

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2022

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – President Floen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference.

OATH OF OFFICE – President Floen delivered the “Oath of Office” to newly appointed General Manager Sarah Johnson. All Board members and well-wishers then congratulated General Manager Johnson, all expressing that she will make a great General Manager.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM – President Floen asked for a rollcall and the following Directors are present: Vice President Doolittle, Director Delph, Director Jarlsberg, and Director Unger are in attendance via teleconference.

STAFF PRESENT –Sarah Johnson, Acting General Manager, Anne Roman, Director of Finance, Autumn Rich, Accounting Supervisor, and Beverly Krushat, Executive Assistant, are in attendance via teleconference.

CONSULTANTS PRESENT –Jeff Hoskinson, General Counsel, Christopher Rashidian, Cooperative Strategies, and Kathleen Radnich, Public Information Consultant.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – MSC<sup>1</sup> (Delph/Jarlsberg) 5/0/0 motion carried to approve the Agenda of April 6, 2022.

Ayes: Delph, Doolittle, Floen, Jarlsberg, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Frank Coate, Vice Chairperson of the Citizens Advisory Committee welcomed Sarah Johnson as the new General Manager.

Mr. Scotty West and his sister Doris Wilson just bought property in Joshua Tree, and they have been asked by their contractor to get a letter for availability of service, which they have spent a year trying to get from the District. Mr. West stated that when they first began this process the letter would take 16 days and now the website states six (6) weeks. Ms. Wilson stated that they have already paid the \$132 to receive the letter.

GM Johnson responded that she would take their information and personally contact them after the Board meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR - MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Delph) 5/0/0 motion carried to approve the Consent Calendar.

Ayes: Delph, Doolittle, Floen, Jarlsberg, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

PRESENTATION BY BIG HORN DESERT VIEW WATER AGENCY ON ILLEGAL CANNABIS CULTIVATION IN THE MORONGO BASIN – GM Marina West gave a highly informative fourteen slide presentation on the cultivation of illegal cannabis grows and what Big Horn Desert View has done to combat it. She also explained the importance of a hazmat team for the chemicals that are left behind so as to not contaminate ground, which would eventually seep into the water. This was followed by a brief Q&A with the Board members, all who commented on what a well prepared and informative presentation GM West gave. Received for information only.

PRESENTATION ON CANNABIS LEGISLATIVE UPDATES – Mr. Nicholas Schneider, Senior Legislation and Conservation Manager & Executive Director of Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC) gave updates the legislative side of the illegal cannabis grows. A couple of ACWA’s proposals were:

1) give local District Attorney’s the ability to prosecute growers who are using illegal pesticides and affecting the long-term sustainability and quality of water.

- 2) Make it a crime to aid and abet selling water to an illegal cannabis grower.
- 3) Change the penalty for illegal cannabis cultivation from a misdemeanor to a felony.

AB 1725: Illegal Cultivation of Cannabis – would amend the law and increase the penalty of illegal cultivation.

AB 2728: Would impose an additional civil penalty on an unlicensed person engaging in commercial activity involving various cannabis products, including in excess of six (6) cannabis plants, cannabis product, cannabis concentrate, cannabis biomass, and cannabis flower, as specified. A brief Q&A period followed with the Board members and all expressing their gratitude for the legislative updates. Received for information only.

UPDATE ON ARREAGE PROGRAM, A/R BALANCES, AND CUTOFFS – Director Roman gave the staff report and informed the Board members that in December 2021, the District applied for \$337,262.90 in arrearage funding through the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) as part of the California Water and Wastewater Arrearage Payment Program. We received this funding in mid- January 2022, credited \$308,764.73 in bill credits to individual ratepayer accounts in early March 2022. The remaining funds of \$22,318.67 have been returned to the SWRCB. In addition, \$40,206.56 in penalty waivers were provided as required by the program.

The Governor’s moratorium on Cutoffs under Executive Order N-42-20 ended on 12/31/21 but the District’s participation in the Arrearage Payment program required that we provide customers 30 days to enroll in a contract for remaining past due balances before beginning the cutoff process. This was following by a brief Q&A with the Board members. Received for information only.

DIRECTORS REPORTS/COMMENTS – Kathleen Radnich, Public Information Consultant gave updates on the following: 2022 Pending Classes, Plant Sale Report, Farmer’s Market (April), Water Education Festival at LCMS on May 19, 2022, and the Morongo Basin Council for Aging Adults Panel.

Vice President Stacy Doolittle commented on the MWA meeting she attended on March 24, 2022.

FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS - President Floen read off the list of upcoming Director meetings.

ADJOURNMENT – MSC<sup>1</sup> (Unger/Jarlsberg) motion carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary