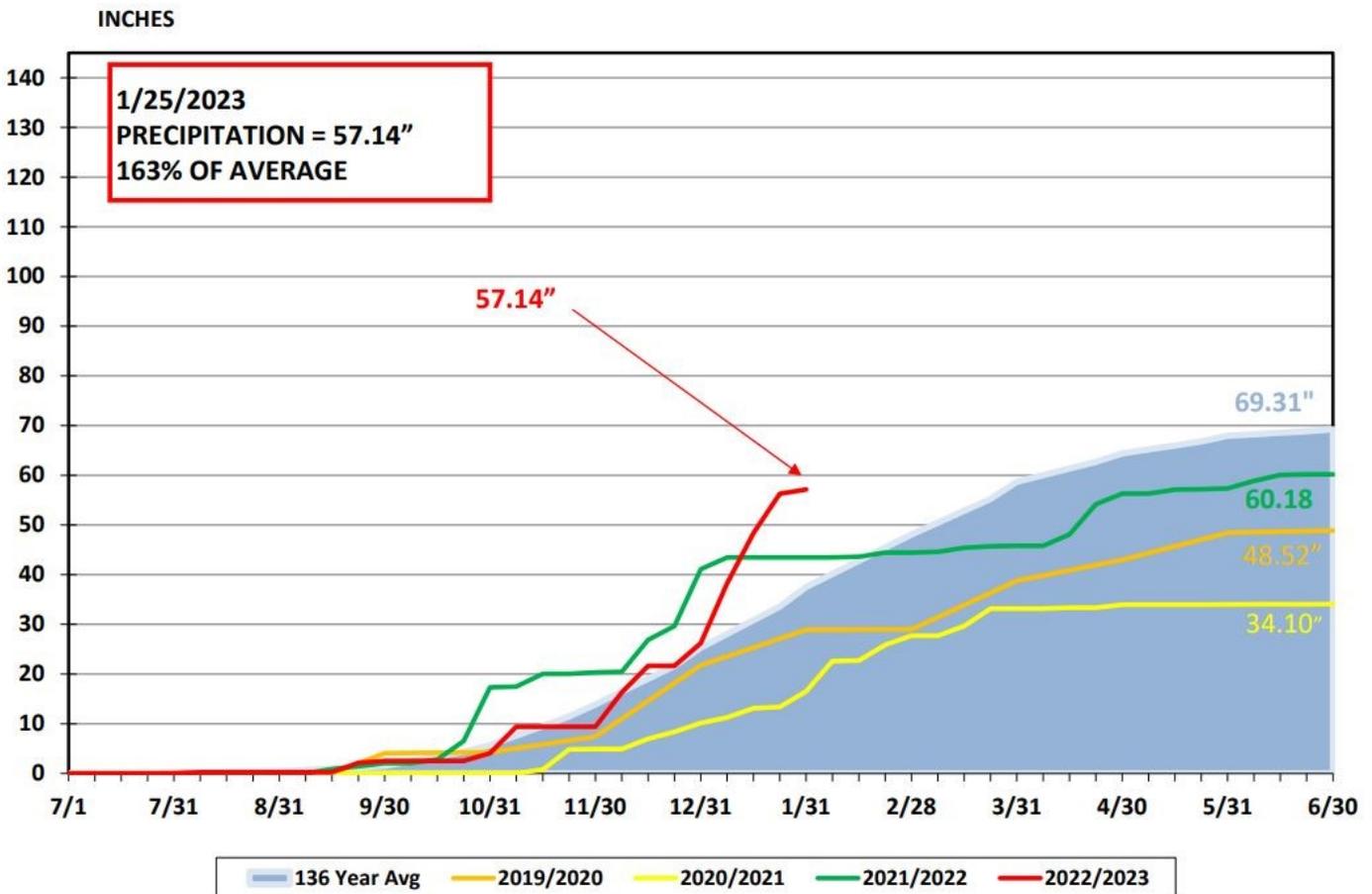
NID has been keeping weather records for Bowman Reservoir (elevation 5,650 ft.) since 1929.

The 69.2-inch annual average precipitation at Bowman compares to an annual average of 56 inches at 2,700 feet near Nevada City and 52 inches at 2,400 feet in Grass Valley.

Precipitation is measured for the 12-month period beginning July 1 and ending June 30.

For the season, more than 57 inches of precipitation has fallen. That is 163 percent of average.

# BOWMAN LAKE PRECIPITATION



# Reservoir storage is 120% of average

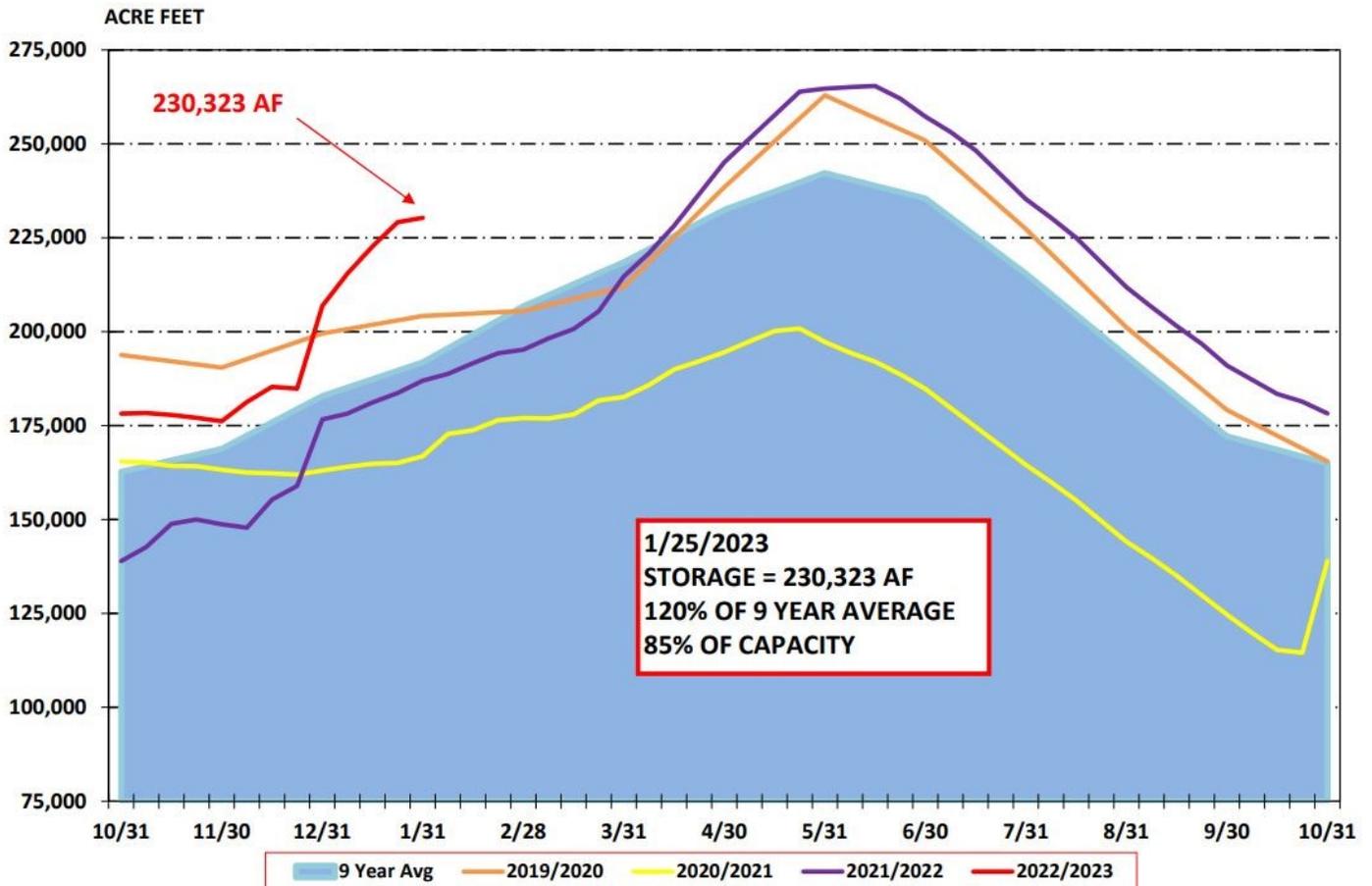
Reservoir storage is 230,323 acre-feet as of Jan. 25. That is 120 percent of average and 85 percent of capacity.

NID’s water managers regularly post updates of local reservoir levels. You can see how water levels fluctuate in easy-to-read charts.

It’s all just a click away on the NID website under [River & Reservoir Data](#).



## NID RESERVOIR STORAGE



## Water conservation — treated water use down 6%

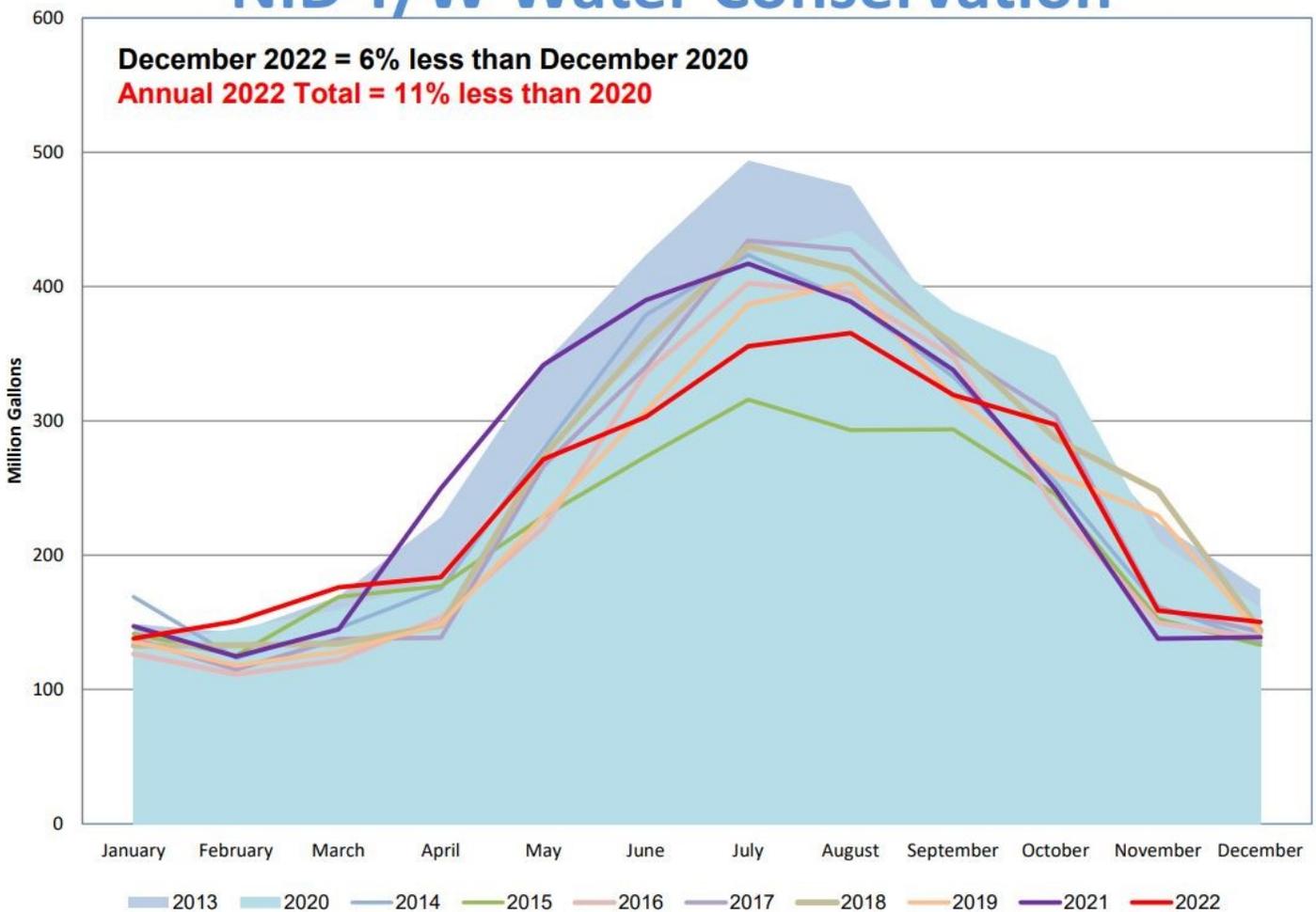
In December treated water usage was down 6 percent, compared to December 2020. For 2022, total treated water usage was 11 percent less than in 2020.

The challenge for us all is to continue to use water efficiently and boost our conservation numbers. A reduction of 20% is our goal.

Let's continue the good efforts. How much water do you use?

[Measure Your Water Use Calculator](#)

### NID T/W Water Conservation



The above graph shows the overall water usage and effectiveness of conservation within the District's treated water customer base.

---

# Project Updates—Engineering and Hydropower

The NID Engineering Department has a number of projects in various phases of construction. Read about the projects on our website, and sign up for email alerts for news about a specific project.

Updated Project Status Reports are now available on the [District's Projects webpage](#). This report provides project information, planner information, and a brief project description.

[Engineering Department Project Status Report](#)

[Hydroelectric Department Project Status Report](#)



## [Alta Sierra Reservoir Replacement Project](#)

The project involves removing the existing liner, grading the interior of the reservoir to raise the bottom elevation 6 feet, and constructing a 3 MG concrete tank that is centered in the existing reservoir. Learn more, click on the [Project Description](#).



## [Hemphill Diversion Fish Passage Project](#)

The project will remove the existing diversion structure and construct a roughen-rock ramp fish passage in its place. Improvements to the Hemphill Canal will include a fish screen to prevent fish entrapment while maintaining water deliveries to NID raw water customers. Learn more, click on the [Project Description](#).



## [David Way Pump Station](#)

The project entails replacing the pump station and generator with a pre-manufactured pump station that includes two standard flow pumps and a separate fire flow pump. The new pump station and generator will provide system redundancy and better system reliability. [Project Description](#).

## Hydropower Generation Report

The total megawatt-hours (MWh) generated per powerhouse for July

**Generation at most powerhouses was above average due to the precipitation that occurred in the later portion of the month.**

Powerhouse	Average Generation	Current Generation
Chicago Park	10,971	10,852
Dutch Flat #	5,122	1,862
Rollins	5,022	4,833
Bowman	1,647	1,841
Combie North	185	185
Combie South	108	0
Scotts Flat	515	605
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,570</b>	<b>20,178</b>

## Hydropower Availability Report

The total percentage of time a powerhouse is available to generate during the given month.

**All powerhouses were above budgeted availability for the month of December.**

Powerhouse	Budgeted Availability	Actual Availability
Chicago Park	94.86%	100%
Dutch Flat #2	94.84%	99.70%
Rollins	96.00%	99.79%
Bowman	92.00%	97.69%



Faucherie Lake

---

## Meetings & Events

# Meetings & Events

### **NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday, Feb. 8

NID Office, Grass Valley

9 AM

### **Plan for Water Workshop**

Tuesday Feb 21

NID Office, Grass

Valley

4 PM

### **NID Regular Board of Directors Meeting**

Wednesday,

Feb. 22

NID Office,

Grass Valley

9 AM

[Nidwater.com](http://Nidwater.com)  
for more  
information

Texas Creek on Jan. 11

