

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

February 3, 2016

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	Absent
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 11

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC Luckan/Unger, 4/0/1 to approve the agenda for the February 3, 2016 meeting, and to table agenda item 11 until the next meeting.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Absent
Unger	Aye

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Marquez, Sunfair Area, Joshua Tree: Mr. Marquez made a comment regarding pipeline replacement. Mr. Marquez stated that since 2011 money has been set aside for pipeline replacement and referred to an ad hoc committee of Directors Wilson and Coates. Since 2011 no major pipelines replaced and Marquez asked the question: Why hasn't pipeline replacement started yet?

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Luckman/Johnson, 4/0/1 to approve Draft Minutes of the January 20, 2016 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye

Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Absent
Unger	Aye

7. RESOLUTION THANKING FRED KINTWORTH FOR HIS SERVICE ON THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GM Sauer spoke in appreciation of Fred Klintworth and read the resolution.

Karen Tracy, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee spoke in appreciation of Fred Klintworth as a reliable and contributing member of the CAC.

MSC Luckman/Fuller, 4/0/1 to approve resolution 16-954.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Absent
Unger	Aye

8. NOMINATION OF THOMAS FLOEN TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GM Sauer provided information about Tom Floen, and his endorsement of Thomas Floen's to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Karen Tracy, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee spoke endorsing Tom Floen as a member of the CAC.

MSC Luckman/Unger 4/0/1 to appoint Thomas Floen to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Absent
Unger	Aye

9. WELL 14 REHABILITATION PROPOSAL

Seth Zielke, Director of Water Resources and Operations gave the report. For the Well 14 Rehabilitation Layne Christensen Company would go forward with all of the work necessary except for the motor. The Brithany company would repair the motor and JBWD is awaiting a bid proposal, which would not exceed \$100,000.

MSC Unger/Johnson 4/0/1 to approve the following:

1) that the Board approves staff recommendation to move forward with the Layne Christensen Company ("Layne") Proposal dated January 13, 2016 for \$172,730; and,

2) that the Board authorizes staff to proceed with the motor inspection and rehabilitation or replacement of the motor not to exceed \$100,000, and, to add a 10% contingency.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Absent
Unger	Aye

10. UPDATE ON NEXTERA SOLAR PROJECT

GM Sauer gave the report. GM Sauer met with San Bernardino County regarding the NextEra Solar Project and their application with the County to drill a well. The County Environmental Health supervisor indicated that the well permit would likely be approved if NextEra met state and county codes for water quality and well construction requirements. The County Environmental Health supervisor also stated that JBWD would be advised of any well permit applications within the service area (other than NextEra's). County Land Use Planning provided Initial Study for review, and JBWD is providing a comment to the Initial Study with regards that JBWD has issued a Will Serve letter to NextEra, however the acre feet estimate for the project is 86 AF instead of the original estimate of 49 AF due to recalculating water estimates stated in the Initial Study. The Board received for information only.

Public Comment:

Al Marquez, Sunfair Community, Joshua Tree: Mr. Marquez is asking whether NextEra is required to do an Environmental Impact Report, and suggested that the area is a wildlife corridor for special status species such as Burrowing Owl and Desert Tortoise. Mr. Marquez also suggested that the property is not owned by NextEra.

Gary Biggs, Joshua Tree: Mr. Biggs states the residents in the area near the proposed solar facility do not want solar facilities in the residential area or so close to the National Park.

Rob Bernheimer, Attorney representing NextEra thanked the Board for their cooperation. Mr. Bernheimer stated that NextEra needed a more definitive timeframe for obtaining water, which is why they are exploring the option of drilling a well, and stated that their first preference would be to obtain water from the JBWD, and to put more water in the aquifer than NextEra takes out. In response to comment by Al Marquez, NextEra is following CEQA guidelines and an Environmental Assessment is currently being conducted.

Director Unger asked who is the owner of the property?

Counselor Bernheimer stated that NextEra is currently under contract to purchase the property, and all applications filed with the JBWD and San Bernardino County are with the owner's consent. Upon approval with the County, escrow will close and NextEra will own the property (not lease).

Director Johnson asked about the reasoning for the particular location.

This location was chosen because the County did a solar ordinance that placed a preference on previously disturbed land and the county ordinance has a distance requirement from Joshua Tree National Park of two miles. Bernheimer states environmental studies of this area show low habitat quality for species of concern whereas some other properties had higher concerns.

Director Johnson asked what advantage does NextEra see by installing a solar facility in the community?

NextEra would like to bring benefit to the community. Bernheimer stated they were paying the property owner a substantial amount of money.

Directors Luckman and Fuller inquired about the timeline with regard to power purchase agreements.

Counselor Bernheimer stated they are still under deadline to begin construction according to power purchase agreements which expire near the end of the year.

Jess Melin spoke regarding the placement of the solar facility and why they have chosen to locate the solar facility in Joshua Tree, including the location of the existing transmission infrastructure.

11. REQUEST THAT THE BOARD TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS: (1) APPROVE NEW JOB DESCRIPTIONS FOR HR/CONTRACT ADMINISTRATOR AND EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT, AND (2) AUTHORIZE HIRING OF SAME

Item 11 tabled.

12. FLEET VEHICLE REPLACEMENT

Seth Zielke, Director of Water Resources and Operations gave the report. The scope of the work requires appropriate vehicles, and thus additional vehicles are required for safety reasons as well, and to provide for better use of staff time.

Public Comment:

Al Marquez, Sunfair area, Joshua Tree: Mr. Marquez suggested JBWD should be looking into cost cutting and suggested JBWD should be replaced after 10-12 years instead of 7-8 years. Mr. Marquez stated the \$100,000 + should be going towards pipe replacement instead of vehicles at this time.

MSC Johnson/Unger 4/0/1 to approve the purchase of three (3) fleet replacement vehicles, pursuant to Joshua Basin Water District's Vehicle Purchase and Replacement Policy adopted July 2, 2014.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Absent
Unger	Aye

13. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Unger: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant, gave the report. Public outreach with new messages will be discussed at the next meeting. April 3rd is Water Education Day. The Next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2016 at 9:30AM.
- B. FINANCE COMMITTEE: President Fuller and Director Johnson: Numbers were reviewed at the past meeting as well as inactive meters. The next meeting is scheduled for February 29, 2016 at 4:00PM.
- C. WATER RESOURCES & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Johnson: The next meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2016 at 4:00PM.

14. DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT

No Report.

15. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

GM Sauer gave the report. JBWD has received the CIP from Dudek in draft form. Pipeline replacement is well prioritized in the CIP program. Conservation targets- 20 percent. USGS Monitoring – Report will be given Feb 17. Draft 2016/18 two year budget process begun: target early April for Finance Comm. And then Board discussion. Therefore, the Board needs to be thinking about a strategic planning session in March to review priorities for next two years.

16. FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Mojave Water Agency BOD Meeting, February 11: Director Reynolds
Next ASBCSD meeting: February 22

17. DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
Director Unger attended the January 28th Mojave Water Agency Board Meeting. The Cash for Grass project was the main topic.

President Fuller appointed 2 ad hoc committees:

Rules and Regulations: Johnson/Fuller

General Manager Evaluation: Unger/Johnson

18. ADJOURNMENT

MSC Luckman/Fuller, 4/0/1 to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of February 3, 2016 at 8:33 PM.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Absent
Unger	Aye

Respectfully submitted:


Curt Sauer, General Manager and Board Secretary