

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 7, 2015

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: Victoria Fuller Present
 Bob Johnson Present
 Mickey Luckman Present
 Mike Reynolds Present
 Rebecca Unger Present

STAFF PRESENT: Curt Sauer, General Manager
 Susan Greer, Assistant General Manager/Controller
 Seth Zielke, Director of Water Resources and Operations
 Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant
 Gil Granito, District Counsel, Redwine & Sherrill

GUESTS 7

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC Reynolds/Luckman, 5/0 to approve the agenda for the October 7, 2015 meeting.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Luckman/Johnson, 5/0 to approve Draft Minutes of the September 16, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

6. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

GM Sauer presented the rules and regulations regarding the required public comment period, and presented examples of what other governing agencies have on their agendas for board meetings with regard to public

comment periods, noting that most agencies have one comment period at the beginning of the meeting following the consent calendar.

Public Comment:

Al Marquez, ratepayer, Joshua Tree: Mr. Marquez stated that one public comment period is limiting and noted that he believes most people who comment during the public comment period do so on the second public comment period.

Gary Wilson, 46 year rate payer, Joshua Tree: Mr. Wilson had a comment on pulled meters, noting that all service lines with meters up to 1.5 inches are on one inch lines. Mr. Wilson states it would make sense to charge all pulled meters up to 1.5 inches the minimum basic rate, and at the time the customer wants a meter reinstalled, to charge the customer the prevailing rates at that time for that size meter. Mr. Wilson also noted that possibly, due to change in ownership or conservation, customers may request a smaller meter size.

President Fuller agrees with staff recommendations and notes that having the public comment period at the beginning of the meeting offers people the option to leave after their comment instead of having to attend the entire meeting.

Director Unger agrees with staff recommendations and also suggested combining items 14 and 15 on the agenda which include: Individual Director Reports on Meetings attended and Directors Comments/Future Agenda Items.

Director Reynolds supports having two public comment periods as has been the JBWD status quo, and would prefer not limiting the public to one comment.

Vice President Luckman agrees with staff recommendation for one public comment period and pointed out that the public also has opportunity to comment each item on the agenda.

MSC Luckman/Unger, 4/1 to approve one public comment period for items of interest not on the agenda, and clearly state that public comment for each agenda topic will be available during consideration of each agenda item, and that the Public Comment period will occur after the Approval of the Agenda.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	No
Unger	Aye

7. UPDATE AND DISCUSSION ON HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM MITIGATION PLANNING, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE REQUEST TO RESOURCE CONTROL BOARD

GM Sauer gave the report, including information pertaining to the financial assistance process, which will pertain to item #8 on the agenda. GM Sauer provided information on potential monies available to help finance Chromium 6 compliance. The Board received the hexavalent chromium mitigation planning and financial assistance request update for information only.

8. RESOLUTION 15-951- A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT, AUTHORIZING THE DISTRICT TO APPLY FOR A PROPOSITION 1 FUNDING PROGRAM FINANCING AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION

GM Sauer gave the presentation, and read the resolution.

MSC Unger/Luckman, 5/0 to adopt Resolution 15-951.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

9. WATER RECHARGE DELIVERY SCHEDULE

GM Sauer gave presentation about water recharge schedule as it relates to cost of water purchases through the Mojave Water Agency. Staff recommends that the Board approve purchase of water in Spring 2016.

Public Comment:

Gary Wilson: 46 year rate payer, Joshua Tree: Mr. Wilson believes that the evaporation rate would be approximately 10% higher if water is received in the spring instead of the fall.

Al Marquez: Sunfair area, Joshua Tree: Mr. Marquez believes evaporation rate would be approximately 20% if water is received in the spring and approximately 30% if water is in the ponds during the summer.

GM Sauer clarified that the evaporation rate is significantly less than the numbers provided by public commenters, and clarifies that water would not be taken during the summer when evaporation rates are higher or when larval insects may occur. Mr. Sauer also points out that both Hi-Desert Water District and Bighorn Desert View Water Agency take their water during the spring to minimize evaporation and for the cost savings.

Director Johnson raised concerns with regards to funding in consideration with other project funding issues, and the ambiguous timeframe to repay the Opportunity Fund.

MSC Luckman/Reynolds, 4/1 to approve the purchase and delivery of water in Spring 2016 funded by the Opportunity Fund, with repayment to the Opportunity Fund in successive years in the amount of the savings derived by purchasing the water during the spring instead of the fall.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	No
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

10. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Unger: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant, gave the report. Ms. Radnich reported on the public tour of the Joshua Basin Water District on October 6th and highly complimented JBWD staff in their presentations during the tour. The Fall Native Plant Sale will be on November 14th at the Mojave Desert Land Trust. Next meeting is scheduled for November 4th.
- B. FINANCE COMMITTEE: President Fuller and Director Johnson: There has not been a meeting since the last Board meeting. Next meeting is scheduled for October 26th.
- C. WATER RESOURCES & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Johnson: There was not a meeting last month. Next meeting is scheduled for October 27th.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Marquez, Sunfair Area, Joshua Tree: Mr. Marquez commented regarding basic fees and monthly water production sales fees. Mr. Marquez states that the basic monthly rate has increased from 2007 to 2018, from \$20.00 per month to \$27.58 per month which he states is an increase of 38% and uses Tier 2 additional water in another example of the rate increase, and states he believes that the majority of the monies are going towards water importation through the Morongo Pipeline.

10. DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT

Counselor Granito reported on SB 20, which proposes a statewide fund to address the emergency drought conditions and fund conservation efforts. Counselor Granito pointed out that the mechanism to fund the bill has not yet been resolved, and that one of the initial alternatives is to impose a statewide tax on water bills. Granito states that the bill includes funding for safe drinking water for disadvantaged communities.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager Curt Sauer gave the report. GM Sauer discussed the Mojave Water Agency Integrated Regional Water Management Plan. GM gave an update on the groundwater recharge, conservation efforts, and the Capital Improvement Program.

12. FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Mojave Water Agency Board Meeting October 8th – Director Luckman
ASBCSD Meeting October 19th – Director Reynolds
ACWA Fall 2015 Regulatory Summit October 14th – Directors Fuller, Luckman, and GM Sauer.

13. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Directors Fuller and Luckman attended the ACWA Region 9 The Heat is On, Managing the Drought meeting on September 18th, which included several items of interest such as conservation in the inland empire, development during a drought, and saving our water's new focus: Reduce Your Use.

Director Reynolds attended the Special Districts meeting on September 28th. Richard Wilson gave a presentation at the meeting about how to avoid the most common mistakes made with regards to rate increases, using the example of a small water district in northern California that failed to raise rates while the cost of doing business increased, almost bankrupting that water district. Mr. Wilson provided strategic ideas for keeping up with cost of running a water district and dealing with reduced revenues due to conservation.

Director Luckman also attended the Groundwater Committee meeting for ACWA on September 23rd, where there was discussion about managing the groundwater throughout the state.

14. DIRECTORS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

GM Sauer suggested a future agenda item as Nextera Solar had contacted him indicating they had consolidated their parcels and will be requesting a Will Serve letter at the next Board meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MSC Luckman/Reynolds, 5/0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of October 7, 2015 at 8:40 PM.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

Respectfully submitted:



Curt Sauer, General Manager and Board Secretary

