

WASHOE COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Regular Meeting
March 2, 2021
Via ZOOM

DIRECTORS:

Cory Casazza
John Capurro
Bill Hauck
Lawrence Belli
Louis Damonte

GUESTS:

Michael Pagni, Attorney
George Ball, Engineer
Chad Blanchard, FWM
Scott Schoenfeld, USBR
Nate Allen, Steamboat Irrigation

PUBLIC:

Beth Dory

ABSENT:

Robert Quilici
Doug Avanzino

STAFF:

Mary Pat Eymann, Dist. Mgr.
Brian Casci, Damtender

1. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM AND CALL MEETING TO ORDER –

Vice-President Casazza called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m., quorum present.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

3. APPROVE AGENDA –

- ❖ Director Capurro made a motion to approve the agenda as posted; seconded by Director Hauck; motion carried.

4. and 5. APPROVE BOARD MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2, 2021 MEETING; CHECKS WRITTEN AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2021.

- ❖ Director Capurro made a motion to approve minutes and financial statements as submitted; seconded by Director Hauck; motion carried.

6. FEDERAL WATER MASTERS REPORT – Chad Blanchard

A complete copy of the Water Report is available at District Offices or on the internet at troa.net.

The Boca first fill requirement for the completion of the SOD project wasn't completed last year. The requirement states that after the project completion that there be no more than a foot per day. Hoping to get this completed this year. The problem the last forecast does not have enough water to fill Boca. The WM is planning on doing some exchanges with Tahoe to be able to hold back some water that would normally pass thru Boca for Floriston rates. Will hold it Boca and keep it there and do an exchange with Tahoe waters so we can get to where we can fill Boca or at least come close filling in order to get the first fill requirement completed.

We are way behind on precipitation. The snow pack is at 70% for Tahoe Basin, 71% for Truckee Basin and 72% for the Carson Basin. The actual precip is 58% at Tahoe, 57% at Truckee and 62% on Carson. There is 2 feet of storage left in Tahoe. Tahoe will probably not fill this year. Should have enough rate water this year.

7. UPDATE, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION OF SAFETY OF DAMS PROJECT – Shane Dyer

My Dyer was not present however there is no known issues on this item.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF ON FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC) PRELIMINARY PERMIT FOR A POWER PLANT AT BOCA DAM. – Shane Dyer

Mr. Dyer was not present. Scott Schoenfeld, USBR advised that there is no movement on this, they are still waiting for grant money.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON REGULAR ASSESSMENT RATE FOR FY2021-2022 – Michael Pagni

Under the statutes the Board annually sets the regular rate for assessments. The statutes allow the rate to increase by the CPI for the prior period. There is a separate rate for the Safety of Dams Project. The rate for last year was \$5.89. The CPI last year was 1%.

- ❖ Director Capurro made a motion to increase the rate by the CPI rate; seconded by Director Casazza; motion carried.

10. LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT – Michael Pagni

The Legislature is now in session under Covid-19 precautions. There are a number of bills related to water but nothing so far that is specific to irrigation or Irrigation Districts.

There is a proposal from the State Engineer's office to look at the court system and which courts adjudicate what water issues. It came out as a constitutional amendment. It is Mr. Pagni's understanding that the State Engineer's office is going to withdraw that bill request, but in the meantime the Supreme Court saw that bill and picked it up as they had some concerns. The Supreme Court has opened a docket and are going to have a Public Hearing tomorrow to evaluate creating what they call "A Commission to Study the Adjudication of Water Law Cases". The purpose of that commission will be hear testimony, get input and decide weather the system should be improved, how it can be improved, steps they can take. The intent, depending on the outcome of the commission is to bring something back to the Legislature or if needed in 2023. Or if in the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court thru their internal rule making of the court system that they can handle. The Commission proposes to have representatives from a number of different water users.

11. ENGINEER REPORT – George Ball

Update to the SOD project - All of the reseeding of the disturbed areas in the project was completed. This in essence c completes the SOD project.

12. DAMTENDER REPORT – Brian Casci

Burgarello is scheduled to come April 1 to install the new alarm system.

13. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

14. BOARD COMMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Board Comments –

- Mr. Casazza is unable for next month's meeting.

Future Agenda Items –

- April confirmation of election of Board Members.

15. ADJOURNMENT – There being no further business Director Damonte made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Director Capurro; motion carried, meeting adjourned.

****The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 1:30 pm.****

John Capurro, Secretary/Treasurer