



MEETING MINUTES

June 21, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
BOCC Chambers Pahrump, NV

Members: Unfilled - Area 1 (Carrant Creek/Smoky Valley)
 Unfilled - Area 2 (Tonopah/Manhattan)
 Edwin Goedhart - Area 3 (Beatty /Armargosa Valley)
 Helene Williams- Area 4, Position 1 (Pahrump Valley)
 Bruch Holden- Area 4, Position 2 (Pahrump Valley)
 Unfilled - Vice Chair- Area 4, Position 3 (Pahrump Valley)
 Michael Lach - At Large - Chair

Board of County Commissioners: Debra Strickland

Staff: Daniel C. Weeks

Finance: Savannah Rucker

1. **(00:00:00) Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **(00:00:06) Roll Call – All Present:** Mr. Goedhart, Mr. Holden, Mr. Lach & Mrs. Williams.
3. **(00:01:08) General Public Comment (opening): Three-minute time limit per person. Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period until specifically included on an agenda as an action item.**

Nye County resident Victor Fuentes spoke about contaminated water from Area 51. Victor stated the State Engineer was going to extend the limit around Devils Hole to a 40 mile radius. Victor requested the Engineer be brought before the board to answer questions about the contaminated waters. He stated that a government agent illegally diverted water in Amargosa.

Nye County resident John Bosta requested that the board contact the state engineer to establish that Pahrump Water Basin #162 and Las Vegas are both “Artesian Basins.” He would like to know when the title “Artesian” was changed.

Nye County resident and licensed Realtor Sherain Waite expressed concerns about state and county websites referring residents to “Ask a Realtor.” She asked that the board create an action item to further the education of Realtors in Basin #162.

Nye County resident Richayne Genkins thanked the General Manger for his help in answering a number of questions. Genkins noted that several other states allow residents to deed their residential wells into their names which generate revenue.

4. (00:12:50) Board Comments.

Mr. Goedhart mentioned the “impaired” water from the Nevada Test Site amounts to tens of billions of dollars of damage to Nye County resources.

5. (00:14:05) Approval or modifications of the Agenda for the Water District Meeting of June 21, 2019.

As there were no modifications, the meeting proceeded as ajenized.

No vote was called for or taken on the item.

6. (00:014:17) Ex-Parte Communications and Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements.

Nye County Commissioner and Nye County Water District liaison Debra Strickland disclosed that she was a licensed well driller and a broker of water rights. She did not feel that her capacity would impede her ability to deliberate on matters on the agenda.

7. (00:14:39) For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to direct staff to schedule a Budget Workshop with Nye County Finance Department’s Liz Jordan.

Mr. Lach suggested the next meeting be set for the Budget Workshop. Mr. Goedhart mentioned he may be traveling during the next meeting of the water board.

Discussion waivered to the appointments of future members to the water board.

Mr. Holden asked what the purpose of the workshop would be. To which Mr. Lach explained that the tentative budget was basically composed of placeholders and that the workshop would provide the board an opportunity to examine what monies have been spent in the past and how the board would move forward.

No vote was called for or taken on the item.

8. (00:21:56) Discussion Only – Discussion and deliberation of Nye County Resolution No. 2022-19 which addresses the \$136,000 levy imposed on Nye County by the Nevada Division of Water Resources and the Offices of the Nevada State Engineer for management of Pahrump Water Basin #162.

Nye County resident John Bosta mentioned the Water Act of 1939 which he claimed exempted domestic wells from “that law.” He went on to assert that his recent research led

him to a 1953 change in language that expanded the state engineer's authority. He went on to mention rumors of tax monies being expended for the inspection of all wells by the state engineer. Mr. Bosta went on to assert that water users who have meters which need to be read by the state should be the ones who pay the engineer's office not individual property owners.

Mr. Goedhart asked if resolution No. 2022-19 was included as backup. Mrs. Williams noted that it was not included as backup.

The Nye County Water District General Manager Daniel Weeks explained that he had sponsored the item as a way for liaison Strickland to explain why the county had opted not to pay the bill. The manager went on to mention that the cooperation of Division of Water Recourses was vital to his office's functioning.

Nye County Commissioner and Nye County Water District liaison Debra Strickland explained that the bill was issued pursuant to NRS 534.040 which she said outlined that the county must pay the bill. Mrs. Strickland went on to support prior public comment that water users should bear the financial burden, not every property owner. Strickland further stated that not paying the bill "would not stand up" and that the water board should be aware that a legal battle over the matter was possible in the near future.

Mr. Lach asked if the county had been paying the bill for the past 15 years to which the General Manager responded that the bill is passed on to property owners as a line on their annual tax bills. Mr. Lach confirmed that the monies collect should be sitting with the Nye County Treasures Office.

Mrs. Williams noted the State described the fee as an "Assessment" in their letter but that the tax bill listed the imposition as "Tax." Mrs. Williams also mentioned that there were still many questions surrounding the matter.

Nye County Commissioner and Nye County Water District liaison Debra Strickland explained that the bill was for the management of the Basin #162 not just the oversight of water purveyors. Strickland suggested the board consider the issue as one to use its single Bill Draft Request to the Nevada Legislature.

Mr. Lach asked Strickland how the county's vote went. Her answer was 5-0 to not pay the bill.

Nye County Commission Chairman Frank Carbone entered the meeting to make comment. He stated, "Yes it was a 5-0 vote. And the reason for the 5-0 vote was that we believe that purveyors need to be paying for the water issues. The owners of the 40,000 plus lots with no water movement are going to be paying for this activity. Why? Nobody else within the county does that, just in Pahrump. What we are doing is, we are challenging the State Engineer, asking when he can come visit us and talk about the subject. The key here is what do they really want to go do? What do you guys really want to do? Do we want to make this right or do want to keep on paying this bill that we shouldn't be paying? Why are we putting this on the back of property owners? It should be on the people who own water rights."

Mr. Lach asked Nye County Commission Chairman Frank Carbone if the monies for the bill had already been collected to which Carbone replied “Yes.” Mr. Lach stated that not paying the bill does not make a lot of sense as the county was not going to refund the \$2.65 to each property owner. He suggested that confronting the state while we were trying to work with them on important issues was not productive. He recommended that the Water Board suggest that the Nye County Commission pay the outstanding bill for now and that we move forward with changes in the way the bill is assessed.”

Nye County Commission Chairman Frank Carbone asked the board to support the commission on the matter.

Mrs. Williams suggested that the County needs to pay the bill for this year but that the Department of Water Recourses needs to come before the commission to explain things.

Mr. Goedhart asked Nye County Commission Chairman Frank Carbone if the utility companies in Pahrump were paying a portion of this fee as it was assessed on a per parcel basis. Nye County Commission Chairman Frank Carbone responded, “You are hitting on some of the questions that we want to have answered.”

Mr. Lach recommended that the General Manger reach out to the Division of water resources to explain that the board is looking for a way to pay this bill and is exploring how to pay the bill and to request the Division come before the board or the commission so they can discuss the matter to prevent to bill not being paid moving forward.

9. (01:01:37) For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to modify the currently accepted mission statement of The Nye County Water District Governing Board.

General Manager Weeks read the current Mission Statement and the proposed Mission Statements into the record.

Mr. Lach motioned to change the Mission Statement as written.

Mr. Goedhart seconded the motion.

The vote was 4-0 to approve the new Mission Statement as:

“Protect, provide and preserve the water resources of Nye County.”

10. (01:03:30) For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to direct staff to produce a Request For Proposal and then publish, advertise or personally seek legal firms to represent the Nye County Water District. The manager will then promptly return to The Board with the aggregated proposals as an Action Item for The Board’s final selection.

Nye County resident John Bosta stated that the water District may already have an existing contract for legal services and cautioned that the board not duplicate services.

Mr. Lach asked the General Manager about previous work and deliverables from the previous legal firm. Weeks responded that the contract had expired and that the firm had left a large deposit of paper deliverables which had not yet been processed.

Mr. Lach specified that he would like to see a legal firm that had experience with water law litigation as well as contract law.

Mrs. Williams directed the General Manger to move forward with seeking a new legal firm for the Nye County Water District Governing Board.

11. **(01:08:15) For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to direct staff to draft a Letter of Invitation for each of the various Municipal Utilities located within the Nye County Water District to attend regularly scheduled meetings of The Nye County Water District Governing Board on a rotating schedule. Staff should confirm with the item’s sponsor and the Board Chair before issuing any invitation and confirm the proposed schedule of the responding Utilities.**

Mr. Holden stated that the item was one of his ideas and that he wanted to understand what was happening with the companies’ water rights and how much development could be expected.

Mr. Lach stated that the Utilities Companies had banked water so they did not have show proof of beneficial use. He went on to explain that the banking measure helped to save water by allowing rights holders to not be forced to pump water for meter readings alone.

Mr. Lach mentioned that he would like the Board to be able to have certain questions answered by the companies before they appear in a meeting so the board would know that their questions could be answered. He went on to question if the water rights that were banked with utility companies were subjected to a 3-1 relinquishment.

Mr. Holden suggested that the board members supply the General manager with questions for the Utility companies to answer and return with those question as an action item to be adopted by the board in a future meeting.

Mr. Lach motioned to have each Board Member send questions to the General Manager which they would like to have answered by the Utilities. The Manager would then compile the list to eliminate duplicates and possibly get one company to “show up” at the July meeting of the Nye County Water District Governing Board.

Mr. Holden second the motion.

The vote was 4-0 to approve.

12. **(01:19:46) Discussion Only – Discussion on most recent rate increase by Great Basin Water Co.**

Mr. Holden stated that he had asked that this item be included on the agenda because of a substantial rate increase that had recently been passed. Mr. Holden suggested that the water board send a letter to the Public Utility Commission commenting on the increase indicating that the board feels the rate structure should emphasize water conservation and penalize heavy users more than average users proportionally.

Mr. Goedhart noted that the agenda item had been presented in a discussion only format that did not allow for action by the board.

Nye County Commissioner and Nye County Water District liaison Debra Strickland clarified that the board could give direction to the General manager to compose a draft letter to the PUC.

Mrs. Williams questioned if the item and discussion had drifted into matters beyond the purview of the board. She also stated that efforts to influence the process the PUC uses may be a waste of the board's and staff's time.

Mr. Goedhart stated that he could support a suggestive letter that encourages the PUC to support conservation.

No vote was called for or taken on the item.

- 13. (01:39:12) For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to review the Letters of Interest received for the General Manager position and choose a manager from the following list of interested individuals: Jimmy Anderson, Brett Fish and Daniel Weeks.**

Mr. Holden motioned to hire General manager Daniel Weeks for the next fiscal year.

Mr. Goedhart made the second for discussion.

The vote was 4-0 to approve.

- 14. (01:44:56) For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to direct staff to submit official written request that the Nevada Division of Water Resources make an appearance before the Nye County Water District Governing Board to explain the Division's recent Order #1330 concerning Amargosa Valley and Nevada Water Basin #230.**

Nye County resident Annette Fuentes mentioned a meeting in Amargosa on May 25, 2022. She went on to mention a petition being circulated in Amargosa and asked the board to offer its official support to the petition effort.

Mr. Goedhart noted that the action item as posted did not include information on the Amargosa petition letter.

Nye County resident John Bosta recommended that the board request that the state engineer extend the deadline (July 5th) for public comment on Order #1330. He went on to claim that the order could impact Pahrump and that there was a “40-mile-radius” from Death Valley.

Nye County resident Victor Fuentes stated that Fish and Wildlife were diverting water away from Devils Hole and into California. He said that he did not understand why they were being allowed to send Nevada’s water in California.

Mr. Goedhart mentioned the Death Valley Regional Flow Model and stated that the state was attempting to combine many Basins into one “Super-Basin.” He went on to ask that the General Manger request that the State Engineer hold open the public comment for another 30 days for public comment.

Mr. Goedhart made a motion to direct the General Manager to request the State Engineer make an appearance before the water board to explain the Order (#1330). He further stated that the board would provide the General Manager with a list of questions to be answered by the State Engineer prior to the meeting being set.

Mr. Holden made the second.

The vote was 4-0 to approve.

Following the vote, Mr. Holden questioned the length of time needed for the extension of public comment. Discussion lead to the consensus that a 90 day extension be requested by the General Manager.

15. **(02:02:18) For Discussion Only – Discussion on the over-appropriated water rights in Nevada Water Basin #162, the current annual recharge of Basin #162 and the discrepancy between the two numbers. Review older files and analyze where the appropriation numbers as well as the recharge numbers were derived.**

Nye County resident John Bosta recalled a 1970 report by the State Water Engineer in which the issued paper water rights were six times higher than the perianal yield of Basin #162. He went on to question how many acre feet of paper water rights were still active within the basin.

Mr. Lach described the over allocation of water rights in Basin #162 as the “Elephant in the Room.”

Mr. Goedhart mentioned that as paper water rights were sold off that at some point in the future there would no longer be water rights to purchase in order to develop new homes in Pahrump. He went on to mention that many property owners may be facing a situation where they would be forced to haul water to their homes.

Mrs. Williams closed the item without further direction.

16. (02:40:10) For Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to direct staff to act in cooperation with Nye County staff to assist Victor and Annette Fuentes in composing further correspondence to the Office of the State Water Engineer and the Division of Water Resources.

Nye County resident John Bosta recommended that the board support the Fuentes' efforts.

Nye County resident Annette Fuentes thanked the board for it's help.

Mr. Goedhart stated that he was 100% in support of the couple's fight with the federal government.

Mr. Goedhart motioned that the board put their weight in the form of a letter into petitioning State Engineer Adam Sullivan to put this matter high on his office's priorities.

Mr. Lach made the seconded the motion.

Nye County Commissioner and Nye County Water District liaison Debra Strickland interjected to state that the Nye County Commission had been contacted by the Office of the State Engineer to relay that they had in fact prioritized the matter and that he was meeting with staff to discuss the Fuentes' situation.

The vote was 4-0 to approve.

17. (02:46:50) Supporting Reports – Organization Member, Staff and County Liaison

a. Board Reports

I. Las Vegas Valley Water District and Southern Nevada Water Authority

Nothing reported.

II. Central Nevada Rural Water Authority – Nye County Commissioner Debra Strickland

Nothing reported.

b. Staff Reports

I. General Manager Dann Weeks – Water District Progress Update

General Manager Weeks made a brief report on the status of the Administration Offices of the Nye County Water District Governing Board.

II. John Klenke – Science Update - Brief overview of most recent actions taken by the collective

Klenke's report to the board is attached to end these minutes.

c. Report from other individuals, groups and or agencies regarding water-related issues.

Nothing reported.

- 18. **(03:13:24) Possible Action – Discussion and deliberation to set the date, time and location of the next Water District Governing Board for Monday, July 25, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the BOCC Chambers.**

Mrs. Williams suggested that the time for the meeting in July be set for 10:30 a.m.

No vote was called for or taken on the item.

- 19. **(03:14:17) Closing General Public Comment – Up to three-minute time limit per person. Action will not be taken on the matters considered during this period unless specifically included on an agenda as an action item.**

Nye County Commissioner Bruce Jabour from Tonopah requested clarity on the projected 40 year water deficit in Pahrump. He went on to offer the temporary use of his office space at the Calvada Eye for the General Manager.

Nye County resident John Bosta mentioned the Water District and some problems in Little NV. He went on to say that the Shaw report should be re-analyzed because it was “upside-down” by 5000 acre feet. Bosta went on to state that the board had not studied the reports which had already been published.

Nye County resident Annette Fuentes thanked the board for taking on such a difficult task.

- 20. **(03:23:420) Adjourn.**

WDGB Chair

Date: _____

WDGB Manager

Date: _____

Brief overview of the most recent actions taken by the collective Nye County science team in support of the Water Board and a presentation on the significance and deficiencies of the DV3 Model. Explain both possible and probable impacts DV3 may have on Nye County and the District.

Devils Hole is located near the southwestern terminus of a series of interconnected carbonate (limestone) aquifers collectively referred to as the Carbonate rock province. The "Continuity in the carbonate-rock reservoir probably is achieved through extensive fractures and to a small degree by localized solution channels". The rocks of this Carbonate rock province or "corridor" are the sources of underflow between local aquifers and have highly variable transmissivities ranging from 400 to 900,000 gps per ft (Winograd 1963, pg 29)". Water in the "corridor" flows predominantly from east to west with a slight southerly component, and hydraulic heads of the carbonate-rock reservoir are higher than the alluvial heads in some basins, such as Basin 230, and lower in others. In the Devils hole are the head is about 100 ft higher than in the alluvial Basin (farms area). This carbonate head is held back on the eastern side of the basin (just west of Devils Hole by a geophysical inferred structure called the "Gravity fault)". The crux of Nye County's concern revolves around how much of this carbonate water makes its way (flows) into the alluvial basin (farms area) and how this flow is conceptualized in the DV3 model.

The DV3 (DVRFS. v3) model is the latest version of the USGS regional model. This is actually the fourth model to attempt to characterize flow across the flow system from the eastern side of the NNSS to Death Valley (IT model (1982-97), DVRFS.v1 (1998-2004) and the DVRFS.v2 (2005 ≈2018?). Each of these models has a different areal extent (footprint), and each was calibrated differently. Nye County believes that the latest version, DV3, is the best model the USGS has produced to date.

The DV3 model has a plethora of information from drill holes in the area within the NNSS and was used to prove dirrections amounts of groundwater flow across the NNSS for purposes of closure of Critical Action Units (CAU's). In order to balance this flow discharges were set across the carbonate alluvial interface of basin 230 i.e. the carbonate alluvial interface, or across the gravity fault.

Nye contends is that the pumping in the alluvial aquifer (18000 afa) has not increased the flow across this interface an additional 6000 afy (from 2500 steady state to 8500 afa). This "model generated flow increase" puts a huge burden on the pumping in the farms area to the impacts to the Devils Hole pupfish (*Cyprinodon diabolis*). (B

The USGS ^{had} sent a proposal out to the Federal agencies and including Nye County for a pump test to be conducted on the swest side of the Gravity fault on 12/22/2020. In response to this Nye County sent a letter to the USGS (July2, 2021), pointing out possible problems with their proposal and proposed the idea of an enhanced monitoring system, consisting of a new carbonate and alluvial well, and the instrumenting exiting wells to gather actual data as related to this connected flow channel across the gravity fault and toward Devils Hole

1197 1197A

The State has recently announced the implementation of interim order 1330 restricting the appropriation and movement of water within the Amargosa Desert. "Change applications will be

- meeting amargosa may 25, 2022

Nye filed comments

- 1) DV3 - Hd-42 corridor not tested
- 2) Devils hole calibrated to ^{ground} fractured into levels
- 3) model is pushing data

evaluated by utilizing the USGS Death valley Regional Flow System numerical model, to determine if there will be no net increase in water level decline at Devils Hole over a subsequent fifty-year period.” Nye’s next question should be “what is the States definition of net increase in water level decline”.

Senate Bill No. 103—Senator Reid.

CHAPTER 162

AN ACT to amend an act entitled, “An act to provide for the conservation and distribution of underground waters, providing for the designation of artesian well basins and defining such wells and providing the method of appropriating the waters thereof; defining the powers and duties of the state engineer in the administration hereof; providing for the casting and capping of artesian wells and for the prevention of waste of water therefrom; providing for the licensing of well drillers; providing a forfeiture clause and providing a method for determination of vested rights, and matters relating thereto; prescribing penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act; adding hereto sections 7a, 9a, and 9b, and repealing certain acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith,” approved March 25, 1939, as amended.

[Approved March 20, 1953]

*The People of the State of Nevada, represented in Senate and Assembly,
do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 4 of the above-entitled act, being section 7993.13, 1929 N.C.L. 1949 Supp., is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. Upon receipt by the state engineer of a petition requesting him to administer the provisions of this act, as relating to designated areas, signed by not less than 15 percent of the owners of wells, in any particular basin or portion therein, having a legal right to appropriate underground water therefrom, he shall cause to be made the necessary investigations to determine if such administration would be justified and if his findings are affirmative he shall designate such area by basin, or portion therein, and shall make an official order describing the boundaries by legal subdivision as nearly as possible, and proceed with the administration of this act as provided for herein; *provided, however, that in the absence of such a petition from a ground water basin which the state engineer has found, after due investigation, to be in need of administration as relating to designated areas, he may upon his own motion enter an order in the same manner as if a petition, as heretofore described, had been received, and further provided that such order of the state engineer may be reviewed by the district court of the county pursuant to section 75 (section 7961, N.C.L. 1929) of the general water law.* **Such supervision to be exercised on all wells tapping artesian water or water in definable underground aquifers drilled subsequent to March 22, 1913, and on all wells tapping percolating water, the course and boundaries of which are incapable of determination, drilled subsequent to March 25, 1939; save and excepting those wells coming under the provisions of section 3 of this act.**

SEC. 2. Section 5 of the above-entitled act, being section 7993.14, 1929 N.C.L. 1949 Supp., is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Upon the initiation of the administration of this act in any particular basin, and where the investigations of the state engineer have shown the necessity for the supervision over the waters in such basin, and upon recommendation of the state engineer, the county commissioners of the county within which such basin is situated may employ, with the consent and approval of the state engineer, a well supervisor and whatever other assistants deemed necessary, who shall execute the duties as provided in this act under the direction of the state engineer. **The salary of such well supervisor and his assistants shall be fixed by the board of county commissioners upon the recommendation of the state engineer.** The board of county commissioners shall levy a special tax annually, or at such time as the same is needed, upon all taxable property situated within the confines of the area so designated by the state engineer to come under the provisions of this act in such an amount as may be necessary to pay said salary or salaries, together with necessary expenses; provided, *that in designated areas within which the use of ground water is predominantly for agricultural purposes such levy shall be charged against each water user who has a permit to appropriate water or a perfected water right and the charge against each water user shall be based upon the proportion which his water right bears to the aggregate water rights in the designated area, it being understood that the minimum charge shall be one dollar; and further provided,* said salary or salaries and expenses may be paid by the state engineer from “The Water Distribution Fund,” created by chapter 232, Statutes of 1931, as amended by chapter 23, Statutes of 1943, pending the levy and collection of the tax as provided in this section. **It shall be the duty of the proper officers of the county to levy and collect such special tax as other special taxes are levied and collected, and such tax shall be a lien upon the said property.** The tax herein provided for, when collected, shall be deposited with the state treasurer of Nevada in a fund in the state treasury which shall be designated as the.....basin,County well fund. All claims against said fund in the state treasury shall be certified by the state engineer and approved by the state board of examiners; the state controller is authorized to draw his warrant therefor against such well fund and the state treasurer shall pay the same.

1879: The Water Act of March 6, 1879; Chap.83—A ground water Act— is an Act to encourage the Sinking of Artesian wells within this State, after the first five hundred shall have been sunk, the sum of two dollars per foot, to be paid in the manner provided for in section four of this act. Prior to reaching the five hundred feet depth the persons shall file with the County Recorder and when completed demand the bounty from Board of Commissioner.

1885: Riparian Water Doctrine overturned in Nevada. See, Jones v. Adams, 19 Nev. 78, 6 Pac.442 (1885), where this Court overturns the RIPARIAN WATER DOCTRINE in Nevada, holding that (regarding surface water- lakes and streams) there is no ownership in the corpus of the water ,but that the use there of may be acquired ,and the basis of such acquisition is beneficial use

March 25, 1939 AB215, Chap 178

Sec. 3 This act shall not apply to the developing and use of underground water for domestic purposes where the draught does not exceed two gallons per minute and where the water developed is not from an artesian well. – Exemption

SEC. 5. Upon the initiation of the administration of this act in any particular artesian basin, and where the investigations of the state engineer have shown the necessity for the supervision over the waters in such basin, and upon recommendation of the state engineer, the county commissioners of the county within which such artesian basin is situated may employ, with the consent and approval of the state engineer, an artesian well supervisor and whatever other assistants deemed necessary, who shall execute the duties as provided in this act under the direction of the state engineer. **The salary of such artesian well supervisor and his assistants shall be fixed by the board of county commissioners, who shall levy a special tax upon all taxable property situated within the confines of the area designated by the state engineer to come under the provisions of this act; provided, however,** that at no time shall such tax levy produce a revenue in any one year of more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000). It shall be the duty of the proper officers of the county to levy and collect such special tax as other special taxes are levied and collected, and such tax shall be a lien upon the said property. The tax herein provided for, when collected, shall be deposited with the state treasurer of Nevada in a fund in the state treasury which shall be designated as the.....basin,.....county artesian well fund. All claims against said fund in the state treasury shall be certified by the state engineer and approved by the state board of examiners; the state controller is authorized to draw his warrant therefor against such artesian well fund and the state treasurer shall pay the same.