

# MEETING MINUTES



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SEPTEMBER 4, 2024, 5:30 PM

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Floen called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

### 2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM & ATTENDANCE

**Board Members Present:** President Floen, Vice President Doolittle, Director Short, Director Fick, Jane Jarlsberg (attended remotely)

**Staff Present:** General Manager Johnson, Director of Finance Roman, Director of Administration Shook, Accounting Supervisor Rich, Compliance Coordinator Paulino, Executive Assistant Thompson

**Consultant(s) Present:** Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich, Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, US Water Alliance Consultants, Carrie Smith and Austin Thompson-Spain

**Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present:** David Carrillo

### 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Short made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Fick, approved by the following vote:

1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Short/Fick
Ayes:	Floen, Doolittle, Short, Fick, Jarlsberg
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

ME Wilson Senior, a Joshua Tree resident since 1998 who lives on Mount Shasta, has noticed a leak causing water to pool up on his property. Wilson reported the leak to the district and was informed that it was on the customer's side. Wilson inquired if there was any possibility of receiving assistance with his bill.

### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. DRAFT MINUTES – 08.07.24
- B. DRAFT MINUTES – 08.21.24
- C. DRAFT MINUTES – 08.27.24

Director Short made a motion to approve the consent calendar by striking out the last sentence of President Floen's director's comments on page 7 of the 08.07.24 minutes, seconded by Director Fick, approved by the following vote:

1st/ 2nd	Short/Fick
Ayes:	Floen, Doolittle, Short, Fick, Jarlsberg
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

## 6. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION

### 7. PRESENTATIONS - For informational purposes only. No action was taken.

#### A. PUBLIC OUTREACH REPORT

Consultant Radnich provided an outreach report including the following:

- Fall 2024 Classes:
  - October 10 at 6:00 pm – Soil and Amendments Class via Zoom
  - October 24 at 6:00 pm - Native Plant Cuttings Propagation Class via Zoom
  - November 7 at 6:00 pm – Winterizing to Save Water Class via Zoom
- The theme for the Farmers Market booth will be "Water for Emergencies" for the first three Saturdays in September. On September 28, the US Water Alliance will host a booth at the Farmers Market.
- September 6-22 – The Greater Joshua Tree Art Expo event from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm.
- October 19- The Great Shake Out event at Jack in the Box parking lot from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- The MWA grant for the Conservation Media Messaging Campaign launches on September 20, 2024, through May 2025.
- The Native Seed Swap class on August 21 was very successful.
- The Joshua Tree propagation instructional permit encountered a setback due to a biodiversity conflict.
- Attended the Lovemore Ranch Housing Development meeting at the Joshua Tree Community Center on August 29.

#### B. US WATER ALLIANCE PRESENTATION

General Manager Johnson introduced the US Water Alliance team to the board. Consultants Carrie Smith and Austin Thompson-Spain presented an overview of their organization's work. They highlighted that the US Water Alliance provides free technical assistance to communities, focusing on improving drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. They also emphasized their role in helping communities access federal funding for these projects.

## 8. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

### President Floen

- Floen shared that during a Copper Mountain Mesa Association (CMMA) breakfast meeting, there was a discussion about customers experiencing significant water loss, resulting in a high water bill. Instead of offering personal opinions, Floen recommended that the customer to contact our Customer Support team for assistance. Later, Floen received a thank-you email from the customer, expressing gratitude for the support they received in resolving the issue. Floen commended the Customer Support Specialists for their excellent service.

#### Vice President Doolittle

- Doolittle shared a news story in Miami about a criminal impersonating a water inspector to gain entry into a home and steal personal belongings. Doolittle suggested that the district issue important messaging to inform and protect ratepayers from similar scams.
- Doolittle mentioned that she was pleased to see Kathleen Radnich, the Public Outreach Consultant, attend the Lovemore Ranch housing development meeting.
- Doolittle mentioned that the meeting minutes have morphed over time and do not include the director's comments on specific agenda items.
- Doolittle suggested proposing Ad Hoc meetings.
- Doolittle suggested charging the tier 1 rates for the CAAP program for customers who need help with a large bill due to a leak.
- Doolittle commended the district's website and praised the staff involved.

#### Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg attended the Lovemore Ranch housing development meeting.

#### Director Short

- Short inquired about an update regarding the SLCB3 grant.

#### Director Fick

- Fick attended the meeting at the Lovemore Ranch housing development and mentioned interacting with the developer.

#### General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson mentioned that the exterior paint to the building is complete.
- Johnson noted that a temporary Joshua Basin Water District sign will be placed outside the office building.
- Johnson stated that the D11 booster station upgrade is ongoing but near completion.
- Johnson mentioned that the Auditors will be onsite next week.
- Johnson noted that due to being short-staffed, we will attend the CSDA conference only on Wednesday, September 11.

### **9. CLOSED SESSIONS A-B**

Adjourned to closed sessions at 6:49 pm.

Returned to open session at 8:23 pm.

- A.** Conference with Legal Counsel—Potential Litigation  
(Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)(2)) – 1 case  
Claimant: Nadine Falbo (Government Claim)

Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson reported out that the Board met in closed session relative to the claim of Nadine Falbo, and by a 4-0 unanimous vote of all members present, with Director Jarlsberg absent from closed session, rejected the claim of Ms. Falbo, with direction to legal counsel to provide notice.

- B.** Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release – Govt. Code § 54957

Legal Counsel Jeff Hoskinson reported that the Board met in a closed session relative to Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release – Govt. Code § 54957 and stated that the Board took no reportable action.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion by Director Short, seconded by Vice President Doolittle and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary






# 2.. JBWD MINUTES TEMPLATE 1ST MEETING TEMPLATE 09.04.24

Final Audit Report

2024-09-19

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