

MEETING MINUTES



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MARCH 5, 2025 5:30 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Floen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM & ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present: President Floen, Vice President Doolittle, Director Jarlsberg, Director Fick

Remote Attendance: Director Short

Staff Present: General Manager Johnson, Director of Finance Roman, Director of Administration Shook, Accounting Supervisor Rich, Executive Assistant Thompson

Consultant(s) Present: Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich, Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, Aqua-Metric Consultant, Steve Kamiyama

Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present: David Carrillo, Debbie Truncala

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve the agenda and seconded by Vice President Doolittle approved by the following vote:

1 st / 2 nd	Jarlsberg/Doolittle
Ayes:	Floen, Doolittle, Jarlsberg, Short, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. DRAFT MINUTES – 02.19.25

Director Fick made a motion to approve the 02.19.25 draft minutes with amendments to the first and last bullet points of Vice President Doolittle's Director Comments and seconded by Director Jarlsberg, approved by the following vote:

1st/ 2nd	Fick /Jarlsberg
Ayes:	Floen, Doolittle, Jarlsberg, Short, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

7. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION -

None

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

A. MEMORANDUM OF INTENT (MOI) BETWEEN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION & JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

PRESENTED BY: PUBLIC OUTREACH CONSULTANT, KATHLEEN RADNICH

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVE THE MOI BETWEEN JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK ASSOCIATION AND JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT.

Public Outreach Consultant Kathleen Radnich presented the Memorandum of Intent (MOI) between the Joshua Tree National Park Association (JTNPA) and the Joshua Basin Water District (JBWD). Under this Memorandum of Intent (MOI), JBWD will donate 50% of the profits from its annual native plant sale to JTNPA. JTNPA will hold these funds in trust and donate them to Joshua Tree National Park (JTNP) to support its plant nursery. This partnership reinforces the commitment to conservation, sustainability, and environmental education.

Vice President Doolittle made a motion to approve the MOI between Joshua Tree National Park Association and Joshua Basin Water District, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the following vote.

1 st / 2 nd	Doolittle/Jarlsberg
Ayes:	Floen, Doolittle, Jarlsberg, Short, Fick
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

B. METER WORKSHOP

PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, DAVID SHOOK

RECOMMENDED ACTION: FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

1. METERS 101
2. CAAP REVISIT

Director of Administration David Shook presented Meters 101, demonstrating the functionality and features of Sensus iPERL water meters. He introduced Aqua-Metrics Consultant Steve Kamiyama for additional insights. The discussion covered how the meters operate, their accuracy, and their ability to detect leaks. Using electromagnetic induction, these meters measure water flow without mechanical components. Shook explained that the District invested in a field logic communicator, which reads meter data, uploads it to a computer, and generates usage graphs to help identify water consumption patterns.

Shook presented information on the Customer Account Assistance Program (CAAP) and United Way Low-Income Assistance program, outlining their history, qualifications, and challenges. Shook shared images and videos of water leaks and wastage cases, often linked to vacation rentals or negligence.

The board reviewed the eligibility criteria for the CAAP and United Way programs and proposed potential changes, such as increasing the United Way customer credit to \$300 per year and lowering the CAAP threshold to \$500. Based on this feedback, staff will prepare recommendations for the board's further review at a future board meeting.

9. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

President Floen

- Floen acknowledged that tonight's meeting was very taxing and praised Director Short's dedication and for attending remotely throughout the session despite being ill.
- Floen attended the Copper Mountain Mesa Association (CMMA) breakfast last Saturday, where disaster preparedness was discussed.
- Floen attended the Landers Homestead Valley Association meeting and reported that they were fined by the State for not having a nonprofit certificate. Floen felt it was unfair, as their income comes from a second-hand store and the fine resulted from a missed form.
- Floen mentioned that he would attend the next Landers Homestead Valley Association meeting and noted that Marina West had been discussing concerns about the Western Joshua Tree restrictions and laying pipe.

Vice President Doolittle

- Doolittle expressed concern about the district facing challenging times and potentially losing community resources and the impact it could have, along with rising costs. Doolittle urged the public to consider these factors when voting in the future.
- Doolittle attended the ASBCSD membership meeting and dinner on February 24th, where she shared that Yucaipa recently converted to solar for its purification and sewage buildings, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony planned for March. Doolittle expressed interest in attending and invited board members to join her. Doolittle also noted the board's interest in solar energy and shared details from a biosolids presentation by Inland Empire Regional Composting Authority.
- Doolittle attended the MWA board meeting on February 27th and reported on discussions regarding their economic report, highlighting increased property values in the service area since the pandemic. Doolittle also noted updates on reduced water purchases, chlorination, and the RFP pilot study for the regional recharge and recovery pipeline.
- Doolittle expressed appreciation for the board after watching meeting recordings and shared her gratitude for being part of the group. Doolittle noted difficulties in hearing board members and suggested using microphones to improve sound quality. Doolittle recommended adjusting the camera and mics to better capture speakers and board member discussion.

Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg completed ethics training and expressed concerns about the federal administration.
- Jarlsberg expressed her concerns regarding the current presidential administration.
- Jarlsberg shared her enjoyment of the Big Bear Bald Eagle live nest camera and encouraged others to watch.
- Jarlsberg encouraged appreciating simple pleasures during challenging times and expressed gratitude for the district, staff, and meeting attendees.
- Jarlsberg will attend an educational tour of the Colorado River next week and will report on it at the next board meeting.

Director Short

- Short expressed interest in attending the Yucaipa Solar Farm tour.
- Short expressed appreciation for the board's comments.

Director Fick

- Fick attended the ASBCSD membership meeting and dinner on February 24th with Vice President Doolittle and shared that there was a presentation about biosolids and mentioned the ability to create weather systems inside a large warehouse.
- Fick reported that the Joshua Tree community has been receiving political attention on a national level due to layoffs at Joshua Tree National Park and a recent protest in downtown Joshua Tree, which had over 300 participants last Saturday.
- Fick commended the board and staff for their compassion toward ratepayers, noting that this consideration contributed to the decision to delay the rate increase scenario until April.
- Fick reported that the MBCA is appealing the County's decision on Lovemore Ranch, with the timing of the appeal pending the Land Use Director's determination.

General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson reported that the US Water Alliance EPA funding for the District's Chromium 6 analysis is available again, and meetings are back on schedule for March.
- Johnson reported that the Copper Mountain College (CMC) Board recently approved five water technology classes, which are now awaiting approval from the State Chancellor's office. Once approved, CMC will begin hiring instructors for courses in water fundamentals, treatment, distribution, wastewater, and career pathways in water. Johnson was invited to sit on their career panel to help educate students about careers in the water industry and advocate for these programs. She expressed gratitude toward CMC, as she has been advocating for these courses for nine years.
- Johnson shared details about a joint letter from the Community Water Systems Alliance (CWSA) and other water agencies. She shared that the letter was another administrative attempt urging the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to provide funding for Chromium-6 treatment.
- Johnson attended a meeting with the SWRCB's Chair Joaquin Esquivel to discuss funding for Chromium 6 treatment. During the meeting, Johnson raised concerns about the high treatment costs and about Joshua Tree being a disadvantaged community.
- Johnson will attend more SWRCB meetings next Monday with the other board members to advocate for state funding for Chromium 6 treatment.
- Johnson will attend two legislative trips to Sacramento in May, where she plans to advocate for funding for Chromium-6 treatment.
- Johnson attended a County meeting hosted by Dawn Rowe on February 26th, which was very informative. Johnson also met with a representative of the emergency services offices.
- Johnson mentioned that she and several staff members have been meeting regularly with Nobel to address issues with Geoviewer. We are working to organize the entire platform and ensure accurate reporting.
- Johnson met with Tim Worley from CWSA to work on a business plan, which will be presented at the budget workshop in May.
- Johnson noted that the Director requests in the packet will be streamlined. She expressed her desire to integrate them with the business and strategic plan to improve efficiency and ensure the workload feels more manageable.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Jarlsberg, seconded by Vice President Doolittle and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SJ', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary






2. .JBWD MINUTES TEMPLATE 1ST MEETING TEMPLATE 03.05.25

Final Audit Report

2025-03-24

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