

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CHURCHILL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

155 N. Taylor St., Fallon, NV 89406

March 27, 2023

Call to Order:

The special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 AM on March 27, 2023.

PRESENT:

Commissioner Harry Scharmann via phone
Commissioner Justin Heath via phone
Commissioner Myles Getto
County Manager Jim R. Barbee
Comptroller Sherry Wideman
Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford
Deputy Clerk to the Board Pamela D. Moore
Clerk/Treasurer Linda Rothery

ABSENT:

N/A

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board and public.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Myles Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Verification of the Posting of the Agenda:

It was verified by Pamela D. Moore, Deputy Clerk to the Board, that the Agenda for this meeting was posted on the 23rd day of March, 2023, between the hours of 8:30 AM and 9:00 AM at all of the locations listed on the Agenda, in accordance with NRS 241.

Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Agenda as submitted or revised:

**Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Agenda as submitted.
Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.**

Appointments:

A- Consideration and possible action re: Approval of Contracts for construction of a weir on the V-Line Canal due to the threat of flooding and to protect the community from potential flooding.

Staff will provide the board with information about the Contracts that are required for the construction of another weir on the V-Line Canal for flood mitigation. Details are still being worked out and a full report will be provided to the board at the meeting. These Contracts will

be modeled after the sample that is provided with this Agenda Report.

FISCAL IMPACT: To be determined.

EXPLANATION OF IMPACT: There will be costs associated with this matter, however, those details are not available at the time of this posting.

FUNDING SOURCE: To be determined.

ACTION REQUESTED: Accept

County Manager Jim Barbee said, as you folks are aware but I will review, we have roughly somewhere between 1.1M and 1.4M acre feet of water that we believe is in the snow in the Carson Drainage, which, during this irrigation season, will be moving through Lahontan Lake and through the dam itself, so we are specifically concerned with that because that is equal to somewhere around 3-4 lake loads. As of this morning, we have 133,000 acre feet of water in the lake, just under halfway full. Currently, with operations, we are pushing out roughly 2,200 cfs out of the dam itself and displacing through the irrigation system where we can. That equates roughly to 4,400 acre feet of water, which is a slower release of water out of the lake than we would prefer, obviously. We recognize that, right now, the temperatures have maintained cold up on the mountain, which is, basically, shortening the season that we believe we are going to have. Basically, we are unable to push as much water out of the system as we would like to be able to. The maximum amount of water that can come out the dam, under the best of circumstances, is around 3,500 cfs. The project that is being proposed through the Emergency Management group right now would basically create a new weir next to the original weir that would be 200 feet in length. That would allow us to push 3,500 cfs through the V-line alone, which, basically, means that, if farmers, in the future, like they are this year, are unable to take spread water, we are unreliant on that, we could basically match the output of the works to the output of the dam itself. We are doing all this in an attempt to get as much water through in the season to avoid an uncontrolled spill over the dam and the impacts that it would have along the Carson River and on flooding our community.

In front of you, I have a breakout of what we believe the prices and costs are going to be for this project. We are currently working with the vendors to be able to get these contracts in place but, as we speak, they are cutting metal, they are putting their mobile operations together to start bringing steel from California to start allocating the resources identifying and getting the resources necessary to do the construction component of this and the Road Department and TCID have actively been engaged in getting equipment identified and have started working on the second part of this project, which is raising the berm around the north part of the Carson Lake or pasture up to 6 feet in totality, so we can try to increase the amount of volume of water that we can send to that specific area.

To give you a quick, short, summary, the B & B Hughes Construction, which would do the sheet pile project would, basically, be a \$3.5M Contract. That would include sheet piles that would be utilized on the north side of the V-line that would secure that from topping over and flooding in towards the river and creating greater issues, so just as a safety concern, between the connection of the Diversion Dam and where this new weir would be built. Additionally, they would also do the sheet piling around the new weir, which would be, again, 200 feet with four sections in-

between, including pillars in the middle that would allow for gate control and a future bridge over the top. Cheek Construction, their portion of just the work we believe, would be \$150,000; the cost of rebar \$150,000; cost of concrete \$200,000; which sums up what their portion of this would be. Between the Churchill County Road Department, and TCID, for labor and consumables for working on the big berm, we see that around \$600,000. That is not just berm work on the labor and consumables because that is where they are doing the laydown work at the weir. That is where they do the excavation work at the weir. It is a cost for the total project. They are currently laying gravel on Casey Road past Sheckler to enable that road to build up enough base to be able to handle the traffic and machinery that is going to have to go down it. Ernst Earthworks, for the big berm component, which they are working on as we speak, is at \$250,000. That gives a total of \$4.85M, which we put a 15% consumable contingency on just because this is random and fast and we don't know what we don't know, but we have given you the best numbers that we could possibly come with. What my request is today, based on the breakout that we have provided to you today, is that you grant me signature authority up to \$5,577,500 to pursue this project over the next 4 weeks. It is our hope and intent that we will be able to put this in place over the next 4 weeks. Obviously, it could go 5 weeks, but that is the push out the door.

Commissioner Myles Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none. Deputy District Attorney Joseph Sanford said, without this, is there is a substantial possibility of flooding? County Manager Barbee said, without this weir, we have a huge potential of flooding simply because as you are seeing the weather as it pertains right now, nearly no one, in terms of farmers and producers, are taking spread water and that is the only way or capacity we have to increase the output that we are currently trying to reach. It appears from all the weather forecasts, matter of a fact, I was just on it, that this weather intends to hold for at least the next 3 weeks, which, basically, is going to hold us harmful in that situation. All of this is to avoid a uncontrolled spill from the spillway of the dam, which is directly related to the water flows that would be in the river and directly related to flooding of households in the community.

Commissioner Myles Getto said is there any idea on the construction timeline? County Manager Barbee said the timeline would be 4 weeks, with us pushing to get it done sooner than that; that is accurate. Commissioner Heath said are we trying to maintain 1,000 cfs in the river, is that correct? County Manager Barbee said we are currently maintaining that so we can get to the 2,200 cfs that we currently have today. We have to have 1,000 cfs in the river just to maintain that but what I would say, to give you an example of how beneficial this is going to be or has that capability of being, if we had 3,500 going through the system and going out the V-line and we had 4,500 coming out of the dam, in other words, 1,000 more than what we can control coming over the spillway, we would be able to handle that ideally without anyone flooded because we would keep 1,000 cfs in the river and send 3,500 out the weir. This gives us an ability for flood mitigation that has not ever existed. At the old weir that was built, it was only designed for the 700-800 cfs capacity and that is what it is running at. That still requires us to send water in every other ditch everywhere else we can, which is how we are at the 2,200 cfs that we currently are at. This is, basically, going to max out the flood mitigation capacity of the system to match the dam from this point forward. It does not guarantee that we won't get such a rush of water in such a short amount of time, all these things that we can't control, but this is

something we can control. The things we can't control is if that fills that lake up to capacity and it maxes out before we get this done, you will see flooding. It is just the reality of it. It is not a guarantee but it is our best faith effort to try to address it as quickly as we can.

Commissioner Justin Heath made a motion to approve the Contracts as presented up to \$5,577,500 to mitigate potential flooding and authorize the County Manager to sign the Contracts. Commissioner Harry Scharmann seconded the motion, which carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

Commissioner Myles Getto asked if there was any public comment but there was none.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 AM.

Approved:


Harry "Bus" Scharmann, Chairman

Approved:


Justin Heath, Vice-Chairman

Approved:


Myles Getto, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Linda Rothery, Clerk/Treasurer



Renae Paholke, Deputy Clerk