

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the
TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT
 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes
March 14, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, in the counties of Churchill and Lyon, State of Nevada, met in regular session at the office of the District, 2666 Harrigan Road, Fallon, Nevada, on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023** at 9:00 a.m.

The following Directors were present constituting a quorum:

Present:	Eric Olsen	President
	David Stix Jr.	Vice-President
	Robert Oakden	Secretary
	Lester deBraga	Treasurer
	Joseph Gomes	Director
	Abrahm Schank	Director
	Wade Workman	Director

Others Present:	Benjamin Shawcroft	General Manager
	Helen-Marie Morrow	Finance Manager
	Cody Biggs	Construction/Maintenance Manager
	Kelly Herwick	District Water Master
	Mark Solinski	Hydroelectric Facilities Manager
	Ariel Tomb	Assistant Secretary to the Board

Teleconference/Zoom Guests	Representing
Chris Smallcomb	National Weather Service
Tim Bardsley	National Weather Service
Mike Zahradka	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Isaac Metcalf	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Robert Owen	Bureau of Reclamation
Jason Villareal	Bureau of Reclamation
Leanna Hale	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
Rachel Dahl	The Fallon Post
Scott Swan	US Navy

In-Person Guests	Representing
Deborah Sherman	Self
Jack Worsley	Bureau of Reclamation
Robert Martinez	Bureau of Reclamation
Laurie Nicholas	Bureau of Reclamation
Jim Barbee	Churchill County
Gary Fowkes	Churchill County
Don Snodgrass	Greenhead Hunting Club
Caleb Cage	Churchill County
Mike Heidemann	Churchill County

Steve Endacott	Churchill County
Cathy Tuni	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
Bethany Chagnon	United States Fish & Wildlife Service

The following agenda items are not necessarily in the order they were heard or decided but in the order as appearing on the agenda.

1. **Call to Order**
President Olsen called the meeting to order in accordance with NRS 241 at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Solinski.
3. **Approval of the Agenda**
A motion was made by Secretary Oakden to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.
4. **General Public Comment**
There was no public comment.
5. **Recognition of Service for Deborah Sherman**
Recognition of Service for Deborah Sherman, Easement Maintenance Lead, who has retired from the District after 29 years.

General Manager Shawcroft thanked Deb for her many years of service and presented her with a gift from the District. Cody Biggs also thanked Deb and commented that she made his job a lot easier and he wished her the best. Deb thanked both gentlemen and stated that she had a lot of fun working for the District and now she is enjoying her retirement.

6. **NOAA / National Weather Service (NWS)**
Chris Smallcomb and Tim Bardsley gave a presentation on the weather forecast.
7. **Bureau of Reclamation – Lahontan Basin Area Office (LBAO) Representative(s) – General Updates**
Jack Worsley, LBAO Area Manager, reported that due to high flows entering the Truckee Canal from the mountain runoff, the decision was made to breach the construction project to allow the water to flow. The contractor has salvaged as much material as possible and will start again once the canal has dried up a bit. There was an aerial snow observation (ASO) flight on March 1st to determine snow pack on the mountains; they are trying to get another flight scheduled to capture data from the storms had since the first flight. Flood operations in the Carson Division began on the March 6th.
8. **TCID Flood Operations**
Staff will update the Board on ongoing flood operations. The Board has the discretion under this item to direct staff to take certain action, make certain expenditures, and take

any other steps necessary to respond to the ongoing emergency in an expeditious manner.

Cody reported he met with NDOW to determine the best pathway to direct water through the Carson Lake Pasture (CLP or Pasture) to the Big Dig; he has excavation crews working in the Pasture breaching dikes and trying to direct the water to the Big Dig. The Carson River is full; yesterday it was at 1,000 a.f. Currently there are no plans to cut the bridge at Bafford Lane; discussion was had regarding increasing the size of the pipes running under Highway 95 to increase flow capacity.

Kelly reported his ditchriders are running 24/7 high water monitoring. So far the numbers are going down a bit; Bafford is down to approximately 850 a.f. Rattlesnake S-Line Reservoir is currently filling and will be pushed along to Ole's Pond.

Mark reported that all three hydro plants are in good shape; the New Plant is running 3,250 kw and 26'Drop is running 1,050 kw. The flashboards need some minor repair and concrete sealing.

President Olsen thanked all three managers for their excellent work.

Ben introduced Caleb Cage from Central Nevada Health District, he has been working with Churchill County for about eight (8) months and has been brought on board as the Incident Commander for this emergency flooding operation. He was previously the State Emergency Manager for about four (4) years.

Ben commented that the District began accepting spread water orders yesterday, March 13th. There have been some issues with the public driving out to 26' Drop and the VW Weir; he understands the public is interested in seeing these areas but there have been several instances of vehicles becoming stuck and it creates a personal, as well as an operational, hazard should staff need to reach these areas quickly. The District is asking the public to refrain from traveling out to these areas.

9. Miscellaneous Correspondence

There was no correspondence to review for the month of February 2023.

10. General Manager and Staff Reports

- **Ben Shawcroft, General Manager**
See Item # 8.
- **Cody Biggs, Construction & Maintenance Manager**
See Item # 8.
- **Kelly Herwick, District Water Master**
Kelly Herwick, District Water Master, reported on current conditions in the Carson Division. See the attached report.
- **Mike Adams, Systems & Technologies Manager**
Not present to report.

- **Mark Solinski, Hydroelectric Facilities Manager**
See Item # 8.

11. City of Fernley – General Updates

There was no representative present to report.

12. United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) – General Updates

Bethany Chagnon, Deputy Refuge Manager, informed the Board that she has been in communication with Kelly. They have crews out cleaning the Refuge to prepare for water deliveries. There are many Fish & Wildlife grounds that are not water righted that could receive water, Bethany reported they are getting those prepped for delivery as well.

13. Fallon-Paiute Shoshone Tribe (FPST) – General Updates

Leanna Hale, Land & Water Resource Director, reported that the S-Line Reservoir started filling this week; and the North Pasture by the Wetlands is able to accept water if needed. Willie Brown has retired from the Land & Water Resources Department; Willie Steve and Rodney Austin should be the primary contacts for Tribal deliveries.

14. Naval Air Station Fallon (NASF) – General Updates

There was a representative present but no report.

15. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – General Updates

Albert Mulder reported that there are many designs in process for concrete ditches. There is lots of funding available for cover crops. The State Conservationist will be doing a presentation at the next Board meeting.

16. Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) – General Updates

Jake Ward, Wildlife Technician, reported that water began flowing into the Carson Lake Pasture under Highway 95 on Friday, March 10th. He has been working to prepare the area to receive more water. Jake thanked Cody for his help getting the area cleaned.

17. Annual Health Care Agreement with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (March 2023 – February 2024)

Deliberation and decision relating to approval of the annual health care agreement with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (March 2023 - February 2024) for all eligible District employees and Directors.

Helen-Marie Morrow reported that Anthem's original proposal was a 26% increase, they negotiated it down to 14%. That translated to approximately \$115,000, Treasurer deBraga commented that the amount is within the budget.

A motion was made by Vice-President Stix to approve the Annual Healthcare Agreement, seconded by Treasurer deBraga, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

18. Determination of 2023 Water Supply and Approval of 2023 Water Delivery Rules

Deliberation and decision relating to determination of the available water supply or allocation for the Newlands Federal Reclamation Project, Nevada, for water season 2023 and approval of water delivery rules, including, without limitation, setting of the water season start date, end date, dates upon which to commence water ordering and scheduling, and setting of dates, times, places, and format for the 2023 water user annual meeting(s), and setting of any limitations of use or uses imposed upon Newlands Project facilities, such as the Truckee Canal -as a result of improvements to be made thereto commencing in October of 2022, or at other times and places, during the 2023 water season.

Kelly Herwick recommended a 100% allocation for the Carson Division. As the Truckee Canal is shut down for maintenance, the allocation for the Truckee Division will need to be set at 0%.

A motion was made by Vice-President Stix set the allocation for the Carson Division at 100% and the Truckee Division at 50%, the motion failed for lack of a second.

Vice-President Stix defended his motion that a 50% allocation could be set for the Truckee Division and run deliveries after the construction has finished. President Olsen commented that the Board can always set an allocation later in the year when more information will be available.

A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to set the Carson Division allocation at 100% and begin taking orders March 14th, and to leave the Truckee Division allocation open ended, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

An amendment to the motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to waive the \$1.00 per acre foot charge for Non-Water Righted Spread Water deliveries, seconded by Vice-President Stix, request for comment and the amendment to the motion was unanimously approved.

19. Policy of Insurance for the District's New Lahontan Power Plant

Deliberation and decision relating to approval/denial of a policy of insurance coverage for the District's New Lahontan Power Plant located at Lahontan Dam in Churchill County, Nevada, by ACE American. Approval of a policy, including cost, policy limits, exclusions, business interruption coverage, and/or other conditions, will also include, and be made subject to, a determination of a replacement value and/or anticipated construction costs for a power plant facility by reference to the Handy Whitman Index, the facility's original cost of construction, and/or other factors.

Helen-Marie Morrow reported that an increase in the insurance premium was expected, as such an increase of \$15,000.00 was budgeted for; the actual amount of the increase was \$19,000.00. Treasurer deBraga commented that the District is gradually increasing the amount of coverage for the Plant in order to be able to cover any catastrophic damage that may occur.

A motion was made by Vice-President Stix to approve the Policy of Insurance for New Lahontan, seconded by Treasurer deBraga, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

20. Approval of Engagement Letter with HintonBurdick to Conduct Financial Review Services for the District as Required by the OM&R Contract with the Bureau of Reclamation

Deliberation and decision relating to approval/denial of an Engagement Letter with HintonBurdick to conduct financial review services for the District. Such review is required annually under O&M Contract 7-07-20-X0348-X between the District and the United States Bureau of Reclamation.

General Manager Shawcroft gave an overview of the Contractual requirement of annual financial reviews. The District received a couple proposals, this is the best quote received. The County uses HintonBurdick for their financial reviews as well, and it covers acceptable practice for government standards. This agreement does not include a 5 year audit, which will be a separate proposal.

A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the Engagement Letter with HintonBurdick, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

21. Consent Agenda

- Approval of Director's compensation for the month of February as provided for by NRS 539.080.
- Approval of Board Meeting minutes of February 7, 2023.

A motion was made by Director Gomes to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Secretary Oakden, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

22. Committee Reports

- **Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Committee**
Vice-President Stix reported that the Committee reviewed an application for a new takeout but denied the application due to there being no significant increase in efficiency.

Approval of the O&M Committee Minutes of December 15, 2022

Deliberation and decision relating to approval of the December 15, 2022 meeting minutes. Approval was not able to be made at the February 16, 2023 meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

It was determined to approve the minutes at the next O&M Committee meeting.

- **Carson Lake Pasture (CLP) Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Deliberation and decision relating to approval/denial of recommendations made as a result of the February 27 and March 14, 2023 meetings of the Carson Lake Pasture Committee. Recommendations made by the Committee are subject to the final approval of the Board of Directors and include terms and conditions of Pasture grazing and use, contractual covenants, conditions, and terms to be imposed by the State of Nevada upon transfer of the Carson Lake Pasture from ownership of the United States, application processes relating to issuance of grazing permits, the amount of fees to be imposed, the number of grazers to be permitted, the total number of animal units to be allowed, the beginning and end times for grazing, authorized entry and facility locking, and any collateral considerations, or limitations, that may impact grazing practice –such as hunting on State Lands.

Treasurer deBraga reported that a meeting has been scheduled for March 29th to determine Pasture recommendations based on changing conditions resulting from flood operations.

- **Employee Relations Committee**
Secretary Oakden reported the Committee had a meeting with the Employee Association.
- **Finance Committee**
Treasurer deBraga (Finance Committee Chairman) reported that the Finance Committee met on March 13, 2023.

A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the Treasurer's report and Finance Committee recommendation to approve check numbers 43132 through 43200, the transfer of \$230,939.50 to pay bills, online, phone and automatic payments, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

- **Negotiations Committee**
There was no meeting held for the month of February 2023.
- **Policy Committee**
There was no meeting held for the month of February 2023.
- **Public Relations Committee**
There was no meeting held for the month of February 2023.
- **Revenue/IT Committee**
There was no meeting held for the month of February 2023.
- **Truckee Canal Safety Commission**
There was no meeting held for the month of February 2023.

23. Additional Public Comment
No additional public comment.

24. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Board President at 10:37 a.m.



Eric Olsen - President

4-4-23

Date



Robert Oakden - Secretary

4-4-23

Date





Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

Newlands Project

3/14/2023

Board Meeting

CURRENT CONDITIONS:

- **Truckee Div.**
 - TC Canal is off
- **Carson Div.**
 - Carson River @ Ft. Churchill gauge: **3450**cfs
 - Lahontan Storage: **141,494** a.f. (Feb 7, 2023 @ 110,542)
 - Release below Lahontan: **2230** cfs
 - Total Inflows: **3450**cfs/ approx. 6,831 a.f. at 24hrs

FORECASTING:

Snow Water Equivalent percent NRCS as of March 12th, 2023: Carson @ 253% of median

- SNOTEL sites in the Carson Region
 - Horse Meadows @ **256**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 251% of median
 - Burnside Lake @ **234**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 202% of median
 - Forestdale Creek @ **224**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 206% of median
 - Spratt Creek @ **964**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 458
 - Ebbetts Pass @ **216**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 199% of median
 - Poison Flat @ **333**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 318% of median
 - Monitor Pass @ **347**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 325% of median
- Truckee @ **197**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 178% of median
- Lake Tahoe @ **210**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 187% of median
- Walker @ **268**%; previous Feb. 7th @ 244% of median

USDA NRCS National Water & Climate Center as of Mar.3

- Carson R @ Ft. Churchill
 - MAR-JUL: min-404kaf
70%-474kaf
50%-521kaf
30%-570kaf
Max-638kaf
 - APR-JUL: min-350kaf
70%-410kaf
50%-450kaf
30%-490kaf
Max-570kaf

DISTRICT STATUS: 2200cfs outflow: 630cfs Div. Rv Gates/ 1600cfs V-line/ 900cfs weir

- Estimated 1090cfs to Carson lake pasture between weir & Sheckler inlet
- 3/13 Mon am; measured approximately 1024cfs Bafford
- We have scheduled employees to complete the "Highflow checklist & monitoring"; 24/7
- Taking spread orders in the office to help with Flood mitigation.
- T-line will be flushing starting 3/15 Wed am

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Eric Olsen, President
David Stix, Jr., Vice-President
Bob Oakden, Secretary
Lester deBraga, Director/Treasurer
Abraham Schank, Director
Joseph Gomes, Director
Wade Workman, Director
Rusty D. Jardine, Esq., District Manager &
General Counsel