

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

November 8, 2023

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 of November 2023, at 9 a.m.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- None

CONSENT AGENDA

Public Comment: None

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 25, 2023

M/S/C Heck/Bierwagen, unanimously approved.

REPLACE MITEL VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VOIP) PHONE SYSTEM WITH RINGCENTRAL

Award a five-year contract with Ring Central for cloud-based VoIP phone services totaling \$164,280.00 and authorize the General Manager to execute the necessary documents. M/S/C Heck/Bierwagen, unanimously approved.

November 8, 2023

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 October 14, 2023 through October 27, 2023. M/S/C Heck/Bierwagen, unanimously approved.

GENERAL ORDERS

2024 ANNUAL BUDGET

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Technical issues occurred due to a power outage at 9:10 a.m., resulting in a brief break until 9:12 a.m.

Board discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Consultants vs. full-time employees
- Page numbering
- Staffing
- Robust discussion occurred regarding rates
- Revenue projections
- Appreciation expressed to staff for their work on the budget and for a timely audit
- Capital Budget and reserve policy
- Budgeting for emergencies
- Recreation and revenue projections
 - o Recreation fees
 - o Hydro transfers in
 - o Recreation item anticipated on December 13th Board agenda
 - o FERC requirements for recreation
- South Sutter work/support services
- Current intention of Hydroelectric revenues to subsidize water rates
- Formula error on Slide 11
- Bonds
- Cal Pers Trust, unfunded liability, and OPEB
- Non-op labor and engineering staffing
- Salary adjustments reflected in the draft budget
- Reserves, rate setting, and drought contingency

The meeting recessed at 10:22 a.m. and reconvened at 10:27 a.m.

Board discussion continued regarding the following:

- Re-budgeting annually for multi-year projects
- Hemphill extension status
- District Financed Waterline Extensions out to bid
- Termination dates of debts/bonds
- U.S. Forest Service expense budgeted to operate recreation for the District's upper division

November 8, 2023

- Accrued leave and accrued leave reserves
- Reserves and stated reserves by policy
- FERC license fees and FERC reserves
- Capital Projects and priorities
- Grants and Watershed projects
- South Yuba Canal – Risk assessment and methodology
- OPEB presentation item scheduled for December 13th
- Rate Process update, including a schedule
- Upcoming Recreation financial overview Board item to include clarification of the need for subsidizing
- Bringing back an item related to assessment districts
- Correction to Attachment D removing “Interfund Transfer Schedule”
- Budget Books
- Posting the CIP as a stand-alone document on the website and historical CIP over time

Public Comment: None

Director Johansen made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2023-49 - Adopting the 2024 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan, as recommended by Staff. Director Heck seconded the motion.

Motion passed on the following roll call vote:

Heck, Division 1	Aye
Bierwagen, Division 2	Aye
Hull, Division 3	Aye
Caulder, Division 4	No
Johansen, Division 5	Aye

BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION PLAN - WAGES, HOURS, AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item.

Board discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Benefits and Insurance increases
- Expressed appreciation to staff

Public Comment: None

Adopted Resolution No. 2023-50 - Ratifying the 2024 – 2026 Benefit and Compensation Plan and Authorizing Changes in Wages, Hours, and Terms and Conditions of Employment for Unrepresented Employees, and authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents. M/S/C Bierwagen/Heck unanimously approved.

November 8, 2023

WORKSHOP ITEMS

DISTRICT POLICY 11140 - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE WRITE-OFF WORKSHOP

Sandra Dunlap, Director of Finance, presented the item.

Board input and discussion ensued regarding the following:

- Reminded those attending remotely that they could access workshop materials on the District website
- Funds from State and Covid non-payments
- Types of circumstances that may result in higher amounts due
- Compared levels to the District's Claims Policy
- Discussed adding collection agency procedure language
- Customer Service complimented for trying to work with customers needing help

Public Comment: None

The item will be brought to the Board at a future meeting as a Consent item for consideration of approval.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- South Yuba Canal Purchase
 - o Recorded at 11 a.m. on Nov. 13th
 - o Congratulated Keane Sommers, Director of Power Systems, for his work on the purchase
 - o Future Board item to discuss next steps
 - o Conservation easements
 - o Stewardship fund
 - o Messaging
- Congratulated Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and Neysa King, Environmental Resources Administrator, on recent notification regarding the likely approval of a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy
- Enhancing Onboarding and Training & Leadership Academy kicking off next week, as a result of recent Employee Surveys

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

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

- Attended Placer County Farm Bureau event and shared highlights regarding PRCD (Placer Resource Conservation District) soil amendment programs

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

- Spoke with a constituent impacted by the North Day Road Pipeline Replacement Project, who expressed his appreciation of NID staff for their assistance and consideration, notably Cameron Price, Maintenance Superintendent
- Attending the Nevada County Farm Bureau dinner on November 11th

November 8, 2023

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

- Spent a great deal of time working on career business the past few weeks
- Attending the Nevada County Farm Bureau dinner on November 11th

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

- Presented at an Alta Sierra Townhall meeting with Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, and shared highlights
- Tank rebates and community fire hydrants
- Smart meters

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

- Presented at the Placer Earthcare Action meeting
- Attended Placer County Farm Bureau meeting, and Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, provided a presentation on the overview of voluntary agreements and Plan for Water
- Election of NID Board officers to occur at December 13th Board meeting
- Update regarding General Manager Performance Evaluation form development

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED SESSION

- None

The meeting recessed at 11:34 a.m. and reconvened in Closed Session at 11:40 a.m.

Closed Session Conference with Legal Counsel was declared at 11:40 a.m. concerning existing litigation, pursuant to Government Code § 54956.9(d)(1). Bay-Delta Proceedings, including the Delta Conveyance Project, the associated environmental document and change petition before the State Water Resources Control Board, and the planned update to the Bay-Delta Water Quality Control Plan.

Board Action: None

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:10 p.m. to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 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