

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – President Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM – President Johnson, Vice President Unger, Director Floen, Director Hund, and Director Reynolds.

STAFF PRESENT –Mark Ban, GM, Sarah Johnson, Director of Administration, and Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant

CONSULTANTS PRESENT –Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Director Hund moved to approve the Agenda. Director Reynolds seconded.

MSC¹ (Hund/Reynolds) 5/0/0 motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Marjorie Smith, San Bernardino County Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster, introduced herself to the Board and public. She informed the Board on how the organization helps and prepares communities to recover from disasters.

Jane Jarlsberg, Joshua Tree, informed the Board that she is a Senior Legislator and she will be going to Sacramento, representing PSA 20, she is also part of the San Bernardino Senior Affairs Commission. Ms. Jarlsberg attended the Morongo Basin Municipal Advisory Committee (MAC) and suggested that the JBWD Water Board may want to give a report at this meeting as well.

Dominic Heiden, Field Representative for State Senator Shannon Grove (Senate Minority Leader), introduced himself to the Board and stated that they are grateful for all that the Board does. He lives full time in Yucca Valley and handles the San Bernardino portion of the District. Mr. Heiden took the Joshua Basin Water District Tour and found it to be phenomenal. He was very impressed with the demonstrations, information, and the work currently in progress.

CONSENT CALENDAR – GM Mark Ban added a change to the minutes of September 18, 2019 on page 4 it should read: Board to consider approving a change in attorney representation from Red Wine and Sherrill to Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud and Romo (AALRR). Director Reynolds motioned to approve the consent calendar. Vice President Unger seconded.

MSC¹ (Reynolds/Unger) 5/0/0 motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION NO. 19-1013 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONORING MICKEY LUCKMAN – President Bob Johnson read aloud the Memorial Resolution as GM Ban presented the Resolution to Ms. Jennifer Carter (Mickey Luckman's daughter). This was followed by a photo with the GM and Board of Directors.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT STRATEGY UPDATE – Mike Metts, Dudek Engineering gave a presentation outlining the District’s Wastewater Treatment Strategy update and how to proceed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Jane Jarlsberg, Joshua Tree, asked if there was anything that users of septic tanks can do to reduce the nitrates in our home.

Mike Metts responded that the simple answer is no because it is a biological process.

Gayle Austin, Joshua Tree asked if there are any parcels that are not above the aquifer and that if their nitrates do not go into the aquifer, could they stay on septic forever and not be included in the sewer.

Mike Metts replied that everyone gets water from the Basin. If you are way up north it will come from the Copper Mountain Basin. As areas grow you will start having these concentrated areas and that is where you will have the impact.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED-

This was followed by a Q&A period with the Board of Directors.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT – GM Ban updated the Board on the current status on the Capital Improvement Replacement Project. He stated that about 2,500 feet has been completed on the mainline replacement. 4-Log application is ready to be submitted to the State with schematics, operating plan, how we will operate it, and the permit application. He then turned the rest of his time over to Sarah Johnson, Director of Administration.

Sarah Johnson, Director Administration, informed the Board of Directors that JBWD had received several complaints on high water bills. Meter reading began on September 3, 2019 and on Monday, September 9, 2019, the software that we use for meter reading crashed. Inevitably all the meters that were read up until this point were lost. The meter reading software company had to reinstall the software onto the meter reading equipment, which took about a day. Meter reading began the next day, but it had to be started over. What we ended up with is a longer meter reading cycle than normal. However, this month we are anticipating a shorter meter reading cycle.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Jane Jarlsberg, Joshua Tree asked if the increase was just the unit of use.

Sarah Johnson, Director Administration, replied that it depends on the unit, tier and how much water was used.

Gayle Austin, Joshua Tree stated that she monitors the District’s Facebook and there were a lot of comments about this issue. The main complaint was that it put individuals into a different tier. However, the individuals that did come into the office to ask about their bill, they were happy with the way the staff handled their situation.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED –

GM Ban responded that Customer Service went on Facebook to look at the feed and contacted about 150 customers.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS & REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED –

President Johnson updated the Board on the Mojave Water Agency Board of Directors meeting he attended on September 26, 2019, specifically mentioning the “Swamp Cooler Study”. He expressed his appreciation for Micky Luckman’s service and dedication and thanked everyone for attending this evening’s presentation.

Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach informed the Board that in the next newsletter it will state 5 or 6 different ways your bill could be impacted. United way will be here on Thursday October 24th to assist customers in signing up. Ms. Radnich complimented the staff on an outstanding job with the District Tours.

Vice President Unger reported on the Great Shake Out that was well attended. She mentioned that Director Floen had his Jeep survival gear there with survival gear and was able to show people how to use it and adapt it.

Director Floen also commented on the Great Shake Out and referenced that if you take a solar garden light you can use it in your house at night. He Also referred to the current rate structure and suggested that maybe a summary of how the rate structure works would be great for the next newsletter.

Director Hund spoke about the 4-Log treatment design that will help Well 14, that will ensure that the chlorine stays in contact with the water long enough to kill any contaminants. He informed the Board that the Mojave Land Trust had a celebration for the 25th Anniversary of the passage of the California Desert Protection Act, that was enacted in 1994.

Director Reynolds spoke about the Pelican's dinner he attended and is looking forward to the San Bernardino Special District Association dinner.

DIRECTOR MEETINGS, AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES-

President Johnson read off the list of upcoming meetings.

ADJOURNMENT – Vice President Unger motioned to adjourn. Director Floen seconded.

MSC¹ (Unger/Floen) 5/0/0 motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark Bair, General Manager and Board Secretary