

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

The following Directors were present constituting a quorum:

<b>Present:</b>	Eric Olsen	President
	David Stix Jr.	Vice-President
	Robert Oakden	Secretary
	Lester deBraga	Treasurer
	Abrahm Schank	Director
	Joseph Gomes	Director
	Wade Workman	Director

<b>Others Present:</b>	Benjamin Shawcroft	General Manager
	Helen-Marie Morrow	Finance Manager
	Cody Biggs	Construction & Maintenance Manager
	Kelly Herwick	District Water Master
	Mark Solinski	Hydro-electric Facilities Manager
	Ariel Tomb	Assistant Secretary to the Board

<b>Teleconference/Zoom Guests</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Jack Worsley	Bureau of Reclamation
Carl Lunderstadt	United States Fish & Wildlife Service
Robert Martinez	Bureau of Reclamation
Laurie Nicholas	Bureau of Reclamation
Austin Balser	Bureau of Reclamation
Dan Lahde	Bureau of Reclamation
Robert Owen	Bureau of Reclamation
Dawn Johnson	National Weather Service
Tim Bardsley	National Weather Service
BRAIN NV	Self
Steven King	Self

<b>In-Person Guests</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Julie Jensen Kroll	Self
Dale Jensen	Self
Neal McIntyre	City of Fernley
Jacob Ward	Nevada Department of Wildlife
Cathi Tuni	Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe
Valerie Roberds	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 9:03 a.m.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mark Solinski.

3. **Approval of the Agenda**

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

4. **General Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

5. **NOAA Presentation**

*Pre water season briefing (Tim Bardsley and Dawn Johnson, NWS Reno)*

Tim Bardsley and Dawn Johnson of National Weather Service Reno presented their briefing to the Board. See the attached slideshow.

6. **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

There was no miscellaneous correspondence.

7. **General Manager and Staff Reports**

• **Ben Shawcroft, General Manager**

Shawcroft presented an award that he had accepted on behalf of TCID from the Carson Water Subconservancy District for continued efforts to conserve the Carson River channel. District personnel are working with the Bureau to fix the Dog Kennel Seep on the Truckee Canal. A quote for services to repair that section is pending, there is a possibility that a Special Board meeting will need to be called to take action on that quote. Shawcroft informed the Board that he and several managers attended the Mid Pacific Water Users Conference and that Secretary Oakden was recognized for his many years of service. Helen-Marie Morrow, District Finance Manager, attended the Irrigation Leader Workshop in Arizona.

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

Biggs reported the concrete crew is working on T-Line structures. He has crews working at Diversion Dam to clean up and remove sand build-up. The Diversion gate exercises are taking place today. The rest of the crew is working on weeds and burning.

• **Kelly Herwick, District Water Master**

Herwick reported on current conditions. See attached report.

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

Adams was not present to report.

- **Mark Solinski, Hydroelectric Facilities Manager**  
Solinski reported he is working with Shawcroft on a grant for the Tower, the submission deadline is February 20<sup>th</sup>. He has a diving contractor visiting on the 16<sup>th</sup> to look at the Tower gates, he should receive the proposal in approximately three weeks. Otherwise he is working on winter cleaning and the plants are ready to run.

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

Neal McIntyre, Mayor – City of Fernley, reported that Congressman Amodei plans to visit Fernley this month and give more information about a possible grant to assist City of Fernley residents with their well levels.

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

Carl Lunderstadt, Refuge Manager – Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge, informed the Board that the Refuge is willing to take water if conditions warrant early releases.

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

Robert Martinez, Newlands Project Coordinator, reported that work on the Fernley check is ongoing. Their office is working with the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe to assist in hiring a replacement Land & Water Resource Director.

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

Jack Worsley, Area Manager, reported Reclamation is meeting with the Churchill County Commissioner on Friday, they are seeking reimbursement from Reclamation for the cost of constructing the weir. Congressman Amodei will also be meeting with Reclamation on Friday. Next week Worsley is meeting with planners regarding development near the Truckee Canal. They are also trying to get Cultural Surveys completed.

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

Cathi Tuni, Chairwoman, reported that they have had no success finding a replacement Land & Water Resources Director. Currently the comptroller is the acting Tribal Administrator. They are working on getting their O&M crew mobilized to assist with cleaning up weeds. Kelly Herwick, District Water Master, added that in a recent meeting with the Tribe, a concern was raised about Trouble Calls not getting through to the District office. Cody Biggs, Construction & Maintenance Manager, commented that until a replacement Director is found the land owners on the Reservation can call the office directly to submit Trouble Calls.

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

There was no representative present to report.

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

There was no representative present to report. President Olsen commented that he met with Albert Mulder to find out more information regarding potential funding sources and encouraged his constituents to contact Mulder for more information.

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

Jacob Ward, Wildlife Technician, reported that waterfowl season is finished. The muddy road conditions make it difficult to enter the Pasture area. Snow goose season will run February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 10<sup>th</sup>. Ward asked if it was possible to invite Albert Mulder from NRCS to the next Carson Lake Pasture meeting to discuss possible funding available to the grazers.

**15. Damage Claim 23-006**

*Damage Claim by Dale Jensen in the amount of \$7,729.96 for flood damage to his property at 3750 Schindler Road, Fallon, Nevada. This item was reviewed by the O&M Committee at the December meeting and voted to forward the claim to the Board with a recommendation for approval. The O&M Committee included as part of its motion that staff will meet with the Jensen's and audit the dollar amount requested.*

General Manager Shawcroft reported that he met with the Jensens to discuss the dollar amounts they requested. The Jensens did their research on current replacement values for their items and Shawcroft recommended the Board approve the full amount of the claim.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Stix to approve Damage Claim 23-006, seconded by Director Workman, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**16. Approval of the Proposals by Truckee Donner Public Utility District and the City of Fallon for the Purchase of Hydroelectric Power**

*Deliberation and decision regarding approval of a contract for the sale of power and related energy credits generated from the Old Lahontan and 26' Drop power stations. The District has received the following proposals:*

	<i>Rate (current rate is \$31)</i>	<i>PECs (current rate is \$6.65)</i>	<i>Term</i>
<i>City of Fallon</i>	<i>\$44.50</i>	<i>\$7.50 - sold to NV Gold</i>	<i>2 + 3 years</i>
<i>Truckee Donner</i>	<i>\$39</i>	<i>\$7.50 - sold to NV Gold</i>	<i>2 + 3 years</i>

*A Recommendation is being made to approve a contract with the City of Fallon.*

General Manager Shawcroft informed the Board that after the Revenue Committee reviewed the proposal from Truckee Donner Public Utility District, a proposal was received from the City of Fallon. Both proposals are for two-year contracts with an option to renew for 3 years. The key difference between the proposals is Truckee-Donner's offer to convert the PECs to RECs over the next two years at their expense. This would make the entire power package more valuable to purchasers and would enable the RECs to be sold outside of Nevada. Staff will do research on the process of converting the PECS to determine the possibility of completing the process internally.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Stix to approve the Proposal from City of Fallon, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**17. Approval of the District's Five-Year Strategic Plan**

*Deliberation and decision relating to the form and content of a Five-Year Strategic Plan as required by Contract 7-07-20-X0348-X for Operation, Maintenance and Replacement of the Newlands Project.*

General Manager Shawcroft provided the Board with an overview of the updated Strategic Plan. The original plan was bulky, confusing, and was not closely aligned with the District's goals. The new plan is more streamlined and focuses on the key areas that staff have identified as being the most helpful going forward; namely automations, SCADA upgrades, a written measurement plan, and a modernization plan both for facilities and software to improve order scheduling and reporting. Shawcroft believes the new Plan will serve the District better going forward.

**A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the Five-Year Strategic Plan as presented, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**18. Resolution 2024-01, Relating to an Increase in User Assessments**

*Deliberation and decision relating to the approval of Resolution 2024-01. This Resolution provides for the fixing of a rate of assessment and levy upon the lands of the District pursuant to NRS 539.513 in order to meet the rising costs and expenses of the District, and also provides for related matters. This Resolution makes the following changes:*

- *Minimum acreage is changed from 6.68 acres to 7.17 acres*
- *Minimum rate for acreage equal to and less than 7.17 acres is changed from \$340 to \$380.*
- *Administrative fee is changed from \$120 to \$140*
- *Operation and Maintenance charges for lands greater than 7.17 acres is adjusted from \$50.90 to \$53.*

*The Board has the discretion under this agenda item to make any adjustments to the above rates to best serve the needs of the District.*

General Manager Shawcroft led the discussion relating to the recommended increases to the user assessments. As demonstrated in the Five-Year Strategic Plan, in the next decade the District will be facing tremendous financial obligations in order to perform needed maintenance and upgrades to the Project; due to rising inflation, cost of materials and equipment, and increases in insurance costs.

Vice-President Stix raised an objection and pointed out that the percentage of increase to the minimum acreage charge was greater than the percentage of increase to the O&M charge. Director Schank commented that the smaller acreage parcels create more work for the schedulers and ditchriders than large acreage parcels and therefore he believes the percentage balances. Schank included that he himself was a small acreage owner to clarify that he was not deprecating small acreage owners. Vice-President Stix added that he was a small acreage owner as well but he disagreed with Director Schank.

**A motion** was made by Director Workman to approve Resolution 2024-01 as presented, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was approved 6 to 1, with Vice-President Stix opposing.

**19. Determination of the Rate and Levy of Annual Assessment on All Lands in the District (District General Assessment)**

*Deliberation and decision relating to the determination of the rate and levy of an annual assessment on all lands in the District for deposit in a capital improvement fund for purposes including the construction, reconstruction or maintenance of the District and any appurtenances necessary thereto, and for ordinary and current expenses of the District as provided for by NRS 539.480(3-8). The rate for the assessment is adjusted on July 1 of each year by an amount equal to the product of the maximum amount applicable during the immediately preceding 12-month period, multiplied by the lesser of 4.5 percent or the average percentage of increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for West Urban Consumers for the immediately preceding 5 years (NRS 539.480(8)). The rate of assessment for fiscal year 2023/24 is \$6.56. The new rate as adjusted by the CPI is \$6.84 for fiscal year 2024/25.*

General Manager Shawcroft informed the Board that according to the CPI the District General rate will be adjusted to \$6.84 effective July 1, 2024.

**A motion** was made by Secretary Oakden to approve the District General Assessment rate as stated, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

**20. Annual Health Care Agreement with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (March 2023-February 2024)**

*Deliberation and decision relating to approval of the annual health care agreement with Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (March 2024 - February 2025) for all eligible District employees and Directors.*

Helen-Marie Morrow, Finance Manager, informed the Board that Anthem had first communicated a 30% increase to premium fees. She requested our contact renegotiate the increase rate and they came back with 16%. She again requested if they could negotiate any lower and they came back with 14% as their lowest offer. Discussion followed relating to future options to reduce insurance costs including raising the deductible and possibly removing some employee perks that are not widely used.

**A motion** was made by Director Gomes to approve the Annual Health Care Agreement with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, seconded by Secretary Oakden, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.

**21. Setting of Dates and Format for Annual Water User Meetings**

*Deliberation and decision relating to setting of annual water user meetings (dates and times) and determination of format (virtual or via teleconference) for participation by water right holders in the Newlands Federal Reclamation Project.*

General Manager Shawcroft informed the Board that staff is recommending March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for the Carson Division, and the 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. for the Truckee Division.

**A motion was made by Vice-President Stix to approve the dates for the Annual Water User Meetings as stated, seconded by Treasurer deBraga, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

**22. Consent Agenda**

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

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

**23. Committee Reports**

- **Operations & Maintenance (O&M) Committee**

Vice-Chairman Oakden reported that the Committee reviewed one damage claim at the January meeting. The individual was very reasonable and was willing to accept the District removing the sand buildup in his field, and they will revisit the claim once it is determined if the damaged area will need to be re-seeded.

- **Carson Lake Pasture (CLP) Advisory Committee**

**Establishment of Animal Unit Monthly Rate for Fees and Insect Control**

*Deliberation and decision by the Board of Directors relating to approval of the recommendation to establish the animal unit monthly rate for fees; currently set at \$7.20. The Committee approved a recommendation increasing the fee to \$10.20; however, upon review of the projected revenues and expenses staff is recommending an increase to \$8.20.*

Treasurer deBraga reported the Committee met on January 29<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the AUM rate. The Committee approved an increase to \$10.20, however following a second review of the expenses and revenues staff are recommending an increase to \$8.20.

**A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the Carson Lake Pasture AUM rate of \$8.20, seconded by Director Gomes, request for comment and the motion was unanimously approved.**

- **Employee Relations Committee**

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

- **Finance Committee**

Treasurer deBraga (Finance Committee Chairman) reported that the Finance Committee met on February 5, 2024.

**A motion was made by Treasurer deBraga to approve the Treasurer's report and Finance Committee recommendation to approve check numbers 43912 through 43982, the transfer of \$111,985.37 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 January 2024.

**24. Additional Public Comment**

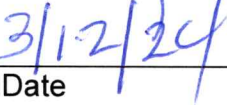
Vice-President Stix reminded the Board that if they haven't filed their Financial Disclosures with the State they need to. He filed late and has to pay a fine. Jake Ward, NDOW, added that following the Carson Lake Pasture meeting he checked his supplies and found some fencing materials that the Pasture Manager could use to repair the section that was reported during the meeting.

**25. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the Board President at 11:49 a.m.



Eric Olsen – Board President



Date



Robert Oakden - Secretary



Date