

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 6, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Victoria Fuller	Present
Bob Johnson	Present
Mickey Luckman	Present
Mike Reynolds	Present
Gary Wilson	Present

STAFF PRESENT: Susan Greer, Acting General Manager
Marie Salsberry, HR Manager/Administrative Specialist
Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Gil Granito, District Counsel
Richard Dukellis, Koff & Associates
Georg Krammer, Koff & Associates
Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant

GUESTS 8

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC Reynolds/Fuller 5/0 to approve the agenda for the November 6, 2013 Regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Wilson requested that Item F of the Consent Calendar be pulled for discussion.

MSC Reynolds/Johnson 5/0 to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2013 Special Joint meeting of the Board of Directors and Citizens Advisory Committee; to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2013 Regular meeting of the Board of Directors; to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2013 Regular meeting of the Board of Directors; to approve the July 2013 financial report; and to approve the August 2013 financial report.

Regarding Item F of the Consent Calendar, "Approve September 2013 Check Audit Report", Director Wilson commented that in September the District spent over \$2,900 on phones, cellphones and television.

MSC Reynolds/Johnson 5/0 to approve the September 2013 Check Audit Report.

Acting General Manager Greer commented that the July and August financial reports and the September check audit report were reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee prior to being placed on this agenda.

7. APPEAL OF RATEPAYER MEYER/BILL DISPUTE ACCT: #59-00275-01

AGM Greer reported that the ratepayer, who had a high-use water bill, had requested assistance under the District's Water Account Assistance Program. Assistance was denied as the situation does not meet the policy guidelines. This issue was brought to the Public Information Committee and the Committee also

denied the request for assistance. AGM Greer described the situation and presented documentation of the ratepayer's past water use and other items related to the request for assistance.

The ratepayer's husband, Doug Farnik was present and described the situation that he believed resulted in a leak on the property, where he lives. He stated he believed the leak occurred due to work being done in the general area by the District.

During discussion it was found that more information would be needed; President Luckman recommended that the item be tabled until the next Board meeting.

MSC Reynolds/Johnson 5/0 to table the item.

8. CONSIDER PURCHASE OF MOBILE MINI STORAGE UNIT IN LIEU OF RENTAL

AGM Greer reported that consideration of purchasing a storage unit is affected by two of the Board's pending strategic plan items; one is a space needs assessment and the other is a record archival system. Prior to completing the two projects, the District's actual long-term storage needs will be unknown. She recommended that consideration of purchasing a storage unit be delayed until the other two projects are completed. Discussion ensued including several comments and questions regarding the appropriate cost for this type of storage unit and installation. Director Wilson suggested using the Park booster building or the Park tank for storage. Director Reynolds stated he would like to see more options for purchasing a shipping container. Vice President Fuller stated she would like to also look at options that are in the strategic plan; she suggested a committee.

MSC Reynolds/Fuller 5/0 to postpone this item and to explore options.

9. APPROVE PROP 218 NOTICE REGARDING PROPOSED RATE INCREASES

AGM Greer reported that proposed rates have been developed by the District's rate consultants and a letter has been prepared to be sent out. She read the following statement: As legally required, the District must provide written notice to affected property/parcel owners and tenants who are customers of the District. The attached Proposition 218 Notice has been prepared by the District's rate consultant, with review from the District's Public Information Committee and counsel. The notice will be mailed to property/parcel owners whose property is being provided water service (either directly to owner and/or owner's tenant), to customers (including tenants who are directly responsible for paying water bills), and to property owners who have purchased water meters but are not yet receiving water service.

AGM Greer stated that a public hearing will be held January 15th regarding the proposed rates. Director Reynolds clarified that it is a notice that the District is sending to let people know that the District is considering rate increases and to encourage people to comment.

President Luckman suggested that wording be changed to reflect that the District will purchase state water project water through the Mojave Water Agency.

District Counsel Gil Granito stated that the final rate study is not completed yet; the figures of the proposed rates have been set but the narrative is being completed. The complete study will be completed soon; the Board will have an opportunity to view and approve or accept the report at the next regular Board meeting

MSC Fuller/Johnson 5/0 to approve the Prop 218 Notice for mailing to customers, adding the language stating that the District will purchase state water project through the Mojave Water Agency.

10. HOLIDAY SEASON MEETING SCHEDULE

AGM Greer reported that a majority of Board members will be attending the Association of California Water Agencies conference early in December, and that January 1st the District is closed for the New Year's Day holiday. She recommended that the Regular Board meetings scheduled for December 4th and January 1st be cancelled.

MSC Johnson/Fuller 4/1 to approve staff recommendation to cancel the December 4, 2013 and January 1, 2014 Board meetings and reschedule special meetings at a later time only if needed.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	No

11. HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

AGM Greer reported that the District has for many years closed the office on the day before Christmas and the day before New Year’s Day, allowing employees to take one half-day (4 hours) off with pay and to use leave time for the remainder of the two days.

MSC Reynolds/Fuller 4/1 to approve staff recommendation to authorize the District office to close on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve and offer employees one half day off with pay (4 hours) either on Christmas Eve or New Year’s Eve, as has been the tradition for many years.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	No

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

- A. GENERAL MANAGER SEARCH: Director Reynolds and President Luckman: President Luckman reported that the Board had their first meeting with representatives of Koff & Associates, the firm that will assist the Board in reviewing the candidates.
- B. ADMINISTRATION CODE UPDATE PROJECT: Vice President Fuller and President Luckman: The Administration Code will be reviewed after the Rules and Regulations have been updated.
- C. HOSPITAL WASTEWATER PROJECT: President Luckman and Vice President Fuller: AGM Greer reported that amendments to the contract have been completed and the amended agreement is being reviewed by Hi-Desert Medical Center.
- D. MOJAVE WATER AGENCY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE: President Luckman and Vice President Fuller: President Luckman reported that she and AGM Greer attended the MWA Technical Advisory Committee meeting where an update was given on project ideas submitted; several from the District have been combined with other larger projects.
- E. RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE: Vice President Fuller and Director Reynolds: Vice President Fuller reported that the committee has been working on updating the Rules and Regulations; proposed updates will be reviewed by legal counsel and then will come to the Board.
- F. TANK RESTORATION PROJECT: Director Wilson and Director Johnson: Director Johnson reported that the committee is working with the AGM who will schedule a meeting with the District engineers.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

- A. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: President Luckman and Vice President Fuller: Public Outreach Consultant Kathleen Radnich reported on attending the annual Southern California Water Committee dinner meeting where the Bay Delta Conservation Plan was discussed; she shared information from that meeting and stated that she will be at the Joshua Tree Farmers Market this month.
- B. FINANCE: Vice President Fuller and Director Johnson: Vice President Fuller reported that she and Director Johnson are learning about the District’s finances.

13. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

14. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

AGM Greer reported that the District is continuing negotiations with the union on several reopener items in the recently ratified contract, each of which will be brought to the Board for approval. Items include a compensation review and twelve other items. Staff will continue to work with the District's labor counsel on these.

She reported that the pumps at the Park booster station are too large to be removed through the door and have no recycling value. They are not in the way of the items that currently are stored in the building or items that are planned to be stored in the building.

15. DIRECTORS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Director Reynolds commented the weather is changing and cautioned people to watch for freezing weather that can break pipes, and to keep an eye on pressure inside the house.

Director Fuller commented she attended the MWA meeting where the topic of conversation was the Bay Delta Project; Species, Seismic and Sea Level Rise.

Director Wilson stated he believes Director Reynolds is close to a conflict of interest speaking about frozen pipes at a Board meeting.

Director Johnson reported that the committees are making progress; there is a lot of information that they need to get up to speed with and he appreciates the support from staff and District Counsel. He stated it is important to preserve our water and resources and extreme challenges are ahead.

16. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

Gil Granito reported on Griffith vs. the Hara Valley Water Management Agency, a case concerning Prop 218. He noted that the court expanded the distribution list for Prop 218 notices to include landlords who are not customers but own property with water service.

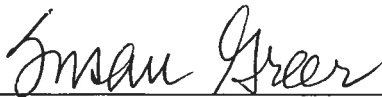
17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Wilson commented that he noticed in the newspaper that a building project proposed in the community some time ago is coming back; he stated that the will-serve letter ran out years ago. AGM Greer confirmed that there is no will-serve letter in effect and the District has not yet been contacted about the project.

18. ADJOURNMENT 8:06 PM

MSC Fuller/Reynolds 5/0 to adjourn the November 6, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted:



Susan Greer, Acting General Manager

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for November 20, 2013 at 7:00 pm.