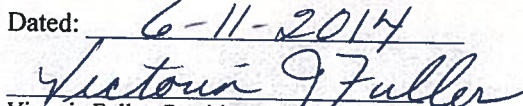


PO BOX 675 61750 CHOLLITA ROAD JOSHUA TREE CALIFORNIA 92252  
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**CALL AND NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT  
PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2014 AT 8:00 AM**

Notice is hereby given that Victoria Fuller, President of the Joshua Basin Water District Board of Directors, hereby calls a Special Public Information Committee Meeting of said District to be held Wednesday, June 18, 2014 at 8:00 am at the Joshua Basin Water District office located at 61750 Chollita Road, Joshua Tree CA 92252 for the purpose of discussion and possible action on items described on the attached agenda.

Dated: 6-11-2014

  
Victoria Fuller, President, Board of Directors  
Joshua Basin Water District



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 18, 2014 8:00 AM  
61750 CHOLLITA ROAD, JOSHUA TREE, CA 92252  
AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
Pg. 1-5 Approve the minutes of the May 21, 2014 Regular Public Information Committee Meeting
6. STAFF REPORT
7. PUBLIC INFORMATION & OUTREACH REPORT – Kathleen Radnich
8. CONSERVATION OUTREACH REPORT – Deb Bollinger
9. NEWSLETTER
10. COUNTY INTERFACE REPORT – Directors
- Pg. 6 11. MDLT AGREEMENT - Kathleen Radnich
12. TANK ART - Kathleen Radnich
- Pg. 7 13. CHROMIUM-6 MESSAGE – Curt Sauer
14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
  1. Graphic Standards
  2. District Tours
  3. Recharge Public Event
15. NEXT MEETING DATE – July 16, 2014 AT 9:00 AM

INFORMATION

During "Public Comment", please use the podium microphone. State your name and have your information prepared and be ready to provide your comments. The District is interested and appreciates your comments. A 3-minute time limit will be imposed. Thank you. Any person with a disability who requires accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should telephone Joshua Basin Water District at (760) 366-8438, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to make a request for a disability-related modification or accommodation.

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Committee after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the District's office located at 61750 Chollita Road, Joshua Tree, California 92252 during normal business hours.

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE**  
**WEDNESDAY May 21, 2014 9:00 AM**  
**61750 CHOLLITA ROAD, JOSHUA TREE, CA 92252**  
**MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03 A.M.
  - A. Committee members in attendance:
    - i. President Fuller
    - ii. Director Luckman
    - iii. Curt Sauer, General Manager
    - iv. Deb Bollinger, Conservation Consultant
    - v. Kathleen Radnich, Public Information and Outreach Consultant
    - vi. Peggy Jimenez, Lead Customer Service Representative
  - B. General public in attendance:
    - i. Karen Tracy and Steven Whitman were present
    - ii.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
  - A. The Agenda was approved:
    - i. (1<sup>st</sup>) Director Luckman
    - ii. (2<sup>nd</sup>) President Fuller
    - iii.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
  - A. There was no public comment initially.
  - B. Later, near the close of the meeting, Steven Whitman asked C. Sauer about the current “policy” JBWD has for employee’s use of District vehicles for personal use.
    - i. Radnich mentioned she thought the question came up at the last Board Meeting, as well.
    - ii. C. Sauer stated he would address that.
5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
6.
  - A. The minutes of the April 16, 2014 Regular Public Information Committee Meeting were approved:
    - i. (1<sup>st</sup>) Director Luckman
    - ii. (2<sup>nd</sup>) President Fuller

## 7. STAFF REPORT—Curt Sauer

### A. Newsletter

- i. C. Sauer announced plans to discontinue a general “mail-out” of our District newsletter with the monthly patron bills.
  1. June will be the last month for a general mailing of the newsletter
  2. Future monthly newsletters will be available via the JBWD website, at the Customer Service counter, and at the Farmers’ Market booth.
  3. Patrons can sign up for “Constant Contact” whereby receiving a newsletter electronically (directly to their email)
  4. The District will save over \$15,000.00 per year and reduce paper waste with this new plan.

### B. The newest Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is now available.

- i. The CCR will NOT be mailed out with the patron’s monthly billing.
- ii. The new laws allow us to post the CCR electronically (only) and stay in compliance.
- iii. JBWD will offer hard copies of the CCR at the Customer Service Desk or at the Farmers’ Market –by inquiries only.
- iv. The new electronic format allowed for considerable expansion of the CCR.

## 8. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND OUTREACH—Kathleen Radnich

### A. Farmers’ Market

- i. The presence of tortoises this month has drawn large amounts of interest to our booth, allowing for conservation dialogue to be opened.
- ii. Numerous concerns have been received about the importing of State water in the near future. Comparisons are being made to HDWD’s nitrate issues partially (allegedly) caused by “State Water” infusion into their aquifer. Patrons are being assured the water is NOT the problem!
- iii. June’s Plant-of-the-Month is Cleveland Sage.
- iv. June’s display theme will be on Tap Water vs. Bottled Water and our new CCR.
- v. A new docent, Pamela Weight, visited our booth and has signed up to be a docent! She is very eager and capable to help work in our garden.
- vi. Two patrons came to the market booth to report a “sink hole” at a Quail Springs Rd. water-break repair site. Neither had called it in, but they indicated it was a significant danger (especially for motorcycles.) I called it in from the market.

## 9. CONSERVATION OUTREACH REPORT—Deb Bollinger

### A. Demonstration Garden

- i. Our irrigation system has experienced several “shut-off” periods that have been perplexing. The garden suffered from the lack of water

during those unexpected shut-off periods and is currently looking stressed.

1. Some of the shut-offs were caused by irrigation leaks
  2. Other shut-offs were caused directly by the contractor's help who did not turn it back on
- ii. Mother's Day afternoon K. Radnich happened upon "vandalism in progress" inside the locked garden.
1. Approximately six preteens entered the garden over the east fence (on Park Blvd.) where the fence is lower and aligned with a helpful boulder.
  2. The preteens rode their BMX bikes inside the garden, launching off of boulders and dirt mounds. Some of the new plant I.D. signs were bent, and there was minor damage to the DG pathway, as well.
  3. Numerous plants were "winged", and some were smashed. The damage was minor in extent compared to what could have occurred had they not been chased out of the garden early on. K. Radnich estimated their presence was only about 30 minutes.

#### B. Garden Sign Project

- i. The signs are delayed. A decision on the "interactive" message for the interpretive garden signs has not been determined, which is holding up production.
  1. The committee discussed the need for this, and what this "interactive" message would mean for follow-up or follow-through on the District Office staff.
  2. For simplicity, the committee decided the most efficient "interactive" message would be to direct the garden visitors to "Go to [IPWD.org](http://IPWD.org)/using water wisely."
    - Directing visitors to the website would allow for flexibility of changing the messages, as needed, and also give them a place to gain more information about water conservation not provided on the garden signs.
  3. The signs have a deadline to get into the manufacturer because of the funds allocated from this current budget cycle.
    - Bollinger requested the committee to review the verbiage of the signs and get back to her within two days.
    - The committee requested Bollinger to minimize the quantity of the text on the signs—making the message simpler to read on each one.
    - It was suggested that the additional information be moved to the smaller metal signs.

- C. Bollinger announced she'd be attending a conference in Rancho Cucamonga for landscape ordinances.\

**10. NEWSLETTER**—Curt Sauer

- A. Covered under staff report.

**11. COUNTY INTERFACE REPORT**—Directors

- A. Director Luckman announced she has been appointed to two special water committees with ACWA: the Groundwater Committee, and the Land Use Committee.

**12. RECHARGE PROJECT**—Kathleen Radnich

- A. Radnich reported she was not aware of any new complaints.
- B. C. Sauer stated that he has had no other complaints, as well, and that the project was moving forward—on schedule, if not ahead of schedule.

**13. JTNP COLLABORATION-WATER ED. DAY-March 30<sup>th</sup>**:-- Kathleen Radnich

- A. We still have Desert Marigolds, but the heat factor will make for an uncertain survival in the pots.
  - i. The sales permit halted (temporarily) the sales at the market. We are now back in compliance with a valid sales permit.
  - ii. Radnich has reservations about having the plants sold now and planted in the heat.
  - iii. D. Bollinger suggested checking with the local nurseries as she felt they had some interest in the plants.
- B. Surveys from participants were in support of another such event, same time of year.
  - i. Next year's event would be March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 on Sunday afternoon.
  - ii. An agreement is being drawn-up for JTNP to take back the plants (future plants would be all local/natives) and used for re-vegetation for the JTNP and MDLT lands.

**14. CHROMIUM -6 MESSAGE**-Kathleen Radnich

- A. Radnich asked the committee to approve of a “corporate statement” that board members, staff and consultants can use when asked about where we are at on the “chromium-6” problem.
  - i. She claims she is being asked and would like a message that is “consistent” with everyone else.
  - ii. Susan Greer also requested a message for the CS staff to have regarding Chromium-6.
- B. Curt Sauer stated he would “script” the message for all to use.

**15. USGS SEMINAR**—Kathleen Radnich

- A. We had over 104 public guests.
- B. The surveys came back exceptionally positive!
- C. The seminar DVD has been loaded onto the web site.

**16. HDMC HEALTH FAIR—Kathleen RAdnich**

- A. Foot traffic was light, but again, the message on septic care was well received. There are still too many Joshua Tree renters that are unaware of flushing things down the toilets and sinks that can harm our ground water.
- B. Radnich asked the Board Members if they'd be willing to spot for her next year as HDMC asked if they could count on us for next year.
  - i. Director Luckman and Pres. Fuller both agreed they would cover at the Market on that Saturday if we participate next year
  - ii. .

**17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Graphic Standards
- B. Chromium-6 message

**18. NEXT MEETING DATE—June 18, 2014 AT 9:00 AM**

**19. ADJOURN—The meeting was adjourned at 10:12AM**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathleen J. Radnich*

**DRAFT**

**MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING FOR THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN:**

**THE JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT (JBWD) AND  
THE MOJAVE DESERT LAND TRUST (MDLT) FOR THE:**

**“ANNUAL MINERVA HOYT NATIVE PLANT SALE”**

*NOTE: This proposal between JBWD and MDLT is in support of the existing Joshua Basin Water District and the Joshua Tree National Park’s formal agreement for an annual native plant sale.*

**JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT WOULD PROVIDE:**

1. Training to the JBWD docent volunteers, MDLT volunteers and general public for native plant seed gathering, seed cleaning, and general information on native plant seed propagation.
2. Docent volunteers to assist in the field exercise of collecting native plant seeds.
3. Proposal dates for seed collecting activity (all to occur on weekdays, between 7AM and 9AM.)
4. Signed volunteer participant waivers for MDLT (as well as, JBWD.)
5. Remnant native plant seedlings grown by the JTNP for the JBWD Annual Native Plant Sale (last weekend in March) will be returned to the JTNP Nursery for re-vegetation needs on the MDLT properties, if appropriate.
6. Promotion of training classes, seed collection activities, and the annual plant sale will be offered by JBWD (along with other venues.)

**MOJAVE DESERT LAND TRUST WOULD PROVIDE:**

1. Access to the MDLT properties deemed appropriate within 5 miles of the JTNP boundaries will be given by MDLT to the volunteers participating in the seed collection field exercise, with an escort.
2. Permission by MDLT to allow the collected seeds to be removed from the property for the purpose of propagation (by the JTNP, per the collaborative contract with JBWD.)
3. Promotion of the program opportunities (seed collecting/cleaning, etc. and the native plant sale.)

**ITEMS NOT DISCUSSED BUT ACTED UPON DURING LAST SEASON’S FIELD EXERCISE:**

1. Both the JBWD and the MDLT agree to share mutual promotional photos of this joint endeavor.



Chromium 6 is a heavy metal found naturally at low concentrations within groundwater in many parts of the State. Hexavalent chromium (chromium 6) is currently regulated at the California and federal levels under California's and U.S. EPA's primary drinking water standards for total chromium. Chromium can exist in one of the two relevant forms: hexavalent chromium and trivalent chromium. Each of these can transform into the other depending on the surrounding conditions. Trivalent chromium is non-toxic and is, in fact, an essential nutrient. Hexavalent chromium can be toxic, depending on the concentration and exposure pathway. Up to now, drinking water regulation for chromium was stated in terms of total chromium for several reasons, including the ability of the two relevant forms of chromium to transform into the other.

The existing National Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for total chromium established by the EPA is one hundred parts per billion (ppb). The existing California standard is 50 ppb.

JBWD has been testing for total chromium for the past 5 years. Results vary by well, and have ranged from 8.9 to 42 ppb. Our latest test, in April of this year, showed a range of 12 to 26 ppb, and meets existing National and California State standards. The United States Geological Service did the latest testing, and specifically tested for chromium 6 as well. The readings reflect mostly chromium 6, and very little chromium 3.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has been studying the feasibility of removing chromium 6 from drinking water for the more than decade. On April 15 the CDPH proposed a new MCL level of 10 ppb for chromium 6. This is approximately 100 drops of water in 10,000 gallons.

Your tap water can still be used for drinking, cooking, and all other needs. Chromium-6 is being regulated by the state for potential health impacts after many years of consumption, not because of immediate health risks. JBWD board members, staff, and their families confidently drink our tap water every day, and will continue to do so.

While the new regulation is scheduled to go into effect July 1, there will be up to 18 months of testing to determine if our groundwater is out of compliance. However, based on the information we have to date, it appears that we will be unable to meet the new standards set by CDPH immediately.

Since the release of the proposed regulation in April the District has begun planning in three areas to address the potential problem. These include depth dependent sampling, treatment avoidance methodologies, and treatment methodologies. We will be working with CDPH, California Rural Water Association, Mojave Water Agency, USGS and other partners to develop a compliance plan. Implementation of the plan will take several years to complete. Costs of this regulation to Joshua Basin are unknown at this time, yet are projected to exceed several million dollars.

It is our mission to provide safe, reliable drinking water and the District will work to comply with the new MCL as soon as possible, assuming it is put in place.