



REGULAR MEETING OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2014 9:00 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  
Approve the minutes of the June 18, 2014 Special Public Information Committee Meeting
6. STAFF REPORT
7. PUBLIC INFORMATION & OUTREACH REPORT – Kathleen Radnich
8. CONSERVATION OUTREACH REPORT – Deb Bollinger
9. MARCH WATER EDUCATION DAY EVENT
10. GARDEN REPAIR DISCUSSION
11. DROUGHT COMPLIANCE/PUBLIC EDUCATION
12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
13. NEXT MEETING DATE – DECEMBER 17, 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.



# JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

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**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 18, 2014 8:00 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 Jemenez, Lead Customer Service Representative
  - B. General public in attendance:
    - i. Steven Whitman was present
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
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:**
  - A. The minutes of the May 21, 2014 Regular Public Information Committee Meeting were approved:
    - i. (1<sup>st</sup>) Director Luckman
    - ii. (2<sup>nd</sup>) President Fuller
6. **STAFF REPORT—Curt Sauer**
  - A. HDMC Backflow Device Replacement Project
    - i. The entire project was completed without any impact to the HDMC facility
    - ii. The project was estimated at 2 hours, but due to complications, it lasted 7hrs.
  - B. Chromium-6

- i. The GM Sauer wrote up a press release that was shared with the local media, explaining the Chromium-6 concerns for JBWD.
- ii. GM Sauer stated he intends to place an article on Chromium-6 in (possibly) the July newsletter.

**7. PUBLIC INFORMATION & OUTREACH REPORT—Kathleen Radnich**

- A. A “State Water vs. JBWD Water” comparison chart has been created for an upcoming newsletter. The bottom line message shows that the State water is as good or better than our Joshua Basin water.
- B. The remnant Desert Marigolds from our spring sale have been removed from the Water Wise Demonstration Garden and are in “protective custody” at K. Radnich’s property.
  - i. She has located them in an area protected from the wind and the harsh summer sun, and can provide more routine watering there.
  - ii. Her intentions are to help them regain their vitality in time to offer them for sale in fall at the Farmers’ Market.
- C. K. Radnich recommended JBWD initiate a protocol to ALWAYS reciprocate a “thank you” phone call to any one that calls in a water break/leak sighting. She believes this is a great opportunity for building public relations—customers would be more willing to report leaks if they felt appreciated.
  - i. GM Sauer agreed, along with the entire committee, and Sauer assured us he would implement that practice.
- D. C. Sauer asked Radnich to look into a “table tent” campaign for restaurants explaining that, “water will be served only if requested.” He provided Radnich with a sample of one being used in Yucca Valley by Hi-Desert Water District.
  - i. Radnich provided GM Sauer with options for printing costs.
  - ii. Radnich also recommended considering do this in vacation/motel rentals encouraging short showers and turning off faucets while brushing teeth, etc.
  - iii. D. Bollinger offered to take this project over as it falls under her water conservation parameters—or to work along with Radnich on the project.
  - iv. Radnich clarified she only looked into the expense of the printing to determine if this project was even viable. There were other issues to be considered, such as distribution of the message tents, and the message itself.
  - v. Bollinger stated she had resources for such “tents” that she would provide to GM Sauer before any decisions are made.
- E. Docent training for seed harvesting, cleaning and propagation will begin Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 3PM in the Board Room. Follow-on dates will be determined at that meeting by the participants.
- F. Radnich reported she has received numerous comments from patrons who, despite the clarity of the message in the last newsletter about going “electronic” with further newsletters, the patrons assume they will be receiving the electronic newsletter via email --because JBWD already has their email on file (somewhere.)
  - i. Radnich recommended we continue to push the message in upcoming patron “bills” (in the message box) and elsewhere.

- G. President Fuller requested all efforts be made to establish an “on-going list” of activities and programs—past and present-- that would benefit JBWD to have when applying for grants (basically, the who, what, when, where, why and how much.)

## 8. CONSERVATION OUTREACH REPORT—Deb Bollinger

- A. The first of the garden interpretive signs should be by the end of July.
- B. Twenty of the plant I.D. signs have been prepared, and Bollinger has been donating much of her time in placing them.
- C. Two of the three “injured” plant sign holders have been mended. Only one was permanently ruined from the BMX bike intrusion (on Mother’s Day.)
- D. The Garden lock has been stolen three times now.
  - i. We are certain that young teenagers stole the locks, as Keith caught one in the act!
  - ii. You Tube has a video on “how to break into combination locks” increasing the vulnerability of our garden now.
  - iii. Discussion followed over placing cameras in the garden to simply leaving the garden unlocked.
    - 1. Radnich gave caution about the liability of leaving the garden unlocked should a youth get hurt in the absence of any District personnel on site.
    - 2. Keyed locks were discussed for a potential next step.
- E. Bollinger asked about rate increase complaints. Jemenez indicated there have been very few complaints since the rate increase.
- F. Bollinger noted that Unique Gardens (our garden contractor) has been making special efforts to fix things that weren’t done right by his crew.
  - i. All the garden irrigation leaks have now been repaired.
  - ii. Many plants have been replaced.
    - 1. Bollinger noted that a garden brochure “update” would be necessary, as new plants have been added to our plant pallet in the garden.
    - 2. Radnich requested Bollinger to forward the information to her so a new one could be made for fall.
  - iii. The committee still held to an earlier decision to do a RFP (bid request) for two-year gardening services to coincide with our budget cycle.
- G. Bollinger attended a California Urban Water Conservation Council symposium where all “major” players were present for input on landscape ordinances.
  - i. Bollinger stated that, after all was said and done; she did not feel the outcome was meeting expectations.
  - ii. Statewide water savings reportedly resulted in only a 53% savings.
  - iii. Drought funding also exists—but the criteria were not clear.

## 9. NEWSLETTER

- A. P. Jemenez reported M. Salisbury was out on vacation, and therefore, had no newsletter to present for review.

## 10. COUNTY INTERFACE REPORT

- A. Neither President Fuller, nor Director Luck man, had any meetings with the County to report on.

## 11. MDLT AGREEMENT—Kathleen Radnich

- A. A “Memorandum of Understanding” has been drafted between JBWD and the MDLT organization for on-going permission to gather seeds on their property.
  - i. We (in exchange) would allow for their volunteers to join our training sessions on seed harvesting, cleaning and propagation.
  - ii. These seeds will be grown by the JTNP (per our contract) and plants leftover from our annual sale will be held for vegetation needs for either JTNP or the MDLT lands.
  - iii. President Fuller will take the lead on running this past our legal counsel as GM Sauer and Director Luckman both serve on the MDLT Board of Directors.
    - 1. President Fuller stated she’d be meeting with the District’s attorney later that day and requested a copy of the waivers used for volunteers for both MDLT and JBWD, as well as the draft copy of the MOU.
- K. Radnich stated she would have all to her shortly after the meeting.

**12. TANK ART—Kathleen Radnich**

- A. Radnich reported that the project is now moving forward towards an October 9th and 10<sup>th</sup> painting day.
- B. The working committee will be meeting tomorrow (Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>) to continue the planning process.

**13. CHROMIUM-6 MESSAGE—C. Sauer**

- A. Dudek Engineers will come up with a feasibility study addressing our options and the expense involved for all our wells.
- B. They are questioning the ability to pump from certain wells at upper layer levels should they discover the Chromium-6 to be found at lower levels in alternate wells.
- C. The feasibility study will cost between \$10,000.00-\$15,000.00 per well.
- D. GM Sauer will be meeting with a representative for Rural Grants just to fund this “Hydro profiling” study.
- E. Radnich questioned the alternate solution of (instead) retrofitting individual water filters for every ratepayer.
  - i. GM Sauer stated that concept has been discussed, and if viable, could cost JBWD approximately four million dollars.
- F. GM Sauer noted that we still have time to look into solutions, and to remember there is a lawsuit outstanding that could alter deadlines, as well.

**14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Graphic Standards
- B. District Tours
- C. Recharge Public Event

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kathleen J. Radnich*

Draft