

NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

March 9, 2022

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 9th day of March 2022, at 9 a.m.

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

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; Monica Reyes, Recreation Manager; Naomi Schmitt, Interim Human Resources Manager; Dustin Cooper, District Counsel; 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

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Michael Hill-Weld, commended Director Heck for setting the bar on ethical behavior relating to a potential conflict of interest when she recused herself from participating in the Idaho-Maryland Mine SB610 Water Supply Assessment item

**CONSENT AGENDA**

President Bierwagen pulled the following items from the Consent Agenda for discussion at the request of Director Peters:

- Item 1: Minutes of the regular meeting on February 23, 2022
- Item 2: AB 361 Compliance – Brown Act/Covid-19 Teleconference and Remote Meeting Requirements
- Item 3: Quitclaim – Lincoln Meadows Subdivision (Project #2429)
- Item 4: Warrants, Projects and Facilities Report, and Investment Report

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Items pulled from the Consent Agenda for Discussion:

MINUTES – February 23, 2022, Regular Meeting

Board discussion ensued regarding documenting the Board's unified voice and collective main points raised in making final decisions in the District's summary minutes.

Public Comment: None

**Approved the Minutes of the regular meeting on February 23, 2022, as submitted. M/S/C Peters/Johansen, unanimously approved.**

AB 361 COMPLIANCE – BROWN ACT/COVID-19 TELECONFERENCE AND REMOTE MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Board discussion ensued regarding plans to open the Boardroom to the public for future regular Board meetings beginning March 23<sup>rd</sup> and clarifying Government Code section 54953(e), as referenced on Page two of the resolution.

Public Comment: None

**Adopted Resolution 2022-11 (Re-Authorizing Remote Meetings Consistent with AB 361). M/S/C Peters/Johansen, unanimously approved.**

QUITCLAIM – LINCOLN MEADOWS SUBDIVISION (PROJECT #2429)

Doug Roderick, Engineering Manager, presented the item and clarified inquiries regarding the map, pipe, spill going into the storm drain.

Public Comment: None

**Approve the quitclaim deed for easement of a portion of the Lincoln Canal and authorize the General Manager to sign the quitclaim deed. M/S/C Peters/Johansen, unanimously approved.**

WARRANTS, PROJECTS AND FACILITIES REPORT, AND INVESTMENT REPORT

Chip Close, Water Operations Manager, responded to inquiries regarding amounts paid to PG&E for water purchased in 2021 and charges showing for the 2020 water audit.

Public Comment: None

**Ratified the issuance of warrants by receiving and filing the check registers, Project and Facility Report, and Investment Transaction Report for the period February 5 to February 18, 2022. M/S/C Peters/Johansen, unanimously approved.**

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## **GENERAL ORDERS**

### **SOUTH YUBA CANAL/DEER CREEK POWERHOUSE**

Keane Sommers, Hydroelectric Manager, presented the item.

Board discussion ensued about the differences between some proposed positions and their span of control, power generation, delivery, revenue, and forecasts. Board consensus was reached on the importance of this infrastructure to ensure the District's water supply.

Public Comment: None

**Director Heck made a motion to Adopt Resolution 2022-13 - South Yuba Canal/Deer Creek Powerhouse, as amended to strike the following from Page 2:**

**Item 1: Administrative Analyst I/II and Senior Administrative Analyst**

**Item 2: (a) Administrative Analyst I/II**

**Item 3: (b) Management Assistant**

**Approving the following:**

- 1. Four job descriptions**
- 2. The addition of 3.75 full-time equivalent staff to the 2022 Annual Budget (including salary and benefit expenditures)**
- 3. An amendment to the 2022 Annual Budget**
- 4. Authorized the General Manager to execute the appropriate documents to enter into a new power purchase agreement between the District and the Northern California Power Agency**

**Director Johansen seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously approved.**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item.

Board discussion ensued regarding the benefits of presenting non-decision items to the Board through a workshop structure rather than the structure provided by District Policy 5300 – Standing Committees, the importance of ad hoc committees, continued transparency.

Public Comment:

- Michael Hill-Weld, member of the public, spoke in support of the current workshop format and of the District's transparency over the past few years and cautioned that ad hoc committees might not be transparent to the public as they are not subject to the Brown Act

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Board consensus was reached to continue with the workshop format and bring policies related to standing committees to the Board at a future meeting to consider rescinding. President Bierwagen will appoint two Board Members to an Ad Hoc committee to discuss ongoing issues with South Sutter Water District related to resolving their concerns with the District’s Application for Assignment of State-Filed Water Rights.

REGIONAL GROUP PARTICIPATION WORKSHOP

Greg Jones, Assistant General Manager, presented the item.

Public Comment: None

Board discussion ensued regarding the benefits and costs of involvement in the various regional groups and organizations. Board consensus was reached to continue membership with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), California Special District Association (CSDA), Regional Water Authority (RWA), Northern California Water Association (NACWA), Consumnes American Bear Yuba (CABY), and take a further look at Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) and Family Water Alliance.

The meeting recessed at 11:25 a.m. and reconvened at 11:36 a.m.

REDISTRICTING 2021-2022

Jennifer Hanson, General Manager, presented the item and introduced Paul Mitchell with Redistricting Partners, who provided a presentation of the five draft maps for Board consideration.

A robust Board discussion ensued regarding anticipated population growth and Draft Maps D and E were compared.

Public Hearing: Opened by President Bierwagen  
- None

Public hearing closed by President Bierwagen

**Director Johansen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2022-12 – Adjustment of Division Boundaries, adopting Draft Map E as the District’s final map. Director Hull seconded the motion.**

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

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

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### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

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

- Update of recent grants received, including \$1.5 million for Hemphill
- Attended Penn Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting
- Attending South County Municipal Advisory Council meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>
- Chip Close, Water Operations Manager, provided a water supply update, including storage levels for the District and in other areas of the state

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS' ITEMS / REPORTS

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

- Attended a meeting with a group that is working with Sierra Nevada Conservancy and Sierra Fund and actively pursuing grant funds for a forest clearing project along Deer Creek Canyon from Nevada City to Lake Wildwood

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

- Spoke about watershed health and the Backbone Extension Program
- Attended Nevada County Farm Bureau meeting and shared highlights

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

- Spent some time in Palm Springs
- Attended a meeting with Steve Prosser, Maintenance Manager, and appreciated learning about his leadership experience and background

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

- Attended Placer County Farm Bureau annual meeting
- Commented on Hemphill video and outstanding request for District contribution. Board consensus was reached to bring the request to the Board as an item at a future meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 12:25 p.m., to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, March 23, 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