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REGULAR MEETING OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, April 4, 2018 9:30 AM
61750 CHOLLITA ROAD, JOSHUA TREE, CA 92252
MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:31AM
- B. In attendance:
 - 1) President Luckman
 - 2) Director Unger
 - 3) Kathleen Radnich
 - 4) Peggy Egnew
 - 5) GM Sauer
- C. Public Present:
 - 1) Tom Floen

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- A. The agenda was approved: 1st: Director Unger; 2nd: President Luckman

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. There was no public comment at the opening of the meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES—January 3, 2018

- A. The minutes were approved: 1st: Director Unger; 2nd: President Luckman

5. LEGISLATIVE REPORT—Vice President Luckman/ Director Unger

- A. The committee discussed the potential benefits of a local and regional lobbyist group forming on behalf of Water Districts. 29 Palms Water District's General Manager is actively pushing for this.

- (1) Director Unger expressed concerns for (us) smaller Water Districts' having no voice in many of the State's water politics.
- (2) President Luckman concurred, but noted that ACWA has been vocal and active with initiatives, such as the proposed "water tax." GM Sauer felt that our District Attorney (Gil) would have the latest for us at our next Board meeting on this topic.
- (3) Another topic of concern for lobbyist support was the regulating of the AirBnB/vacation industry in our area, and its impact on our water.

6. PUBLIC INFORMATION & OUTREACH REPORT—Kathleen Radnich

- A. Radnich reviewed the Water Education Day post event survey responses provided by the participating exhibitors (per Agenda Attachment)
 - (1) The event saw an increase in plant sales (approximately 20%)
 - (2) The event saw an increase in foot traffic; approximately 300 attendees (up from #250 with former years)
 - (3) The Hydrocaching Game was hugely successful; it drove the public interaction for all the exhibits. Both exhibitors and public attendees raved about it. The JT Chamber of Commerce, who headed the game, was also pleased.
 - (4) New topics were suggested for next year, however, "interactive exhibits" was the top request. Radnich believes the JBWD water pipe demonstration set the bar.
 - (5) Director Unger suggested we have a booth from the Bee Hive people. GM Sauer noted that bees are drawn to the water meter boxes for their hives. Radnich confirmed that we have a sample honey-comb hive we could lend for that display that was found in a meter box!
 - (6) Radnich shared that the event has grown so much that it has become high maintenance for just herself and one staff person. She thanked the Board for their volunteer help, but indicated that volunteers were the main source of manpower, and at that, unreliable. She would either need a commitment of more staff, or will need to reduce the event to a smaller, more manageable size.
 - 1) GM Sauer can make more staff available, but he pointed out that it costs to do so.
 - 2) Director Unger and President Luckman felt it had grown to such a success, that we should move forward and consider more staffing next year.
 - (7) Radnich will be giving MWA a "thank you" presentation of this event at their next Board meeting, as they are a financial sponsor.
- B. The Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC)—MWA's conservation arm that distributes funds for strategic partners' projects, is looking to reorganize/redefine their mission. Radnich asked the committee for any suggestions she should take back to their planning meeting.
 - (1) President Luckman commented on the "more successful format" AWAC once had that functioned from the ground up; local area mini-AWACS would meet (i.e., the "Morongo Basin AWAC"). Radnich noted that returning to that concept was just voiced at the last meeting via HDWD.

(2) GM Sauer felt that AWAC may possibly dissolve, but that Radnich should continue attending in support.

C. Radnich shared that the Farmers' Market theme for April is "Water for Emergencies". She noted that April was the State "Earthquake Preparedness Month," and that she does this display twice a year, with the second booth display slated for September, for National Emergency Preparedness month. She also mentioned that it is shared again in October, for the one-day "Great Shake-Out" event.

7. CONSERVATION OUTREACH REPORT—

A. No official report was provided.

8. STAFF REPORT

A. GM Sauer shared that Well 14 was moving forward. They finished "swabbing" the pump, and we now have a 3 day wait. A video of the work will be taken. Next week they plan to disinfect everything, and then reassemble and run tests. Sauer is cautiously optimistic.

B. Staff and CAC members took a field trip to the Coachella Valley Water District to explore their low-income rate assistance program.

(1) Their program is for individuals that are 200% over the poverty level.

(2) United Way charges \$50/month in processing fees

(3) Individuals apply on line, or call the United Way for help to apply

(4) Mission Springs Water District also uses this program. They offer \$50/year/person. Last year only \$2,000 was spent /given out.

(5) We cannot use funds from water sales, only non-water sales revenues (like revenues received from property taxes.)

(6) GM Sauer told the committee that the current District program, CAAP, needs to be reviewed. He believes some requests come from VRBO/AirBnB's type residences, where the owners live out of the area. CAAP was not intended for those situations, but for true residents who are financially indigent. The District cannot discriminate, regardless.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (None were given)

10. NEXT MEETING DATE—Changed to: August 1, 2018 at 9:30 AM

11. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:29AM.

1st: Director Unger, 2nd: President Luckman

Respectfully Submitted,