

Minutes of the Board Meeting of the  
**TRUCKEE-CARSON IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
 Regular Session Board Meeting Minutes  
**August 6, 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, August 6, 2024** at 9:00 a.m.

The following Directors were present constituting a quorum:

Present:	Eric Olsen David Stix Jr. Robert Oakden Joseph Gomes Lester deBraga Abrahm Schank	President Vice-President Secretary Director Treasurer Director
Absent:	Wade Workman	Director
Others Present:	Benjamin Shawcroft Helen-Marie Morrow Kelly Herwick Cody Biggs Michael Adams Ariel Tomb	General Manager (Zoom) Finance Manager District Water Master Construction & Maintenance Manager Systems & Technologies Manager Assistant Secretary to the Board

Teleconference/Zoom Guests	Representing
Jason Villareal	Bureau of Reclamation
Steve King	Self

In-Person Guests	Representing
Willie Steve	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
Joe Bryant	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
Jack Worsley	Bureau of Reclamation
Robert Martinez	Bureau of Reclamation
Laurie Nicholas	Bureau of Reclamation
Jake Ward	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Norm Frey	Self

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 9:01 a.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**  
 The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michael Adams.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

A **motion** was made by Secretary Oakden to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Treasurer deBraga, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

4. **General Public Comment**

No public comment.

5. **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

Shawcroft presented correspondence from the month of June including an Irrigation Leader Magazine article featuring Director Schank. He also informed the Board that the District has been selected as part of a USDA program to provide funding for farmers. More information will be available at a later time but it is significant that the District was chosen.

6. **General Manager and Staff Reports**

• **Ben Shawcroft, General Manager**

Shawcroft reported the public hearing for the Validation of the Repayment Contract was held on Friday after two years of legal battles. The judge ruled in favor of the District despite objections from numerous Fernley residents. The District applied for \$1M from the State Grant Match Program; he was notified last week that the full \$1M had been awarded on the condition that the District was successful in receiving the WaterSmart grant as well. The District was notified last week that the WaterSMART grant had been awarded. These grants will be a significant boon to the District's finances as the Lahontan Tower Rehabilitation Project is begun.

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

Biggs reported that he has the long reaches cleaning the Diagonal Drain off Pasture Road and the New River Drain. Once completed they will move to the Soda Lake Drain. The T-Line moss treatment showed improvement for a couple days but then the moss came back. He will be dragging the T-Line tomorrow.

• **Kelly Herwick, District Water Master**

Herwick reported on current conditions; see attached report. Some discussion began regarding the Truckee Canal outage; the discussion was paused until Item # 17.

• **Mike Adams, Systems & Technologies Manager**

Adams was present but had no report.

• **Mark Solinski, Hydroelectric Facilities Manager**

Solinski was not present, he is currently dealing with heavy mossing at 26' Drop. President Olsen reported on his behalf. The ASI Inspection at the Dam went well. He reported the following KW per plant:

New Lahontan: 3,000  
Old Lahontan: 1,800  
26' Drop: 1,000

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

There was no representative present to report.

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

There was no representative present to report.

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

Jack Worsley, LBAO Manager, reported that Rena Ballew will be retiring at the end of the month. He thanked Herwick for answering his phone in the middle of the night to deal with the flash-flood event in the Truckee Canal.

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

Willie Steve, Acting Land & Water Resource Director, reported that the Tribe hired Joe Bryant on July 29<sup>th</sup> to fill the position of Land & Water Resource Director. He is a local and previously held the position in 2009. Bryant greeted the Board and informed Biggs that he has been receiving some complaints regarding drain ditches smelling bad. He will be in contact with Biggs with further information.

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

There was no representative present to report.

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

There was no representative present to report.

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

Jake Ward, Wildlife Technician, reported that their department has been hard at work repairing roads and ditches that were damaged in the flood event this spring. He thanked Biggs for sending a crew to assist. The dykes need a lot of repair work. The water level in the lake is receding and the pasture areas are looking good. He has been keeping a close eye out for signs of botulism. There have been no cases so far, however they proactively built a duck hospital. The shorebirds are starting to arrive, which means the ducks will follow soon.

14. **Interlocal Agreement with Churchill County**

*Review and Approval/Denial of an Interlocal Agreement with Churchill County regarding the mutually beneficial exchange of equipment as authorized by NRS 277.045. Equipment to be exchanged includes a County owned John Deere Backhoe and a TCID owned Snow Dogg Plow and Salt Dogg Sander.*

Shawcroft informed the Board that when the District purchased a truck from NDOT it came with a new sander and snowplow. The District has no use for this equipment. Biggs negotiated an agreement with Gary Fowkes, Churchill County Road Department, and Jim Barbee, Churchill County Manager, to trade the equipment for a 1990 John Deere backhoe. Biggs is planning on utilizing the new backhoe in the Truckee Division.

**A motion was made by Director Gomes to approve the Interlocal Agreement,**

seconded by Director Schank, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

**15. Fernley Check Line Extension Agreement**

*Deliberation and decision regarding an agreement for line extension work to be done by NV Energy at the new Fernley Check. This agreement will require an advance deposit of \$13,757.00.*

Shawcroft informed the Board that this agreement is for power to be run to the Fernley Check for automation purposes. In his research on NV Energy's procedures on reimbursing funds, he found that funds are reimbursed when additional people use the power hook up. As the Fernley Check is more remote it is highly unlikely that will be the case; therefore the funds for this project are not anticipated to be reimbursed.

There was discussion regarding the total price of the contract, the amount of \$13,757.00 is the deposit. The cost could be up to \$21,000.00. The consensus of the Board was to approve the deposit and any additional costs be brought back to the Board with a plan for budget augmentation. When asked where the funds for the deposit would come from, Helen-Marie Morrow, Finance Manager, replied that she was hoping the funds could come from the Conservation Account. Worsley replied that they would talk about it.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Stix to approve the deposit of \$13,757.00 and that any additional amount be brought back to the Board with a recommendation for budget augmentation, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**16. Resolution 2024-04**

*Authorization for the General Manager to enter into a six-year lease Purchase Agreement with Leasing 2, Inc. to finance the purchase of a new MowerMax Boom Mower – Gen 4 in the amount of \$267,803.25 from ATMAX Equipment Company. The annual payments are \$53,782.33 for six years beginning 01/15/2025 bearing an interest rate of 6.39%. This purchase was approved during the budget process and the approval of the Board is a requirement of the loan application process.*

Shawcroft provided an overview of the Resolution; it provides for the financing of the new mower that was approved during the budget process. The loan application requires Board approval. Biggs took an opportunity to see one at an irrigation district in Oregon. He reported that the vehicle was well made and easy to use. It comes with a flail mower for the boom and a 12 foot mower for the front. The mowers are rotatable by 180 degrees and are tough enough to handle willows.

**A motion was made by Secretary Oakden to approve Resolution 2024-04, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**17. Information on the Recent Slide-Flow Event effecting the Truckee Canal**

*Information regarding the Truckee Canal outage the week of July 21st.*

Shawcroft led the discussion regarding the outage of the Truckee Canal. The week of July 21<sup>st</sup> there was a significant and sudden side flow event. The purpose of this discussion is to better understand how the alarms and gates are working. The ditchriders responded quickly and did their job, however no alarms were received until after the fact once water was receding. The gates at the Fernley Check did not respond with electronic usage and Richard (ditchrider on duty) had to open manually.

Jason Villareal, BOR, reported he reached out to Alma, supplier for the gate actuators. He spoke with Richard and Mike Agard (Fernley Lead Ditchrider) to get their report on what happened. He also downloaded the reports from the actuators. The only thing that would prevent the actuators from operating would be storage faults. If there is a warning there will be a white light and the gate will still work. Storage faults will prevent the gate from working and will show a red light. The ditchrider confirmed there was no red light. At the control board there is a switch to local or remote control and controls for raising and lowering the gate. The usage data showed a large gap in activity, approximately 30 days. Villareal believes the ditchriders have been making manual gate adjustments to save time. The control switch was set to remote operation, which is why the controls to raise the gate wouldn't work. Shawcroft asked if there was a manual at the site for the ditchriders to reference. Villareal replied that a training was held on May 1<sup>st</sup> and he provided two manuals, one for Agard and one for Herwick (District Water Master).

Michael Adams, Systems & Technologies Manager, addressed the GOES alarms. The alarms were installed for the stage restrictions, not flood control. Third party cloud storage receives the data before he does, which causes a 45-minute lag in data retrieval. The first alarm was not transmitted for some reason. The second alarm was transmitted at 9:45 PM. The GOES alarms are not real time, only SCADA provides real time data transmittal. SCADA will be installed at the Fernley Check once internet is run to the site. Once SCADA is operational, we will have real time data alerts at the Fernley Check. Adams asked if additional SCADA points are needed along the Canal. There is SCADA at Gilpin Spill.

Vice-President Stix asked Herwick how often the ditchriders are required to check the gage levels. Herwick responded that the ditchrider checks gage levels daily.

Worsley reported this was a new spot to have side flows, just before Tunnel 3. It was a summer storm that produced lots of rain water. Continued development above the Canal increases storm water runoff. Biggs commented that 2000 yards of material was flushed into the Canal. Worsley also commented that the ditchriders did a great job handling the situation.

Shawcroft concluded the discussion with some action points: improve ditchrider training on the gates and explore possible installation of SCADA at additional locations. He will come back to the Board with his findings and ideas. Worsley commented that the ditchriders need to use the actuators and thoroughly test them while they are under warranty.

Adams commented that most government entities have small special response teams that are continually trained for emergencies rather than multiple people who attend

training once or twice a year.

**18. Consent Agenda**

- Approval of Director's compensation for the month of July as provided for by NRS 539.080.
- Approval of Board Meeting minutes of July 2, 2024.

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

**19. Committee Reports**

- **Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Committee**  
There was no meeting for the month of July 2024.
- **Carson Lake Pasture (CLP) Advisory Committee Recommendations**  
There was no meeting for the month of July 2024.
- **Employee Relations Committee**  
There was no meeting for the month of July 2024.
- **Finance Committee**  
Treasurer deBraga (Finance Committee Chairman) reported that the Finance Committee met on August 5, 2024.

A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the Treasurer's report and Finance Committee recommendation to approve check numbers 44359 through 44423 as well as automatic, online and phone payments, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.


- **Policy Committee**  
There was no meeting for the month of July 2024.


**20. Additional Public Comment**

No additional public comment.

**21. Adjournment**

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

  
Eric Olsen – Board President  
9-3-24  
Date

  
Robert Oakden - Secretary  
9/3/24  
Date