

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 2018

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Luckman called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present – President Luckman, Vice President Johnson, Director Floen, Director Hund, and Director Unger.

STAFF PRESENT

Curt Sauer, Mark Ban, AGM – Operations, Susan Greer, AGM, Sarah Johnson, HR Manager, Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant

CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach  
Gil Granito, Legal Counsel, Redwine & Sherrill

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice President Johnson made a motion to approve the Agenda. Director Floen seconded the motion.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Johnson/Hund) motion carried by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Al Marquez, Joshua Tree stated that Well 14 has been out of service since February 2016, which is 30 months (912 days). By Mr. Marquez's estimate, the District has spent about \$800,000.00 with the original cost being \$173,000 to refurbish the Well. The Board of Directors authorized \$644,000.00 to rehabilitate the Well. Mr. Marquez's view is that is either incompetence or accountability. In 2016, the previous President of the Board stated that the Well needs to be in operation by the summer of that year. Another Board member commented that Well 14 is the crown jewel of our District and needs to be brought back on line as soon as possible. For all the money that the Board has spent to get Well 14 back online, you could have brought Well 11 back into service for a lot less money. Well 11 is still sitting idle since 2008.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Draft Minutes of June 20, 2018, Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
- Draft Minutes of June 20, 2018, Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors
- Check registers for May 2018 (reviewed by the Finance Committee on July 11, 2018)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Ending 3/31/2018 Financial Report (reviewed by the Finance Committee on July 11, 2018)

Director Hund made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar with a correction to page 5 of the draft minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2018, to change Haszus Program to Hazardous Program.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Johnson/Hund) motion carried by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Abstain: None

AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SIGN A PRELIMINARY QUOTE WITH CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICT'S ASSOCIATION (CSDA) TO OBTAIN A \$3,000,000.00 LEASE-PURCHASE LOAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MAINLINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (reviewed by the Finance Committee on July 11, 2018) - AGM Greer gave an overview of the different loans available and what each loan entailed along with what the interest would be and payoff. A brief Q&A period followed with the Board.

Vice President Johnson made a motion to authorize the General Manager to sign a preliminary quote with California Special Districts Association (CSDA) to obtain a \$3,000,000.00 Lease-Purchase Loan solely for the implementation of the Mainline Replacement Program and the Capital Improvement Program.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Johnson/Hund) motion carried by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – Gail Austin, Joshua Tree commended the Board and the staff for doing what they are doing. For so many years, it has been the staff saying we need to replace these lines but nothing happening. You have raised the rates, now you are taking out a loan, and some people might take that the wrong way. I can see that you are actually going to get the lines replaced and wanted to commend you because you are stepping out on a limb with the community.

CAPITAL REPLACEMENT PROGRAM –HEAVY EQUIPMENT PURCHASING – AGM Ban gave a brief presentation on the different types of equipment that are needed to begin the Mainline Replacement Program in the amount not to exceed \$1,698,455.42. A brief Q&A followed with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Al Marquez, Joshua Tree asked that since most of the vehicles will not be able to drive on the roads, will there be only one (1) trailer to transport all of them or multiple trailers for each? Also, to drive these vehicles you will need a lot of extensive training and be certified to drive these vehicles, I was wondering what it will take for the training and to be able to drive these vehicles throughout the community.

AGM Ban replied that driving these vehicles requires a Class A driver's license and like Cal Trans, we would be able to drive them to the sites with the only piece of equipment that will need a trailer is an excavator. We will be purchasing one (1) trailer.

Director Unger made a motion to authorize the General Manager to purchase ten (10) pieces of heavy equipment from RDO Equipment Company and one (1) piece of equipment from Asphalt Zipper, Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$1,698,455.42.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Floen) motion carried by the following vote:

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

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Abstain: None

APPROVAL TO CONTRACT WITH MARY ORTON COMPANY TO COMPLETE THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DISTRICT (reviewed by the Finance Committee on July 22, 2018) – GM Sauer gave a brief overview of the contract followed by a Q&A period with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Director Floen made a motion to approve the selection of Mary Orton Company to conduct a strategic planning process at a cost not to exceed \$34,000.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Floen/Johnson) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Luckman, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None  
Abstain: None

CHANGES IN OFFICE HOURS OF OPERATIONS – GM Sauer gave the Staff Report on how the change in the office hours would mean to staff and the public. New office hours would be Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and closed on Friday, beginning August 1, 2018. A brief Q&A period followed with the Board.

Director Hund made a motion to approve the change in office hours. Director Unger seconded adding that this would begin on August 1, 2018.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Hund/Unger) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Luckman, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None  
Abstain: None

NOBEL SYSTEMS, INC. – GEOVIEWER ONLINE – AGM Ban stated that the District does not currently possess a geographical information system (GIS) that is capable of mapping its facilities and assets while tracking completed work across a wide array of users and devices. AGM Ban discussed the District's current system SEMS with the Board. A brief Q&A followed with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Al Marquez, Joshua tree asked the Board President that the Geo Viewer, for \$52,600.00, what the terms of the Agreement are. Also, will it be \$52,600.00 per year?

AGM Ban replied that the initial set up is \$23,600.00 and the subscription is \$29,000.00 per year.

Director Hund commented that when staff records with a GPS unit, it means they will be recording the location very accurately for future use. Which will immediately update the database and the maps. The maps will then be pushed out into the field with the updated location. So essentially the virtual map book will always be updated and never go out of date. This is so important to staff in relation to time, safety, and reporting to the state.

Director Unger made a motion to approve the General Manager to enter into an agreement with Nobel Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$52,600.00. Director Johnson seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Johnson) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Luckman, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None  
Abstain: None

GENERAL MANAGER EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT - Director Unger gave an overview of the process that she and Vice President Johnson went through to evaluate the General Manager. The Board gave the General Manager a very good review, and the Board felt very strongly that they could accommodate the changes to the General Manager's contract. The two changes to the General Manager's contract is one (1) more week of vacation and to add to his cafeteria plan (health insurance).

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

Vice President Johnson made a motion to approve Amendment No. 2 to the General Managers employment contract. Director Unger seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Johnson/Unger) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Luckman, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None  
Abstain: None

DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT – None

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT – GM Sauer thanked the Board for their actions tonight in support of the employees, and he went on to thank his staff. He commented that Mark Ban, AGM-Ops. had been talking with Al Marquez about opening Well 11 as a supplemental Well. However, Well 11 has been offline since the Landers earthquake 26 years ago. Mark Ban has a bid to see if Well 11 can be functional. Mark is already thinking about another well site and where it would be. GM Sauer updated the Board on his meeting with the California Energy Commission.

DIRECTORS REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant, briefed the Board on the following:

Low-Income Assistance Program, MWA Grants, JTNP Wildcrafting, Evaporative Swamp Cooler Study, Farmers Market, and Legislative and Public Information Committee, August 1, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

Director Unger gave a brief overview of the Mojave Water District Board meeting she attended on July 12, 2018.

President Luckman informed everyone on the upcoming meetings.

Director Floen informed everyone that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month is the household waste day and gave the location on where to go. He praised to Kathleen Radnich for her hard work at the Joshua Tree Farmers Market.

He continued to say that staff, Board, and the public are frustrated with Well 14, and we are relying heavily on an aging system. We are pushing 390 million gallons of water through the system every year, which AGM Greer updates each year.

Director Hund stated that he is amazed, just in the past two years that he has been on the Board, how much this District has accomplished.

Vice President Johnson thanked the staff and reminded the public to hydrate and ensure that animals have the water they need.

Director Unger commented on the passing of Victoria Fuller and that she would have loved to see the progress we are making. She commended Kathleen Radnich on her Wild Crafting, which she received Best in Blue.

President Luckman reminded everyone to stay hydrated.

ADJOURNMENT – Director Unger made a motion to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. Vice President Johnson seconded.

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Johnson) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Johnson, Luckman, and Unger  
Noes: None  
Absent: None  
Abstain: None  
Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Curt Sauer, GM and Board Secretary