

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – President Unger called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM – General Manager Ban asked for a rollcall and the following Directors were present; President Unger, Vice President Floen, Director Doolittle, Director Jarlsberg, and Director Reynolds are in attendance via teleconference.

STAFF PRESENT –Mark Ban, General Manager, Sarah Johnson, Director of Administration, Jim Corbin, Director of Operations, and Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant, are in attendance via teleconference.

CONSULTANTS PRESENT –Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant, is in attendance via teleconference.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC¹ (Reynolds/Doolittle) 5/0 motion carried to approve the Agenda with the following corrections. July 21, 2021, draft minutes should reflect that the Board meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. The Agenda for August 18, 2021, states draft minutes for August 8, 2021, and it should state draft minutes of August 4, 2021.

Ayes: Doolittle, Floen, Jarlsberg, Reynolds, and Unger
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

CONSENT CALENDAR - MSC¹ (Reynolds/Doolittle) 5/0/0 motion carried to approve the Consent Calendar, with the changes referred to above.

Ayes: Doolittle, Floen, Jarlsberg, Reynolds, and Unger
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

RESOLUTION NO. 21-1034 IN SUPPORT TO ELECT DIRECTOR CATHY GREEN AS ACWA VICE PRESIDENT – GM Ban introduced Director Cathy Green, who is currently running for ACWA Vice President, who gave a brief bio of her qualifications. This was followed by each Director giving their congratulations and well wishes. Director Green’s complete statement is attached to these minutes.

MSC¹ (Floen/Reynolds) 5/0 motion carried to approve supporting Director Cathy Green as ACWA’s Vice President.

Ayes: Doolittle, Floen, Jarlsberg, Reynolds
Noes: Unger
Absent: None
Abstain: None

RESERVE FUNDING TRANSFER FOR 2020/2021 – Director Anne Roman gave the report and informed the Board that for fiscal year 20/21 the proposed reserve funding of \$1,037,511 are for costs and to un-restrict. Also \$1,750,000 in funding is anticipated to be generated by the rate study for replenishment of certain designated reserves. This funding is to be generated throughout the year so availability may be limited to fiscal year end, based on meeting revenue and expense budgets. A brief Q&A followed with the Board members.

MSC¹ (Floen/Reynolds) 5/0/0 motion carried to approve the Reserve Funding transfer for 2020/2021.

Ayes: Doolittle, Floen, Jarlsberg, Reynolds, and Unger
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

2021 BAD DEBT WRITE OFF OF \$20,100.24 – Director Anne Roman gave the staff report and informed the Board that the annual write-off of the bad debt is required for the audit. The 20/21 bad debt is a reflection of water charges still unpaid or not liened, remaining from the 19/20 fiscal year. Staff recommends approval of the 20/21 bad debt write-off of \$20,100.24, which is 67% of the budgeted amount of \$30,000. This write-off is what remains unpaid and/or not liened from the 19/20 water revenues that totaled \$4,978,715, which is 0.4% or just under ½ of 1% of revenues for that year. This was followed by a brief Q&A period with the Board members.

MSC¹ (Floen/Reynolds) 5/0/0 motion carried to approve 2020/2021 bad debt write-off.

Ayes: Doolittle, Floen, Jarlsberg, Reynolds, and Unger
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

NEW AND REVISED JOB DESCRIPTIONS – Director Sarah Johnson gave the staff report and informed the Board members that the new job descriptions include the CIRP Foreman, Distribution Foreman, and Production Foreman. These new positions will replace the current Lead Equipment Operator, Lead Construction & Maintenance, Lead Production Operator, & Production Supervisor positions. This change allows for the distribution of higher-level responsibilities across the organization which will create more effective leadership, improved efficiencies in the Operations programs, and prepares for succession. A brief discussion followed with the Board members.

MSC¹ (Floen/Reynolds) 5/0/0 motion carried to approve the new and revised job descriptions.

Ayes: Doolittle, Floen, Jarlsberg, Reynolds, and Unger
Noes: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT – General Manager Ban stated that 47% of the state of California is in an exceptional drought, which is at the highest level at D4. Most of the state is at 88% which is between a D3 or a D4 including San Bernardino County. Current Reservoir levels that are two (2) of the largest reservoirs for the state water project (Shasta and Oroville) are only at 23% capacity and is 34% below its historic low level. In reference to illegal cannabis grows, we took the last three (3) months of our top 50 water users and plotted them out. There is potentially five (5) or six (6) illegal grow sites in the Joshua Tree area, however, the number is probably closer to 20 or 25 of them. We are currently looking at ways to get better imagery because some of these units are using 199 units of water per month, which equates to a million gallons of water being utilized.

DIRECTOR MEETING REPORTS –

Kathleen Radnich, Public Information Consultant reported on the following:

- Volunteer Docent meeting is on August 26, 2021, from 5-6 p.m. in the Water Wise Demonstration Garden.
- The August Farmer’s Market booth theme is “Hydration for Good Health”.
- Hospitality Industry virtual meeting is September 9, 2021, at 6 p.m.
- Virtual Classes: October 28, 2021, at 6 p.m. Native Plant Propagation Class and November 4, 2021, at 6 p.m. Winterizing Class.

Director Doolittle stated that the MWA TAC Committee discussed the Water Marking & Groundwater Banking Program and the Regional Funding Agreement for the Colorado River Funding area.

Chairperson Barbara Delph informed the Board members that they had a Special CAC meeting on August 17, 2021, and stated that Director Corbin shared that several District staff members recently attended the annual Tri-State Seminar allowing employees to acquire continuing education credits to maintain their licenses. Director Corbin brought up continued plans for Well 14 including electrical panels, an electric gate, and lights and cameras for security. Also, General Manager Ban summarized the current illegal cannabis farm issues and stated that the District and other local water districts are working with a lobbyist The Clean Water System Alliance. He added they have started a local initiative called the Highway 62/247 Initiative to try and influence other lobbyists and lawmakers to help combat some of the issues we are having.

Vice President Floen commented on the Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission he attended where Mike Simpson, Project Manager gave an update on the status of the Warren Vista Tank.

President Unger commented on the MWA Board of Directors meeting she attended where they discussed water supply, sustainability, and conservation.

Director Jarlsberg and Director Doolittle commented on the San Bernardino Water Conference that they attended with President Unger and Kathleen Radnich, and what it entailed.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS –

Vice President Floen commented on the Org Chart and the flow of it, the lines of communication, distribution, and work.

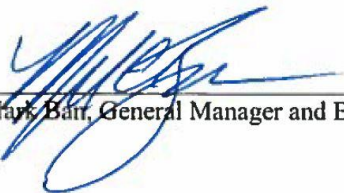
Director Reynolds commented on the pictures he received of Lake Oroville.

Director Jarlsberg requested a follow-up report on the JT Auto Camp and then commented on the water questionnaire checklist.

FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS – President Unger read off the list of the upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT – President Unger adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Barr, General Manager and Board Secretary