

MEETING MINUTES



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 18, 2026, 5:00 PM

1. ALL TO ORDER

President Doolittle called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM & ATTENDANCE

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

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

Consultant(s) Present: Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich

Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present: David Carrillo

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Jarlsberg moved to approve the agenda, and Vice President Short seconded the motion. Motion approved by the following vote:

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. DRAFT MINUTES – 02.04.26

Director Floen made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar 02.04.26 draft minutes and seconded by Vice President Short approved by the following vote:

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

6. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION - None

7. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

A. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) MEMBER

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS REVIEW APPLICATION AND CONSIDER APPOINTMENT TO THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC)

Director Floen made a motion to appoint Jeffrey Walter as a Citizens Advisory Council Member, seconded by Director Fick and approved by the following vote:

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

B. CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL (CAC) CHAIR LEGISLATIVE TRIP

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: AUTHORIZE THE CAC CHAIR TO ACCOMPANY DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE MARCH 2026 SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE TRIP

Vice President Short made a motion to authorize the CAC Chair, David Carrillo, to accompany district representatives on the March 2026 Sacramento Legislative trip, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the following vote:

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

C. LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH LETTER FROM THE BOARD

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: REVIEW THE DRAFT LEGISLATIVE OUTREACH LETTER, PROVIDE EDITS OR DIRECTION AS APPROPRIATE, AND AUTHORIZE THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO SIGN THE FINALIZED LETTER FOR DISTRIBUTION TO IDENTIFIED LEGISLATORS AND REGULATORY OFFICIALS

General Manager presented a draft legislative outreach letter prepared in coordination with Rojas Public Affairs on behalf of Joshua Basin Water District. The letter addresses Chromium regulatory requirements and the related financial and operational impacts on the District and its ratepayers, and emphasizes the need for sustainable funding for small and disadvantaged systems. The Board was asked to review the draft, provide direction as needed, and authorize signatures for distribution.

During Board discussion, it was identified that "Community Advisory Committee" should be corrected to "Citizens Advisory Council," and that "Chromium" should be capitalized throughout the letter for consistency.

President Doolittle motioned to sign the finalized legislative outreach letter with the correction of Community Advisory Committee to Citizens Advisory Council and capitalizing Chromium-6 throughout the letter for distribution to identified legislators and regulatory officials, seconded by Director Fick and approved by the following vote:

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

D. C2B RESERVOIR RECOATING

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH ARDURRA GROUP, INC. FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE C2-B RESERVOIR INTERIOR RECOATING PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,759, AND TO EXECUTE ALL ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

General Manager Sarah Johnson presented the C2-B Recoating project proposal, noting recent inspections found significant interior coating deterioration and temporary repairs. Recoating is recommended to protect and extend the reservoir’s service life.

Staff reviewed a proposal from Ardurra for engineering and bidding support services for a not-to-exceed amount of \$34,759. Given Ardurra’s prior selection through a Board-approved RFP and their familiarity with District facilities, staff recommended approval to proceed.

Vice President Short made a motion to authorize the General Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Ardurra Group, Inc, for engineering services related to the C2-B Reservoir interior recoating project in an amount not to exceed \$34,759, and to execute all associated documents, seconded by Director Jarlsberg, and approved by the following vote:

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

8. DIRECTOR REPORTS/COMMENTS

President Doolittle

- Doolittle clarified that Obernolte is our Congressman, and the MWA TAC stands for Technical Advisory Committee run by the Mojave Water Agency.
- Doolittle expressed support for Director Floen representing the District on Chromium 6 issues at the Copper Mountain Mesa board meetings. Doolittle encouraged the Board to seek opportunities to engage with the public and provide reassurance about ongoing efforts related to Chromium 6.
- Doolittle reported on her one-on-one meeting with General Manager Johnson on February 12th, noting she brought 20 items to discuss, including topics for the upcoming board retreat, and shared insights from a recent governance class. President Doolittle noted that in her new role she has implemented several changes, including having supporting documents (not included in the agenda packet) to be posted online, providing updated organizational charts to directors, and that the directors will soon have a district well and tank map. She thanked General Manager Johnson for carrying out these efforts and for her guidance and support in enhancing transparency and strengthening board relations.

Vice President Short

- Director Short reported that he attended a Washington, D.C. legislative trip preparation meeting earlier today with Director Floen, General Manager Johnson, and Rojas in advance of next week's trip. He expressed hope that they will have positive outcomes to report and emphasized the importance of pursuing funding opportunities to benefit the community. Director Short added that he is looking forward to the trip.

Director Floen

- Floen reported attending the Copper Mountain Mesa board meeting last weekend, where he raised the District's chromium-6 concerns. Floen noted being impressed by the board's strong emotional investment in addressing the issue.

Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg reported attending the MWA TAC meeting on February 4th, which included two workshops. Jarlsberg highlighted an informative presentation on Mojave River dams and plans to share the link with the Board. Jarlsberg also noted presentations by Marina West on the Mojave Water Agency and Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency and mentioned that the MWA tours are scheduled for September.
- Jarlsberg reported attending the Landers Homestead Valley Association meeting last week. Jarlsberg noted that Marina West will be retiring soon and learned about the ongoing maintenance of more than 500 hydrants.
- Jarlsberg reported attending a mobile office meeting with Congressman Obernolte, where she met with his assistant. She noted that she had a 20-minute one-on-one discussion covering various District matters, and observed that the field representative was taking notes, which she hopes will be shared with the Congressman. Jarlsberg described the meeting as very productive.
- Jarlberg attended the MWA boarding meeting on February 12th.

Director Fick

- None

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson reported that staff have been heavily involved in financial planning with the Finance team and Ridgeline. Johnson noted that a financial planning workshop is scheduled for March 19th, providing a 10-year overview of the District's finances.
- Johnson reported that staff have been working closely with the legislative team to plan upcoming trips, prepare for meetings, and provide information for earmark letters. Johnson emphasized that while consultants are supporting these efforts, much of the work still falls on staff, creating additional workload and new pressures not previously experienced due to the District's first-time use of these types of consultants.
- Johnson reported that staff have begun budget preparations and recently held a kickoff meeting. The budget will be presented at the Board workshop in May.
- Johnson mentioned that staff is in the process of developing and RFP for the Water Master Plan/CIP.
- Johnson announced that District tours are scheduled for April 20th and 21st, with additional details to be provided soon. Johnson noted that Public Outreach Consultant Kathleen Radnich is coordinating to secure the bus and encouraged prompt sign-ups as seats are expected to fill quickly.

- Johnson reported meeting last week with the offices of Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh and Assemblymember Greg Wallis. Johnson described both meetings as very productive and noted that Wallis' office was receptive to the District's Chromium-6 concerns, offering potential support moving forward.
- Johnson reported that the Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission has been formally dissolved following recent Board approval. In its place, a staff-led Morongo Basin Advisory Committee has been established, and she has been asked to serve as Chair beginning this year.

10. AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD

- President Doolittle – None
- Vice President Short – None
- Director Jarlsberg – Board retreat workshop
- Director Fick – None

11. CLOSED SESSION -Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957 (b)(1) Public Performance Evaluation of the General Manager. Adjourned to closed session at 5:55 pm

OPEN SESSION: Returned at 7:22 pm

Vice President Short shared the following statement: "This year, the General Manager delivered in big, concrete ways: operations stayed steady through staffing gaps, major compliance work kept moving, cost recovery and contract savings were pushed through, and recruitment and restructuring efforts kept building. Those are real, hard-won victories for the district that make a difference.

But what stood out to me is the culture shift that drove this progress. Changing workplace culture is difficult work. It takes consistency, tough choices, and stubborn people willing to stay with the work long enough for real change to take hold. That kind of change is not quick, and it is not always visible from the outside, but it is essential if we want lasting results.

Because of these successes, I believe in the direction our District is heading, and I believe we have the best General Manager in the Morongo Basin."

Director Fick stated that the Board works well with the General Manager and expressed strong confidence in her performance.

Director Floen shared that he feels the District is fortunate to have General Manager Sarah Johnson in the role, particularly through challenging times. Floen praised her commanding presence, articulate communication, and willingness to provide constructive corrections while remaining receptive to board input.

Director Jarlsberg commented that unlike previous general managers, Johnson consistently responds to board requests and has helped the board grow through her guidance. She expressed appreciation for her leadership.

President Doolittle expressed that she and the Board have the highest confidence in General Manager Sarah Johnson, noting that her performance continues to improve each year. Doolittle stated that the Board has strong faith in Johnson's leadership and ability to manage complex situations, and believes the District is well-positioned under her direction both now and in the future. Doolittle added that the District is extraordinarily lucky to have Sarah Johnson serving as our General Manager.

Vice President Short motioned to provide a bonus of \$10,000 for the General Manager. The motion was seconded by Director Jarlsberg.

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Floen, seconded by Director Fick, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary






3. .JBWD MINUTES TEMPLATE 1ST MEETING TEMPLATE 02.18.26

Final Audit Report

2026-03-12

Created:	2026-03-10
By:	LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAAL2jMo6jBHnftVuVyrYFC7yZu903OFhY

"3. .JBWD MINUTES TEMPLATE 1ST MEETING TEMPLATE 0 2.18.26" History

-  Document created by LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)
2026-03-10 - 8:57:47 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com) for signature
2026-03-10 - 8:58:09 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com)
2026-03-12 - 5:42:15 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com)
Signature Date: 2026-03-12 - 5:42:29 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2026-03-12 - 5:42:29 PM GMT