

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

April 19, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Nevada Irrigation District convened in special session at the District's main office located at 1036 W. Main Street, Grass Valley, on the 19th day of April 2022, at 3 p.m.

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

Staff members present included Jennifer Hanson, General Manager; Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager; Doug Roderick, Engineering Manager; Chip Close, Water Operations Manager; Keane Sommers, Hydroelectric Manager; Steve Prosser, Maintenance Manager; 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: 5 Members Present

Items tabled to be presented and discussed at a future meeting:

- Item 2B - NID Off Season Water Services
- Item 2E - Plan for Water Workshop, Stage 3 - Watershed

NID CUSTOMER FINANCING OPTIONS

Chip Close, Water Operations Manager, presented the item.

Public Comment:

- Greg Freitas, a resident of Maranatha Place, expressed concerns over the lack of financing options for people that may not be able to secure financing, urging the Board to provide program financing for applicants in the queue

Board discussion ensued regarding the history of the DFWLE (District Financed Waterline Extension Program), the real need for waterline extensions, current applicants, program financing, including legal concerns of providing financing at below-market interest rates, and term payments. General Board consensus was reached directing staff to bring the following items to the Board at future meetings separately:

- Proposed revisions to the Rules & Regulations Section 6.12 – Term Payments
- DFWLE Program Workshop, including program financing and considering project applications in the queue

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The meeting recessed at 3:55 p.m. and reconvened at 4:00 p.m.

PLAN FOR WATER MATRIX AND PROCESS CHECK-IN

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, opened the workshop and provided a brief review of the Plan for Water matrix.

Public Comment:

- None

PRESENTATION FROM TRIBAL MEMBERS FROM THE LIZZIE ENOS NISENAN FAMILY FOUNDATION AND THE UNITED AUBURN INDIAN COMMUNITY (UAIC) PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item.

Tribal members present with the Lizzie Enos Nisenan Family Foundation included Brian Wallace, Wanda Rose Enos Batchelor, and Anne Wallace. The United Auburn Indian Community Preservation Department was represented by Rebecca Allen, Preservation Department Director; Matthew Moore, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer; and Cheryllyn Ashmead, Cultural Regulatory Specialist.

The presentation entitled “Nisenan Watersheds and Cultural-Biological Restoration” focused on the following:

- Nisenan & NID Collaboration
- Returning Nisenan Hands to Nisenan Lands
 - Nisenan Science
 - Functioning and Holistic Watersheds
- Nisenan Landscapes
 - Cultural Sensitivity
 - Watersheds
 - Historic Significance
- Can You Hear the Rivers Sing? - Living Ancestral Beings

The presentation also included:

- A “Declaration on the Cultural and Biological Rights of Kum Mim Sew’ and Nisenan Homelands” and an expressed goal that it be adopted in whole or in part and serve as a starting point for future collaboration
- The following recommended guiding principles for the NID Plan for Water from the presenting Tribal groups:
 1. Honor and help future generations
 2. Protect biodiversity, every culture, all species
 3. Ensure that all actions have an environmental benefit
 4. Explore and feel relationships and alliances with nature and each other
 5. Take action in your community

The meeting recessed at 5:23 p.m. and reconvened at 5:30 p.m.

Public Comment:

- Keiko Mertz, Policy Manager with South Yuba River Citizens League, thanked the District for extending the Watershed Stage to two meetings
- Jeff Litton, member of the public:
 - o Requested clarification on which Nisenan groups were being represented
 - o Inquired if the Lizzie Enos Nisenan Foundation is affiliated with the United Auburn Indian Community
 - o Provided comment that in March 2017, past NID General Manager Rem Scherzinger told Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan and Colfax Todds Valley Nisenan that they would need to join the United Auburn Indian Community (because they are a recognized tribe) to collaborate with NID regarding Centennial Dam, and inquired how that relates today
 - o Asked if time will also be given to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan and Colfax Todds Valley Nisenan to present and if they were invited to participate
 - o Expressed his appreciation for the presentation
 - o Asked if it would be possible for NID to give an indigenous land acknowledgment at the beginning of future public meetings
 - o Commented in support of NID's adoption of some of the presented Tribal writings into NID's missions and practices
- Anonymous Attendee, inquired about the difference between the "Nisenan Watershed" and "source watershed" in the Plan for Water
- Tanner Stokes, member of the public, inquired about who will have access to the recording of this meeting
- Dianna Suarez, resident of Colfax, asked if there was salmon in the Bear River
- Stewart Feldman, member of the public:
 - o Inquired about records or legends of anadromous fish (salmon/steelhead) in the region, and if so, which watershed and where to find this information
 - o Asked if there's time to receive all presentations scheduled for this meeting
 - o Expressed his appreciation for the presentation
- Mikos Fabersunne, member of the public:
 - o Requested clarification of the names of the participating Tribal members
 - o Expressed his appreciation for a terrific presentation
 - o Thanked the Nisenan people and called it a "historical moment"
- Anonymous Attendee:
 - o Asked what unratified lands were promised to the Nisenan and if the Bear River had a salmon run to those lands
 - o Inquired if salmon runs to the lands were promised to the Nisenan

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- Molly Nakahara, with Sierra Harvest:
 - o Commented about the existence of common ground between farmers and ranchers in the watershed and the restoration of healthy exposure pathways presented
 - o Asked how farmers and ranchers who rely on irrigation supplied by NID support our Nisenan neighbors
 - o Expressed her appreciation for the presentation

- Anonymous Attendee(s):
 - o Commented on the NID governing Board towards forming the framework for the next 50-years of watershed planning (Plan for Water) in context to the Gold Miner's versus Nisenan legacy
 - o Thanked the presenters for sharing and for their time and thanked NID for taking into consideration the message provided
 - o Commented on rethinking our relationship with the land and with the water
 - o Stated those who have cultural ties to the local lands and water can provide us valuable guidance on how to begin in a good way

- James Haufler, member of the public:
 - o Commented that the Bear River historically supported a cold water fishery with brown, white rainbow trout and salmon thrived in the lower reaches of the river and are now submerged under New Camp Far West Reservoir, blocked from further migration upstream

- Josie Crawford, member of the public, requested that the Declaration in the presentation materials be posted

- Jonathan Keehn, with Wolf Creek Alliance, expressed his thanks for the presentation and requested the conversation continue

- Brooklyn, member of the public, thanked her Tribal Family "for speaking for all of us" and thanked NID for the opportunity

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:53 p.m., to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, 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