

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the  
**TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes  
**March 12, 2024**

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 12, 2024** 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 (arrived 9:16)
	Abrahm Schank	Director
	Joseph Gomes	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
	Michael Adams	Systems & Technologies Manager
	Ariel Tomb	Assistant Secretary to the Board

<b>Teleconference/Zoom Guests</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Dan Lahde	Bureau of Reclamation
Bethany Chagnon	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Leanna Lehman	The Fallon Post
Isaac Metcalf	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Robert Owen	Bureau of Reclamation

<b>In-Person Guests</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Albert Mulder	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Don Snodgrass	Greenhead Hunting Club
Neal McIntyre	City of Fernley
Jacob Ward	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Jack Worsley	Bureau of Reclamation
Valerie Roberds	Self
Robert Martinez	Bureau of Reclamation
Cathi Tuni	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
Rachel Enox	District
Jay Kearney	District

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 Director Schank.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

General Manager Shawcroft informed the Board that Item # 16 will need to be postponed as further information regarding insurance rates is still pending.

**A motion was made by Director Gomes to adopt the agenda as amended, seconded by Vice-President Stix, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

4. **General Public Comment**

Valerie Roberds addressed the Board with a question regarding whether the Truckee Division would have their allocations reduced this year as a result of no irrigation last season. She was informed they would not. She also informed the Board of an issue in their subdivision regarding one person who pumps over his allocation and therefore the rest of the subdivision has less water to use. Michael Adams, Systems & Technology Manager, asked to meet with Valerie following the meeting to discuss possible remedies to her situation.

5. **Recognition of Service for Michael Adams**

General Manager Shawcroft thanked Adams for his 25 years of dedicated service to the District and presented a gift. Adams thanked Shawcroft and the Board and commented that the work he does would not be possible without the support of his team, and he thanked them.

6. **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

General Manager Shawcroft presented a thank you card from Eli Curtis. He also presented an offer letter to display a billboard on District property; the Board directed Shawcroft to bring the letter to the Finance Committee for discussion.

7. **General Manager and Staff Reports**

• **Ben Shawcroft, General Manager**

Shawcroft reported that Solinski and he expended a good deal of effort to get the grant application for the Lahontan Tower submitted on time. He received word this morning that the deadline has been extended to November 2024. He has been invited to present at the NV Subcommittee on Public Lands.

• **Cody Biggs, Construction & Maintenance Manager**

Biggs reported that Falcon Technologies is working on the Dog Kennel Seep, there are some District employees on site assisting.

- **Kelly Herwick, District Water Master**  
Herwick reported on current conditions. See attached report. All signs point to a 100% season. Spread water is unlikely this year but not impossible. He has ditchriders working on cleaning and burning in the Truckee Division.
- **Mike Adams, Systems & Technologies Manager**  
Adams left the meeting after Item #5 and was not present to report.
- **Mark Solinski, Hydroelectric Facilities Manager**  
Solinski reported he has test fired Old and New Lahontan Power Stations, everything is ready to go. Cody Aquistapace moved to Hydro from Maintenance.

8. **City of Fernley – General Updates**

Neal McIntyre, Mayor – City of Fernley, was present but had no report.

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

Bethany Chagnon, Deputy Refuge Manager – Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, reported that there will be many road projects on the Refuge this year. There is good habitat and lots of water.

10. **Bureau of Reclamation – Lahontan Basin Area Office (LBAO) Representative(s) – General Updates**

Dan Lahde presented a weather report. See the attached slideshow.

Jack Worsley, Area Manager, reported Reclamation is concerned about encroachment on federal easements by developers and there are ongoing meetings on this issue. There are meetings scheduled with USGS, the State Engineer and Congressman Amodei's office regarding ground water impacts. OCAP is scheduled for a revision. The new gates at the Fernley Check are being installed and checked. They are installing a new gage below the Fish Screen, new automation at Derby Dam, and a new meter for a seepage study. There was a land transfer in 2023 and the County is transferring land this year. The Bureau is setting up meetings with them to establish rights-of-way on the deeds. The contractor for the Truckee Canal Safety Project should be finished in a few weeks. The Bureau and the District will need to meet and discuss substantial completion dates. Settlement talks between the Bureau and City of Fernley have failed. The Bureau and the District need to meet with FEMA and have a discussion regarding the updates that FEMA is requesting.

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

Cathi Tuni, Chairwoman, was present but had no report.

12. **Naval Air Station Fallon (NASF) – General Updates**

There was no representative present to report.

13. **Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – General Updates**

Albert Mulder, District Conservationist, reported that he has two million dollars in irrigation practices, applications are available for 2025.

14. **Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) – General Updates**

Jacob Ward, Wildlife Technician, reported that NDOW is investigating funding for weed control, repairing damage to roads, fencing, and is in contact with NRCS to discuss a grazing plan for the Pasture. Botulism will be a concern this year and water will be called on to flush the system.

15. **Determination of 2024 Water Supply and Approval of 2024 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 2024 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 2024 water user annual meeting(s), and setting of any limitations of use or uses imposed upon Newlands Project facilities during the 2024 water season.*

General Manager Shawcroft reported that based on current weather reports staff is recommending a 100% allocation for both divisions and water orders can be taken starting immediately.

**A motion was made by Director Schank to set the 2024 season allocation at 100% for both the Carson and Truckee Divisions and to begin accepting water orders immediately and deliveries will begin once demand is sufficient, seconded by Vice-President Stix, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the 2024 Water Delivery Rules, seconded by Director Schank, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

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

*This item was postponed.*

17. **Appoint Inspectors and Clerks for Biennial Board Election**

*Deliberation and decision relating to appointment of inspectors and clerks for the 2024 Director Election, Divisions 1, 3 and 4.*

General Manager Shawcroft read the Board the list of inspectors and clerks who have consented to serve for the 2024 election.

**A motion was made by Secretary Oakden to appoint the Inspectors and Clerks as presented, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

18. **LO-2022-1017 - Lahontan Dam Tower Lower Gates Replacement – Contract No. 24-LC-20-3265**

*Deliberation and decision relating to the approval/denial of a Letter of Agreement between Reclamation and the District providing for reimbursement of all costs incurred by Reclamation resulting from the District's request to replace the Lahontan Dam tower's*

*six lower slide gates and their associated equipment including gate guides, stems, and trash racks. The District shall be responsible for financing all actual Reclamation costs incurred pursuant to this Agreement. Reclamation is requesting an advance deposit in the amount of \$10,000.00.*

General Manager Shawcroft provided the Board an overview of the Assistance Agreement for the Lahontan Dam Tower Lower Gates Replacement.

**A motion was made by Director Gomes to approve the Assistance Agreement (Contract No. 24-LC-20-3265) as well as an advance deposit of \$10,000.00, seconded by Secretary Oakden, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

#### **18-19. 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 6, 2024.
- Approval of Special Board Meeting minutes of February 16, 2024.

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

#### **19-20. Committee Reports**

- **Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Committee**  
There was no meeting for the month of February 2024.
- **Carson Lake Pasture (CLP) Advisory Committee Recommendations**  
*Deliberation and decision relating to approval/denial of recommendations made as a result of the March 7, 2024 meeting 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 the Committee voted to recommend a 50% allocation of 841 head with a Pasture opening date of April 15<sup>th</sup>, with the Pasture Manager having the discretion to modify that date based on conditions. (Note: the number was later recalculated to 792 head to account for an entry error.)

**A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the Carson Lake Pasture Advisory Committee recommendations, seconded by Director Workman, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

- **Employee Relations Committee**

There was no meeting held for the month of February 2024. Secretary Oakden reported that a meeting is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>.

- **Finance Committee**

Treasurer deBraga (Finance Committee Chairman) reported that the Finance Committee met on March 11, 2024.

**A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the Treasurer's report and Finance Committee recommendation to approve check numbers 43983 through 44052, the transfer of \$413,454.41 to pay bills as well as automatic, online and phone payments, seconded by Director Workman, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

- **Policy Committee**

There was no meeting held for the month of February 2024.

**20-21. Additional Public Comment**

Secretary Oakden informed the Board of Skip and Joann Cann's passing and services.

Jack Worsley, Area Manager, asked Water Master Herwick if he anticipated a big demand this early in the year. Herwick answered no but he does anticipate some orders to water fall plantings.

**21-22. Adjournment**

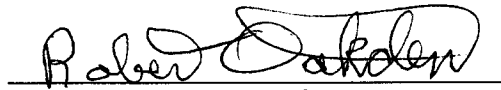
The meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Board President at 10:34 a.m.



Eric Olsen - Board President

4-2-24

Date



Robert Oakden - Secretary

4/2/24

Date