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Nevada Irrigation District to discuss best practice for video footage

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The Nevada Irrigation District's board of directors voted Wednesday to direct staff to form an ad-hoc committee with local stakeholders, including county staff and Nevada County TV, to discuss the best method of live-streaming and archiving video footage of its meetings.

The district's Administrative Practices Committee initially proposed a low-cost solution to the public's request for video footage, which would've involved uploading footage to the district's Youtube channel. But after the public expressed concerns that the proposed solution wouldn't provide a method of recording meetings "greater than or equal to" the technology used by Nevada County, Grass Valley and Nevada City governments, the board revised that proposal.

The board's staff report recommended live streaming meetings on NID's YouTube channel. The meeting would then be "indexed, archived and embedded on NID's website post event," the staff report stated.

"This doesn't meet the standards as far as I'm concerned," said Board Member Nancy Weber, echoing concerns expressed by some members of the public.

Many noted that other local government agencies use a third-party operator for their video footage, which reinforces a system of checks and balances, streams footage both on cable television and through the internet, and provides a comprehensive indexing system.

The ad-hoc committee, which will discuss the best method of recording and financing video footage of meetings, will present a solution to NID's Administrative Practices Committee, which will then present a recommendation to the board. An exact timeline for when video recording could be implemented was unclear.

"We certainly are moving in the right direction today," said Caleb Dardick, executive director of the South Yuba River Citizens League.

The NID board will use indexed video footage of its meetings as the official record of the district once it is implemented.

"I'd like to see this on every board meeting agenda until we get a solution, we get the job done, and we get it done right," said Weber. "This is the community speaking."

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