

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

Minutes of March 7, 2018

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Lead
3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Mickey Luckman	Present
Bob Johnson	Present
Geary Hund	Present
Rebecca Unger	Present
Tom Floen	Present

STAFF PRESENT: Curt Sauer, General Manager
Mark Ban, Assistant General Manager of Operations
Susan Greer, Assistant General Manager
Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator
Randy Mayes, Regulatory Compliance Administrative Analyst (RCAA)
Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant

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

GUESTS 6

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

MSC/Johnson/Floen 5/0/0 to approve the Agenda of March 7, 2018, regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

Floen	Aye
Hund	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Unger	Aye

PUBLIC COMMENT –

John Stang, Joshua Tree, passed on to the Board, his daughter’s suggestion to help the lower income would be to raise the rates for the people that use the VRBO’s since they don’t care about our water.

CONSENT CALENDAR –

- A. Approve the draft minutes of February 21, 2018
- B. Approve job description for AGM of Operations (approved conceptually by the Board on January 17, 2018).

MSC/Johnson/Floen 5/0/0 to approve the consent calendar with the following change to the Public Comment section of the February 21, 2018, Public Hearing minutes: Al Marquez, Sunfair Community, stated that the minutes should be changed to “Al Marquez questioned why we needed a rate increase because in 2012 stand-by-revenue was \$1,165,000.” Mr. Marquez was not against a rate increase, however, he was stating that the rate increase that he was in favor of was in the single digit like 8 or 9 percent, not a

double-digit increase. Mr. Marquez noted that when there is a comment in favor of the Board the minutes go into great detail and when they are not in favor there is not very much detail.

Floen	Aye
Hund	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Unger	Aye

CHROMIUM VI REMEDIATION PROJECT: CHROMIUM III REOXIDATION STUDY –

On May 31, 2017, the Superior Court of Sacramento County overruled the Maximum Contaminant Level (“MCL”) established in July 2014 for Chromium VI. The Division of Drinking Water (“DDW”) is actively working toward establishing a new Chromium VI MCL. The total Chromium MCL remains in effect at 50 parts per billion (“ppb”). On October 18, 2017, the DDW determined that the Joshua Basin Water District (“District”) no longer needed to comply with a Chromium VI Compliance Plan.

The District owns and operates five (5) wells that produce potable water that exceeds the previously established 10 ppb. As a result, the District voluntarily reached out to the DDW with a request to perform a Reduced Coagulation Non-Filtration stannous chloride bench-scale pilot study. Since previous District studies have demonstrated that Stannous Chloride is effective in converting Chromium VI to Chromium III, research remains as to whether Chromium III will reoxidize when applied to the potable water system. To date, the District has received approximately \$250,000 in reimbursable grant funds for evaluating Chromium VI planning via the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Proposition 1 funding pool (“DWSRF”). The Division of Financial Assistance (“DOFA”) administers this funding pool.

On February 21, 2018, the District discussed with the DDW and DOFA the Chromium III Reoxidation study. This bench-scale pilot study would provide clarity on the parameters for which the Chromium (III) residual would reoxidize in the presence of chlorine. This bench-scale pilot study involves creating conditions representing expected stannous chloride doses, sodium hypochlorite doses, residence times, and temperatures in the District’s potable water system. Samples would react under these laboratory conditions for up to forty (40) days, and subsequent analysis would occur.

The DDW expressed support for the District’s Stannous Chloride bench-scale study. Considering the DDW’s support and the DWSRF funding program constraints (i.e., public health risk requisite), the DOFA would permit the funding of this bench-scale study based on the condition that the District would utilize the interest-free loan portion of the DWSRF agreement.

A short discussion with the Board followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Al Marquez, Sunfair Community said that his understanding is that the Federal mandate, right now, is 100 mg per billion or whatever it is and the State was at 15 mg and now the State wants to do 10 mg per billion is that correct.

Randy Mayes, RCAA, replied no the Federal is at 100 parts per billion, and the State was at 100 parts per billion, which is for total chromium and has been in effect for two decades now. The State, at the same time, established 50 parts per billion. However, they have been looking at chromium 6, which is a composite, and there is chromium 3, which together, make up total chromium. Now the State of California is looking specifically at chromium 6 and creating an independent mcl for that.

Al Marquez, Sunfair Community asked if it was independent of what the Federal numbers are.

Randy Mayes, RCAA responded that Federal does not have a standard for Chromium 6.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED-

MSC/Johnson/Hund 5/0/0 to approve the General Manager to move forward with the zero percent loan and pay it back over five (5) years.

Floen	Aye
Hund	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Unger	Aye

DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT – Mr. Granito reported that upon inquiry, he had been advised that release of the long-awaited report by the State Water Resources Control Board on the subject of Low Income Rate Assistance (AB 401) was still pending and that a release date had not been scheduled.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT –

CEC Solar Grant – On February 7th, I advised the Board that the CEC scope of work had been completed. Today Mark, Keith, Randy Little with the consultant and initial scoping of facilities was completed. We need to provide some additional information on well and booster pumps/mapping of the district. Expect to hear back from a consultant in 2 to three weeks with initial cost-benefit analysis.

Also on February 1st, Susan, Geary, and I traveled to Eastern Municipal WD to view their facility(ies) and gather information on how they are proceeding with additional solar projects.

Oh, and they have six full-time Human Resource Officer employees for their 600 employees. A far cry from companies that allegedly have 3000 employees and one HR person.

Ordering Vehicles – On February 8th, the Board approved the purchase of two vehicles. They have been received and are in service.

Meter Replacement – We have a meeting on Thursday with a representative from Inland Water Works to review projected costs of AMI. We have asked for AMR costs as well, and that is being calculated, not received yet. Initial costs are potentially in the vicinity of \$1.4 million, but that does not include the cost of Water Smart software to make the AMI data available to customers, nor installation costs.

GIS support - Ray Kolisz will be attending the meter meeting as well. After that, Ray and I will be discussing assisting 29 Palms with GIS. Of course, you have heard recently that 29 Palms does not have a GIS position and therefore neither should JBWD. It turns out, the GIS data being collected at 29 Palms is being sent to a consultant for processing, and they are charging a rate far higher than what we may be able to provide.

Inquiries into Staffing Certifications - at the last Board meeting Mark Ban's certifications were questioned, and since then a public records request for Randy Mayes' certifications was requested.

While the people making the inquiries have not chosen to discuss their concerns with the GM, I assume they are somehow assuming we are running the District in an unprofessional manner. Let me review how the District has maintained compliance with State System Operator requirements.

In 2008, when Marina left, Jim Corbin and Randy Little (D3's) have been the System Operators. When Seth arrived, he became the System Operator. When he left, while Randy was the interim DWRO, Jim and Randy Little again stepped up as System Operators, and continue to do so at present.

We also have Bill Kline who has a D3 and Kelly Stewart with a D4 certification.

Randy Mayes currently has his D2, and we have put him in an individual development program to attain the hours needed for his D3. He has already passed the D3 test.

Mark Ban had a D4 certification up until about eight months ago. Because his focus for the past three years has been on running the sewer project for Hi-Desert, and because the training that he did attend was not

documented, his certification expired. He is scheduled to take his D2 on March 17th and his D3 certification in September. He will have his D3 in October.

I informed the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) two weeks ago that Mark Ban had chosen to join our team here at JBWD. Their lead sanitary engineer, Sean McCarthy, was extremely pleased to learn that Mark had joined the District. Because of his 15 years of Chief Operator experience, Mark has a very strong working relationship with DDW, as well as Jose Angel of the Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board.

BETA Map- Development/Water Lines -

I mentioned last year that Keith had developed a beta map that allows interested parties, primarily real estate agents/brokers, to look at parcels themselves and determine if a water line is proximal to the parcel.

Number of uses: Potentially a corresponding decrease in the number of calls Keith has to take responding to these inquiries. Also, the number of hits has significantly gone up.

You Tube – Due to the cable company no longer providing this service to the public, the District enlisted a videographer to tape the Board meetings and then upload them to You Tube. The number of views has increased as well.

DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach informed the Board that we had completed two (2) District water tours for the season. Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce were all on the second tour and were amazed at how complicated it was to get water. Everyone was driven out to Well 14, and Randy Little, Production Supervisor and Phil, Lynch Construction were happy to describe what it took to rehab a well. Ms. Radnich thanked the staff for all of their hard work and what a great job they did. We are also back at the Farmer's Market every Saturday. The Hazardous Waste station is now open on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

Vice President Johnson again invited everyone to the riveting Finance Committee meeting on March 14, 2018, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Director Hund commented on the Eastern Municipal Water District tour that he took along with GM Sauer and AGM Greer. The Eastern Municipal Water District is a very sophisticated and successful water district. They currently generate over 5 megawatts of electricity with solar and are looking to add 14 more. They have a full-time Energy Program Coordinator who is a great person and resource, and who enthusiastically said that he would help JBWD going forward.

Director Floen commented that the Hazardous Waste collection site has been so busy that they have begun to document and take pictures because they are looking to expand their operation. He also said that they have started handing out the book "Death of a Water District" on loan to individuals at the Farmer's Market.

President Luckman attended the Mojave Water Agency Board meeting and they commented that when they were doing the Recharge Project they had a 25" pipe break. She also attended the Pipeline Commission meeting, and they voted to meet every two months. The bond will be paid off in 2022, and the monies will be done collecting in 2021. Jim Ventura was adamant about how important it is that the participants stay in communication. Lucerne wants to take part in the water and they can because MWA has a certain percentage of the water. However, President Luckman would like to negotiate some of this because the Pipeline was paid for by the Morongo Basin. At the next meeting, we will be touring the Victor Valley Waste Water facility so if anyone is interested in attending; please let President Luckman know.

ADJOURNMENT –

MSC/Unger/Johnson 5/0/0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of March 7, 2018, at 7:38 p.m.

Floen	Aye
Hund	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Unger	Aye

Respectfully submitted:



Curt Sauer, GM and Board Secretary