

# NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES

April 10, 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 10th day of April 2024, at 9 a.m.

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

Rich Johansen, President (Division V), was absent.

Staff members present included Jennifer Hanson, General Manager; Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager; Doug Roderick, Director of Engineering; Chip Close, Director of Water Operations; Keane Sommers, Director of Power Systems; 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: Vice President Heck called the meeting to order
- Vice President Heck led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: 4 Members Present / 1 Member Absent, as noted above

#### PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Al Bulf, a retired SMUD worker, U.S. Veteran, and longtime customer of NID, spoke of saving water and soil, water quality, loose & porous dams in the mountains, and water terraces.
- Matthew Coulter, member of the public, addressed the Board regarding losing access to NID ditches and NID's role in recreation, trails, and traffic, and concerns related to Wolf Creek and water waste.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

Vice President Heck pulled the following item from the Consent Agenda for discussion at the request of Director Hull:

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- Item 3D: District Policy 3080 – Procurement Revisions

Public Comment: None

**Director Hull motioned for approval of the Consent Agenda, excluding Item 3D. Director Caulder seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed on the following roll call vote:**

<b>Heck, Division 1</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Bierwagen, Division 2</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Hull, Division 3</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Caulder, Division 4</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Johansen, Division 5</b>	<b>Absent</b>

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2024

**M/S/C Hull/Caulder, approved as submitted.**

**Motion passed on the following roll call vote:**

<b>Heck, Division 1</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Bierwagen, Division 2</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Hull, Division 3</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Caulder, Division 4</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Johansen, Division 5</b>	<b>Absent</b>

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 27, 2024

**M/S/C Hull/Caulder, approved as submitted.**

**Motion passed on the following roll call vote:**

<b>Heck, Division 1</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Bierwagen, Division 2</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Hull, Division 3</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Caulder, Division 4</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Johansen, Division 5</b>	<b>Absent</b>

PURCHASE OF REPLACEMENT PICKUP TRUCKS

**Approved the purchase of four vehicles at a price not to exceed \$240,000.00 from Geweke Ford, located in Yuba City, California, and Hoblit Dodge, located in Woodland, California, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Hull/Caulder.**

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**Motion passed on the following roll call vote:**

<b>Heck, Division 1</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Bierwagen, Division 2</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Hull, Division 3</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Caulder, Division 4</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Johansen, Division 5</b>	<b>Absent</b>

**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 March 16th through March 29th, 2024. M/S/C Hull/Caulder.**

**Motion passed on the following roll call vote:**

<b>Heck, Division 1</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Bierwagen, Division 2</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Hull, Division 3</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Caulder, Division 4</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Johansen, Division 5</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Item pulled for discussion:

**DISTRICT POLICY 3080 - PROCUREMENT REVISIONS**

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Board discussion ensued regarding making minor edits to the language in sections 3080E, 3080.12, and 3080.13D of the proposed policy updates (shown below in the motion).

Public Comment: None

**Director Hull made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-11 - Approving Updates to District Policy 3080 – Procurement, amended as follows:**

- **3080.8 E 2<sup>nd</sup> to last sentence, add “and experience working with the District”**
- **3080.12, last paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence replace “or” other criteria with “and” other criteria**
- **3080.13 D, replace “or” other criteria with “and” other criteria**

**Director Caulder seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed on the following roll call vote:**

<b>Heck, Division 1</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Bierwagen, Division 2</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Hull, Division 3</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Caulder, Division 4</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Johansen, Division 5</b>	<b>Absent</b>

**GENERAL ORDERS**

**RESOLUTION & CONTRACT APPROVAL – IT/OT MASTER PLANNING**

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and John Ortiz, IT Administrator, presented the item.

Board discussion ensued:

- Long History with HDR
- Appreciate approach
- Critical investment for the District
- Financial system in place
- Original project cost
- Amount without additional options offered by HDR
- Importance of integrating staff into the system / overall plan
- Confirmed HDR does not sell software
- Discussed references and HDR's experience with other similar agencies
- Operational cost savings
- Looking at options in the future

Public Comment:

- Michael Taylor, member of the public:
  - Supports looking at add-ons later and going with the base contract at this time
  - Makes sense to look at references from other public works to better understand add-ons before choosing to add them

**Director Bierwagen made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2012-12 - Authorizing a Budget Amendment of \$105,000 for Consulting Services, amended as follows:**

- **Page 2, Item 2 – Strike “\$393,961.00” and replace with “\$231,707.00”**
- **Page 2, date passed and adopted, strike “March” and replace with “April”, and approve a contract in the amount of \$231,707 to HDR Engineering, Inc. for the development of the District’s Information Technology / Operational Technology Master Plan, and authorize the General Manager or designee to execute appropriate documents. Director Hull seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed on the following roll call vote:**

<b>Heck, Division 1</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Bierwagen, Division 2</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Hull, Division 3</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Caulder, Division 4</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Johansen, Division 5</b>	<b>Absent</b>

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## **WORKSHOP ITEMS**

### **ASSISTANT WATER SUPERINTENDENT JOB DESCRIPTION REVISION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL REGULATIONS**

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

Board input was received, and discussion ensued regarding requirements for certification, classification, and clarifying no change in full-time employees. The item will come back to the Board at a future meeting on the consent agenda for consideration of approval.

Public Comment: None

### **LOWER CASCADE CANAL & UPPER GRASS VALLEY CANAL TREE HEALTH CANOPY COVER, & POND MONITORING REPORT - YEAR 10 (PROJECT # 6593-2)**

Doug Roderick, Director of Engineering, introduced Meghan Oats, Botanist/Project Manager, with Stantec, who provided a presentation.

Director Caulder left the meeting at 10:42 a.m. and returned at 10:43 a.m.

Board discussion ensued:

- Study shows the environmental impact of NID canal water is not enhancing tree or pond health in any notable way
- Dirt canals - addressing all benefits
- Overlaying climate conditions
- Transferring study to other canals
- Tree mortality and storm damage

Public Comment:

- Michael Taylor, member of the public:
  - o Study of non-native species
  - o Transferring study to a high school or college classroom
- Matthew Coulter, member of the public:
  - o Complimented consultant on the study
  - o Requested looking outside of our encroachment area
  - o Commented on access
  - o Relationship with PG&E, me-mentality, and taking legal action against PG&E
- Shirley Osgood, member of the public:
  - o Inquired about ponds in her area
  - o Commented on spraying

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PG&E UPDATE – WORKSHOP

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item

Board Discussion ensued:

- Requested clarifying the status of the South Yuba Canal
- Clarification regarding alternative temporary repairs
- Clarified Rollins Projections – 1 Horn Option was based on average year and did not include voluntary conservation
- June 12<sup>th</sup> is PG&E's current projected return-to-service date
- Number of raw water customers served by Rollins and Scotts Flat
- Placer County Water Agency meeting – 1-2 pumps out of commission
- Looking ahead at 2025 at dry, medium, and wet scenarios
- Two options to consider in the event of any future mandatory conservation:
  - o Canal rotation
  - o Re-orifice boxes
- The ag community is expressing appreciation to the District for its flexibility
- Clarification was requested as to why the flows are currently so much higher in the Yuba River
- Environmental effects on the Bear River System and Deer Creek System
- PG&E accessibility
- Expressed appreciation to management for reaching out to elected officials and inquired about status with OES and FEMA

Public Comment:

- Josh Huntsinger, Placer County Agricultural Commissioner:
  - o Thanked the Board and management staff for communicating it well and keeping the ag community in Placer County well-informed
  - o Supported the approach of taking it day by day and keeping an eye on the situation
  
- Al Bulf, a retired SMUD worker, U.S. Veteran, and longtime customer of NID,
  - o San Juan Water District subsidized their customers with water-efficient toilets
  - o Geology – 350 miles of mining tunnels underneath us could be used as an emergency backup water source with technology like that used by the Navy to purify water for reactors
  - o Spoke about de-salting, technologies available, importance, and monetary impacts
  - o Nuclear energy
  
- Michael Taylor, member of the public:
  - o Asked how Lake of the Pines and Lake Wildwood will be affected
  - o Evaporation rates
  - o Inquired if abandoned canals that are not in use in the upper system could ever be put back into use in the future

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- Inviting PG&E representative to attend NID Board meetings
- Inquired at what point a state of emergency or disaster would be declared
  
- Aaron Zettler-Mann, Executive Director, South Yuba River Citizens League:
  - Clarified that the reservoir elevations will drop mainly at Rollins Reservoir, the Combie diversion facility will remain full, and instream flows will be met
  - Inquired about flows in the South Yuba, snow water equivalent, and anticipated length of elevated flows
  - Asked if there are any concerns about water temperatures and the rate at which reservoirs warm and algae blooms
  - Messaging opportunities
  
- Deb Totoonchie, with Nevada County Farm Bureau:
  - Expressed her appreciation to staff
  - Confirmed there should be no change to water pressure provided to the fire hydrant system
  
- Brad Fowler, member of the public and local rancher:
  - If mandatory conservation is considered, the ag community needs to know as soon as possible, as critical business decisions are being made
  - Please continue to explore other options for future water storage and resiliency
  
- Diana Gamzon, Executive Director, Nevada County Cannabis Alliance:
  - Expressed her appreciation to the Board and staff
  - Nevada County licensed cannabis industry represents approx.:
    - 160 small farms
    - Farmers producing ¼ acre or less of cannabis on average
    - Total canopy of licensed industry - 28 acres
    - The economic impact of 28 acres is approx. 1/3 value of all ag assets in Nevada County per the last crop report
  - Receiving many calls from their farmers on impacts and ways they can help support and plan
  - Concurs with Mr. Fowler in exploring options for future water storage and resiliency
  
- Shirley Osgood, member of the public:
  - Notifying treated water users
  - Inquired what mandatory conservation means for residential water users

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- Bruno Pitton, UC Cooperative Extension - Environmental Horticulture Advisor, UC Agriculture and Natural Resources:
  - o Offered to help however they can, including, Master Gardeners and drought workshops
  
- Matthew Coulter, member of the public:
  - o Relationship with PG&E
  - o Avoiding a “me” mentality
  - o Taking legal action against PG&E

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

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

- None

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS**

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

- Attended the Placer County Ag Commission meeting
- Attended the Placer County Farm Bureau meeting
- Storage in the lower division would have helped in this type of situation and is something to consider

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

- Attended the Placer County Farm Bureau Meeting

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

- Attended the Nevada County Agriculture Commission Meeting
- Attended the Nevada County Farm Bureau Meeting
- Spoke about the ag experience at the Nevada County Fair and NID's presence

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

- Raising awareness through social media and fielding many calls regarding the current situation

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION**

- None

MEETING ADJOURNED at 11:37 a.m. to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, April 26, 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