

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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, Director Floen, Director Hund, and Director Unger.
Vice President Johnson is absent.

STAFF PRESENT

Curt Sauer, GM, Mark Ban, AGM – Operations, Susan Greer, AGM/Controller, and Sarah Johnson, HR Manager.

CONSULTANTS PRESENT

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Unger made a motion to approve the Agenda. Director Floen seconded the motion.

MSC¹ (Unger/Floen) motion carried by the following vote

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Luckman, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: Johnson

Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Marian Lucey, Joshua Tree, stated that she had received a \$700 water bill and that this is a new account. Ms. Lucey was referred to the General Manager for assistance.

Al Marquez, Joshua Tree, commented on Well 14 that the cost was originally for \$200,000 and now we are up to \$1M being spent on Well 14, and it still isn't back online. Mr. Marquez also referenced the San Bernardino County Fire protection issues.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- Draft Minutes of August 15, 2018, Meeting of the Board of Directors
- Draft Minutes of August 21, 2018, Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
- Check registers June-July 2018, (reviewed by the Finance Committee on September 12, 2018).
- 4th Quarter Ending 6/30/2018 Financial Report (reviewed by the Finance Committee on September 12, 2018).

Director Hund made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar with a change to the minutes of August 15, 2018, that he did not abstain and to change it to state that he approved. Director Unger seconded the motion.

MSC¹ (Hund/Unger) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Luckman, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: Johnson

Abstain: None

CUSTOMER ACCOUNT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAAP) – Recommend that the Board approve the Policy change (reviewed by CAC on September 11, 2018, and the Finance Committee on September 12, 2018, and referred to the Board for approval). AGM Greer gave the staff report and GM Sauer gave an update on what costs are covered, followed by a brief Q&A period with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Gayle Austin, Joshua Tree (CAC Member) stated that she would like it kept at \$700.00 especially for people that are having a problem paying their bill. She commented that it should be higher this would make it so they could pay over time or \$50 per month.

Al Marquez, Joshua Tree commented that this topic had been discussed a lot over the past year. Originally, the Citizens Advisory Committee came up with \$400, which was a number they could support. Mr. Marquez complained that the District uses more money for non-payments than anything else; we are talking like \$20,000 or more per year. However, if you are talking the difference between \$400 and \$700 then compromise and make it \$500.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED -

MSC¹ (Hund/Unger) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Luckman, and Unger

Noes: Hund

Absent: Johnson

Abstain: None

ORGANIZATIONAL ASSESSMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN –Recommend that the Board approve the Organizational Implementation Plan that was reviewed by both the Finance Committee and the Water Resources & Operations Committee on September 12, 2018. Sarah Johnson, HR Manager gave the staff report followed by a brief Q&A period with the Board.

Director Hund made a motion to the Organizational Assessment Implementation Plan. Director Floen seconded the motion.

MSC¹ (Hund/Floen) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Luckman, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: Johnson

Abstain: None

DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT – Mr. Granito reported on SB 845, which was a last minute substitution for the proposed Water Tax that had previously failed. Mr. Granito reported that on the last day of the Session, SB 845 also died. SB 845 would have required a water district to add a voluntary remittance, with an opt-out feature, on the district's water bills. The purpose of this Bill was to create a funding source for the proposed statewide Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund.

Another Bill, SB 998, which also garnered much interest, was passed by the Legislature. SB 998 adopts state-wide shut-off procedures, that among other things: (1) prevents water service disconnections/turn-offs, for at least 60 days for delinquent customers (2) creates a cap on reconnection fees for low-income customers that may or not cover the cost to physically reconnect, which could trigger Prop. 218 concerns; and (3) expands the authority to both the State Water Resources Control Board and the Attorney General to enforce provisions of the bill.

GENERAL MANAGER REPORT – GM Sauer reported on the following:

- Loan has been completed
- CEC Solar Grant – Deadline missed by the contractor. CEC & Contractor will try to get a final report to us by the week of October 1, 2018.
- Strategic Plan – First meetings with consultant completed. Draft report on initial ideas due this coming week. Two more workshops are scheduled for October and November.
- Since August 20, 2018, we have met with the County, LAFCO, and CRRQCB on sewerage authorities and changes.
- Met with the new County LUS person, who comes out on Wednesdays, (building permits & updates to their planning procedures), to better inform developers of how to work with us and the County for Will Serve letters, etc.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER- OPERATIONS REPORT – AGM-OPS Ban updated the Board on the following:

- RFP's for Meter Replacement
- Well 14
- Shop remodel
- Recharge

DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, COMMENTS & FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS-

Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach reported the following:

- The Great ShakeOut is set for Saturday, October 13, 2018, at the Tractor Supply parking lot, from 9AM-3PM.
- District Tours: Thursday, September 24th, 8AM-12:30 PM
- Residential Landscape Irrigation Tune-up class: was held September 18th, 1-4PM, 16 in attendance.
- Evaporative (Swamp) Cooler study, due to extenuating legal and contractual unresolved loose ends, the Evaporative Cooler Study time frames has been delayed until next Spring.
- Candidates Forum. Hosted by the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce, it is set for Tuesday, October 16th from 6PM-7:30 PM at the Joshua Tree Community Center.
- The Water Assistance Program via United Way, August had 16 successful applicants. As of today, an additional six applications have been awarded funding, bringing the total to 22. United Way will prepare a monthly report after each close of the month and keep us apprised.

Director Hund commented that he is continually impressed by the way, the District is moving towards the CIRP. He also commented on the District's high-energy bill and highlighted the opportunity to go solar.

Director Floen commented on the MWA Debt Policy from the September 13, 2018 Board meeting. Director Floen also commented on the Finance Committee he attended and discussed the District's electricity bills.

Director Unger commented on the District Water Tour she attended and went on to commend the staff, shop, and Kathleen for all of their hard work.

President Luckman commented that she was at the JT Farmer's Market and someone stated that the District had violated the Brown Act. The Brown Act tells us that the Public's business should be stated in public. We were not talking about any of the District's business. She wished that people would not jump to conclusions that we were violating the Brown Act when in fact we were not.

FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – President Luckman informed every one of the next upcoming meetings. President Luckman noted a correction to page 2 of the Agenda that she and Director Hund attend the Water Resources & Operations Committee.

ADJOURNMENT – Director Floen made a motion to adjourn. Director Hund seconded.

MSC¹ (Hund/Floen) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Floen, Hund, Luckman, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: Johnson

Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted,


Curt Sauer, GM and Board Secretary