

# NEVADA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MINUTES

January 25, 2024

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 25th day of January 2024, at 3 p.m.

Present were Rich Johansen, President (Division V) and Ricki Heck, Vice President (Division I); and Directors Chris Bierwagen (Division II); Karen Hull (Division III), 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 Johansen called the meeting to order
- President Johansen led the Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call: 5 Members Present

#### WORKSHOP

#### PLAN FOR WATER - STRATEGIC ALTERNATIVES

A presentation was provided, and a discussion ensued for input on alternatives for addressing future predicted unmet demands.

#### Board Discussion:

- Clarification of IDC Demands
- Updated unmet demand
- Calculating the last two weeks of irrigation season
- Modeling projections and assumptions
- Demand model for the PFW process
- Measurement acre feet equated in inches
- Options resulting in reduced need for imported water in the Bear River
- Water rights
- Costs and accurate estimates
- Water availability per acre-foot

January 25, 2024

- Height of Centennial
- Average annual carryover storage at the end of the season
- Rollins spilling and how much generation a second powerhouse would make
- Modeling an extended irrigation season with Rollins raise of 50,000 acre feet
- Impacts on farmers
- Saving water / losing access to water
- Refilling ponds or storage tanks for ag users to store and use when needed
- Conservation program
- Other solutions
- Micro-storage
- Next steps - Anticipating 1-2 more meetings

Public Comment:

- Aaron Zettler-Mann, SYRCL
  - o Reminder of high and low demand
  - o Policy and management
  - o Inquired about the District's ability to store water
  - o Dangers of extending irrigation season
- Michael Ross, member of the public:
  - o Requested review of what demand is being used in the IDC Model and more information on projected unmet demand
  - o Ag crop demands
  - o Determining high demand and alternative ways of thinking about what contributes to demand
  - o Considering sediment in preliminary thoughts of raising Rollins Reservoir
  - o Commented on storing water for drought contingency planning, conservation of water, and preparing for worst-case
  - o Commented on oversizing for delivery benefits and promoting growth
  - o Including Hydro operations on the original application
  - o Identifying an environmentally preferred alternative
  - o Spoke in support of water conservation program
  - o Enjoyed participating in today's meeting
  - o PFW Process / Plan – when will BOD be presented with options, and who is preparing, planning, and providing planning docs and technical memorandum
  - o Requested a list of PFW docs being prepared with author and status
  - o Provided a document to the Board and General Manager regarding CA Professional Engineering Standards and read an excerpt
- Joy Waite, member of the public
  - o Spoke about the ecosystem
  - o Consumptive demand
  - o Rise Gold
  - o Participation at the Localizing California Waters Conference in November
  - o Impacts on landowners around Rollins Lake

January 25, 2024

- Impacts to PCWA and water they get from PG&E
- Commented on sediment at Rollins Lake and Steep Hollow Creek
- Potential issues if Hydro is not included on the original application
  
- Laura Peters, member of the public and former NID Board Member:
  - Posting the preliminary cost estimate that the reported estimate is based on
  - Offer of water to Southern California in the AWWA pitch for Prop 1 Grants
  - Clarification regarding delivery water/contract water
  - Pertaining to the actual water demand input into the new demand model, inquired if the number of miners inches of acre-feet of water were contracted for annually
  - Suggested the District work with ag users to help build ponds or get tanks
  - Topping storage up in early October for use through winter
  - Requested technical documents published as prepared for all to be informed going into meetings
  
- Gary Zimmerman, member of the public:
  - Cost and including an estimate for additional cost of financing
  - Financial feasibility
  - Suggested speaking with bonding agencies
  
- Jeff Litton, member of the public:
  - Utilizing modern technology in modeling to determine property use
  - Concern about inflating demand
  - Rollins sediment estimated in 2015, current estimate, and if considered coupling dam raising with sediment removal
  - If the state is to be petitioned for a Rollins raise, inquired if it would it be for an amount nearly double the raise
  - Thanked the Board for looking at alternatives
  - Suggested District would have many more supporters for the proposal of raising Rollins, as it appears it would back up Bear River about a mile or less

MEETING ADJOURNED at 5:10 p.m. to reconvene in regular session on Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 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