

Nevada Irrigation District
Board of Directors

MINUTES

April 8, 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 8th day April of 2026, at 9 a.m.

Present were Chris Bierwagen, President (Division II) and Brad Fowler, Vice-President (Division III); and Directors Earl Stephens (Division IV); and Rich Johansen (Division V).

Director Ricki Heck, (Division I) was absent.

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; 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: 4 Members Present / 1 Member Absent

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- A member of the public (name not provided):
 - Urged the District to improve the water rates page on the website to help make less confusing
 - Spoke about difficulties completing the objection form and clarification was provided regarding the protest form and objection form
- Lily Marie Mora, member of the public:
 - Urged the board to enter into a statewide coalition to lobby for infrastructure funds and has spoken with Mountain Counties Water Agency and Yolanda Cookson with Senator Dahle's office
 - Shared that the protest form showed the due date as 2025 and it should have been 2026
- Tyler Blagg, member of the public:
 - Submitted an email last week regarding Prop 218 protest questions and urged responses be provided more timely
 - Commented on change orders approved by the Board
 - Requested improving the District's website to make it easier for the public to navigate and access the Proposition 218 information

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CONSENT AGENDA

Public comment: None

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 25, 2026

M/S/C Johansen/Stephens to approve as submitted.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Heck, Division 1	Absent
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Fowler, Division 3	Aye
Stephens, Division 4	Aye
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

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 March 14, 2026, through March 27, 2026. M/S/C Johansen/Stephens.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Heck, Division 1	Absent
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Fowler, Division 3	Aye
Stephens, Division 4	Aye
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

GENERAL ORDERS

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORTS - FY 2025 Q4, FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- What may have attributed to Hydro reaching 114% of projected revenue
- Volatile times for projections
- The likelihood of Hydro increases with higher rates
- Power purchase agreements and when renegotiations will start
- PG&E announcement of 30-32% increase
- Obtaining consultants prior to power purchase agreements negotiations
- Percentage of power purchased outside of the U.S.
- Hydro power analysis
- Congratulated staff on saving money

Public Comment: None

Received and filed Budget to Actual Reports - FY 2025 Q4, for the period ending December 31, 2025. M/S/C Johansen/Stephens.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

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Heck, Division 1	Absent
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Fowler, Division 3	Aye
Stephens, Division 4	Aye
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2026, WATER FUND 15, CIP BUDGET AND AWARD OF A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE SMITH ROAD CROSSING PROJECT – C0058

Gabe Aronow, Director of Engineering, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Pipe size
- Contributing factors to increase pipe
- Minimizing costs
- Contingency clauses and change orders

Public Comment:

- Tyler Blagg, member of the public:
 - Frequency of utilizing contingency funds
 - Ensuring leftover grant funds are not used when work is not necessary and claimed that occurred on Smith Canal
 - Commented that Board decisions and what happens out in the field are sometimes different

Adopted Resolution No. 2026-13 - Approval of an Amendment to FY 2026, Water Fund 15, CIP Budget and Award of a Construction Contract for the Smith Road Crossing Project (Project C0058). M/S/C Fowler/Johansen.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Heck, Division 1	Absent
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Fowler, Division 3	Aye
Stephens, Division 4	Aye
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

WORKSHOP ITEMS

GOLDEN MUSSEL WORKSHOP

Monica Reyes, Director of Recreation, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Confirmed there has been no evidence of Golden Mussels in NID canals
- Asked if primary movement of Golden Mussels is by boat
- Golden Mussels going down the aqueduct and how they travel on their own
- Magnet fishing

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- Forecast of aqueduct clogging up
- NID staff were commended for their hard work and for being on top of the issue
- Boat decontamination and what happens to the boat after Golden Mussels are removed from it
- Alberta Invasive Species Council clarification
- Cooperation with Combie Homeowners' Association
- Sampling stations in operation and no evidence of Golden Mussels
- Examples of other water agencies or reservoirs that did not do anything and now have evidence of Golden Mussels
- Lake Wildwood has good procedures in place
- Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination (WID) Program is the program the District has in place
- Spaulding and Fuller Lakes – No programs in place
- Likelihood of a statewide program in the future
- Cost and how the District covers running Jackson Meadows for the season
- FERC's requirement for recreation
- Jackson Meadows camp hosts and possible partnership
- What happens in the event of a government shutdown
- In best interest to make sure done right even if need to subsidize
- Board consensus received to continue with the Recreation Plan for 2026
- Potential to impose fines for violations
- Concerns about Fuller and Spaulding Lakes and any research of what to do if/when they find evidence of the Golden Mussel
- What to do if the problem becomes bigger
- Posting signage

Public Comment:

- Lily Marie Mora, member of the public:
 - Inquired if there was a known predator to the Golden Mussel
 - Statewide coalition could help with this issue
- Mark DeMartini, member of the public:
 - Inquired whether any of the regulations affect kayaks and paddleboards and if they are still allowed to park and launch when boat ramps are closed

President Bierwagen called for Item 5C – Elizabeth George to Lake Wildwood Pipeline Project Workshop, to be discussed next due to members of the public in attendance interested in the item.

ELIZABETH GEORGE TO LAKE WILDWOOD PIPELINE PROJECT WORKSHOP

Gabe Aronow, Director of Engineering, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Confirmed the original plant and additional plant are two separate plants

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- Capacities of plant
- Development in the area
- Current peak demand
- Areas without water
- MCC = Motor Control Center
- Demand on Newtown
- Connecting locations, sizes and equal distribution
- Size of pipeline to E. George
- Chlorination discussed
- Future use of water treatment plant
- Size of site and value
- Drinking water and chlorination
- Possible water contaminants
- E. George's high water quality
- Less expensive to treat water of higher quality
- Stagnation and time for water to travel
- Backbone extension pipeline to Lake of the Pines with chlorination station
- Operating costs
- The Board expressed their appreciation for the workshop
- Ability to serve more customers
- Easements and what is needed
- Possible connection fees in soft serve areas
- Confirmed costs for pressure treatment stations are included in the budget
- Bonding
- Board consensus received to move forward
- Requested input from representatives in attendance from Lake Wildwood
- Fire evacuation and fire access
- Fire District access to funds to help pay for hydrants
- Service laterals
- Board consensus received to continue forward with pipeline development and report back when more progress is made

Public Comment:

- Mark De Martini, member of the public
 - Inquired if there would possibly be an opportunity to generate power
 - Spoke about the Newtown Reservoir and if costs were included in the CIP
 - Expressed his support of the backbone project and bringing treated water directly to Lake Wildwood community
 - Suggested reallocating any funds currently allocated for work related to the Newtown Reservoir, ditch or diversion dam to the Elizabeth George to Lake Wildwood Pipeline Project
 - Appreciated clarification that there is nothing in the current budget or Capital Improvement Program for Newtown, Deer Creek Diversion Dam

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- Suggested the District clean sediment out of the Newtown Reservoir to avoid causing an additional burden on the Lake Wildwood Treatment Plant or property owners below the Newtown Reservoir, and said the bottom outlet urgently needs to be fixed from safety perspective
- Lily Marie Mora, member of the public:
 - Inquired if 100-year projections will need to include updates for the Elizabeth George Treatment Plant
 - Asked if Golden Mussels will be more of a problem in a ditch vs. pipeline
 - Asked about the age of the Elizabeth George Treatment Plant and when last upgrades were completed
- Chris Boyd, General Manager of Lake Wildwood Association
 - Thanked the Board for welcoming their participation
 - Planning a town hall meeting in Lake Wildwood
 - Recent communications to rate payers regarding potential rate increase
 - Working together and happy to be included in communications
 - Confirmed this project is built into the rate model

The meeting recessed at 11:01 a.m. and reconvened at 11:12 a.m.

HYDROELECTRIC DAM SAFETY - FERC PART 12D PROCESS & SEISMIC HAZARDS ASSESSMENT

Peter Wade, Director of Power Services, and Roy Carlson, Chief Dam Safety Engineer, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Clarification of the reference to the word “otherwise” on Slide 4
- Confirmed inspection recommendations are typically confidential information for security purposes
- Inquired what the District might learn about the status of the dam at Rollins Reservoir from upcoming comprehensive assessment
- Frustration with layers of bureaucracy and appreciates staff’s ability to negotiate through the process
- Micro ponds
- Timing of inspections
- Estimate annual cost
- Security against terrorists
- Inquired if an analysis does not consider consequences of the failure
- Potential Failure Mode Analysis (PFMA)
- Ag lands lost from spillway failure at Oroville
- Clarified the number of PFMs carried forward
- Asset Management

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- Inquired if new Colgate issue is likely to result in new regulations
- Different failure modes and ways to project how a dam may fail
- Clarified 3-hour time shown on Slide 13 refers to evacuation time in the event of a dam failure
- Inquired if seismic hazards assessment results included only horizontal or also vertical
- Combie Dam work and timing
- Requested clarification of parapet walls and how they work
- Combie Reservoir
 - Alternatives and level of importance
 - Costs
 - Confirmed no liquefaction
 - Supplies water to both ag and treated water users
 - Inquired if Hydro pays a portion

Public Comment:

- Tyler Blagg, member of the public
 - Need all the storage we can get
 - Inquired about vulnerability and if the District has done any assessments on FERC licensing
 - Inquired if FERC could require removal of dams in the future, similar to what occurred in Potter Valley area

ROLLINS Reservoir Storage Update

Gabe Aronow, Director of Engineering, presented the item.

Board Discussion:

- Sediment traps and removal
- Do extraction areas flood in high water
- Source of sediment
- Target stabilization
- SMRA (Surface Mining Reclamation Act) and the SMRA plan in place for Hansen Bros. in this area
- Adding an "F" to the background on the staff report for a holistic approach to increase water
- Expressed appreciation for the storage update and excited about possibilities
- Confirmed bathymetric is underway

Public Comment: None

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Urban Water Management Plan update

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- Attended and spoke at the Placer County Farm Bureau meeting on April 8th – also in attendance was Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and Director Stephens
- Attended the Climate Resiliency event last week, along with Steve Prosser, Director of Maintenance, Gabe Aronow, Director of Engineering, and Director Johansen, and spoke about support needed for the Scotts Flat Spillway
- Visited Senator Dahle's office last week
- Will be speaking at the Community Forum on April 17th
- Water Rates webpage updates made

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

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

- Met with the Placer County Farm Bureau on April 7th
- Spoke about being a public official and interactions with the public while running a public business
- Requested a town hall meeting
- Requested the creation of a policy establishing guardrails on water rates
 - Apply any excess revenue to Scotts Flat to help drop water rates
 - Vote every year on any rate change
- Requested an update on future PG&E planned outages
- Mandarin and pumpkin update

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

- Climate Resilience Group potential
- Pleased with today's meeting items - Backbone extension and micro ponds
- Seeding rangeland and organic matter

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

- Encouraged to hear about the high school ranch progress with the District
- Nevada County Farm Bureau Ag Tour is on May 6th
- Glad for the discussion about storage
- Web page feedback
- Scotts Flat Cascade Shores boat ramp touched on already by Monica
- Proposed water rates conversations
- Bureaucracy
- Ranch is great and rain ahead is perfect

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

- He has been receiving a lot of calls about the proposed water rates

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:47 p.m. The Board is scheduled to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, April 22, 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