

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Minutes of the
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Wednesday, March 10, 2020
61750 Chollita Road, Joshua Tree, CA 92252

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Karen Tracy called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE – Karen Tracy, Gayle Austin, Karen Morton, Jeff Dongvillo, Jane Jarlsberg, Frank Coate, Barbara Delph, and David Carrillo. Shari Long (excused absence) and Karen Sernka (unexcused absence).

STAFF PRESENT – GM Mark Ban

GUESTS -2

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Jane Jarlsberg motioned to approve the Agenda, seconded by Frank Coate, motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

APPROVE MINUTES OF LAST MEETING – Frank Coate motioned to approve the minutes of January 14, 2020. Seconded by Barbara Delph, motion passed.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT STRATEGY UPDATE – GM Ban presented a recap with a presentation from a prior meeting that highlighted High Level Cost Components, Soft Costs, Construction Costs, Public and Private Costs, and Funding.

Barbara Delph commented that there is an account set up to help residents only. GM Ban discussed how there is more funding available to us because we are a disadvantaged community.

Karen Tracy stated that GM Ban has been through this before with HDWD and brings a lot of knowledge to JBWD.

Barbara Delph asked what the average cost of connection is at HDWD?

GM Ban replied \$18,000 on average.

Kathleen Radnich asked how long from conception to realization.

GM Ban replied that most grants want 5-year projects.

Frank Coate commented that most residents are poor and wouldn't be interested in having sewers and Board members would have a hard time being elected if they are voting for sewers. He asked GM Ban if he had a cost estimate from Dudek?

GM Ban responded not yet.

Barbara Delph asked when the public meeting would happen?

GM Ban stated that until we have cost estimates to give to the public, we can't do it, because that is what they care about.

Karen Tracy stated that we should stress the nitrate levels in the aquifer and how they could reach maximum allowable levels in our lifetime.

Kathleen Radnich commented that if you would like a sewer system for free, you will need to move to a place that already has one.

Tom Floen stated that we need more information before we can start the Master Plan.

Frank Coate requested a feasibility study.

David Carrillo asked about help with the cost for residents.

GM Ban stated that there are grants available and financing because we are a disadvantaged community.

Frank Coate replied that we need a grant writer to help us write grants.

Kathleen Radnich asked if it would be a ten (10) year project?

GM Ban replied that it depends on how aggressive the Board wants to be.

Karen Tracy asked if we have trend data on our nitrate levels?

GM Ban replied that we currently don't have a model, but we can estimate. Unfortunately, even with an estimate, the level could spike due to unknown reasons.

OPERATIONS TRAINING – GM Ban gave a presentation on water regulations and who we are dealing with acronyms. Wastewater and other discharges are controlled by the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, and 24 Districts:

- CCR – Consumer Confidence Report
- PHG – Public Health Goal
- MCL – Maximum Content Level
- DLR – Detection Limit (for reporting purposes)
- The FDA does not require bottled water manufacturers to follow the same testing as water districts.

CAC COMMENTS- Karen Tracy stated that we (CAC) should be able to have discussions about water district issues, and we now have the right and can move forward.

Jane Jarlsberg said that we need more information on how to run for a board position.

Kathleen Radnich clarified that Districts 3,4, and 5 are up for elections in November.

Jane Jarlsberg reported on the MAC meeting.

Frank Coate stated that most residents he talks to are happy about the new pipelines going in.

Gayle Austin requested a calendar on the website. Kathleen Radnich spoke about the new ADA website rules and is working this issue.

Karen Tracy commented that the CAC has been trying to change the amount on the Low Income Assistance Program and make it a budget line item for several months, and they are not sure on how to proceed.

Kathleen Radnich suggested that they attend intake on April 9th and get information to create a presentation to GM Ban. Gayle Austin asked if she could prepare a presentation before then. GM Ban said that she could.

Jane Jarlsberg asked about meeting monthly, the majority said “not yet”.

NEXT CAC MEETING – May 12, 2020

ADJOURNMENT – Barbara Delph motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jane Jarlsberg 2nd, motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.



Mark Ban, General Manager and Board Secretary

