

MEETING MINUTES



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUGUST 7, 2024, 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 Short, Director Fick

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

Consultant(s) Present: Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich, Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, CAMP Consultant, Kyle Tanaka, CLASS Consultant, Crystal Lynn

Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present: David Carrillo

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Director Short, approved by the following vote:

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. DRAFT MINUTES – 07.17.24

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve the 07.17.24 draft minutes, seconded by Director Fick approved by the following vote:

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

6. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION - None

7. PRESENTATIONS - For informational purposes only. No action was taken.

A. PUBLIC OUTREACH REPORT

Consultant Radnich provided an outreach report including the following:

- In the month of May, the following events took place:
 - Water Education Festival at La Contenta Junior High in collaboration with Mojave Water Agency. Radnich mentioned that it was a good educational outreach.
 - The district was supposed to have coverage in The Joshua Tree Voice, but due to issues with their printers, it should happen in the Fall instead.
 - The Farmers Market theme was tortoises and water conservation. Radnich mentioned that the Farmers Market had slowed down during the summer.
- In June, the Farmers Market theme was hydration for good health.
- In July, the Farmers Market theme was our aquifer and the new Consumer Confidence Report (CCR).
- The Native plant sale and Joshua Tree National Park have come up with a solution on an MOU, and Radnich will have more information in the fall.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR

A. ALTERNATE INVESTMENT POOLS

PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, ANNE ROMAN

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECEIVE PRESENTATION, DISCUSS, AND PROVIDE FURTHER DIRECTION.

Director of Finance Anne Roman introduced CAMP Consultant Kyle Tanaka, who presented information on investment pools 101 and CAMP investments. Roman introduced Class Consultant Crystal Lynn who presented information on CLASS investments.

Vice President Doolittle motioned for a policy update on our investment policy while maintaining the LAIF investment, and seconded by Director Jarlsberg.

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

The meeting paused for a break at 7:21 pm and resumed at 7:33 pm.

B. JBWD ADMIN BUILDING:

I. PERMEABLE ASPHALT & STORMWATER CATCHMENT, AND EXTERIOR REFRESH MAINTENANCE PROJECT

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: STAFF RECOMMENDS DISCONTINUANCE OF PERMEABLE ASPHALT & STORM WATER CATCHMENT CONCEPT AND APPROVAL OF THE EXTERIOR REFRESH MAINTENANCE PROJECT.

Director of Administration, David Shook presented information about two projects: permeable asphalt and stormwater catchment, and exterior refresh maintenance. Shook discussed the cost of the permeable asphalt and stormwater catchment, showing that its high expense does not justify the benefits. Shook provided a cost analysis of the exterior maintenance, emphasizing that it is cost-effective and necessary for building maintenance. As a result, staff recommended discontinuing the permeable asphalt and stormwater catchment project and approving the exterior refresh maintenance project.

Director Floen made a motion to discontinue the permeable asphalt and stormwater catchment project and continue the exterior refresh maintenance project, and seconded by Director Fick.

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

II. MOJAVE WATER AGENCY STRATEGIC PARTNERS PROGRAM AWARD – STORMWATER EXHIBIT GABION WALL

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: ACCEPT THE MWA STORM WATER STRATEGIC PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANT AWARD AND APPROVE THE PROPOSED PROJECT.

General Manager, Sarah Johnson gave her staff report on the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) Strategic Partners Program Award for the stormwater exhibit. Johnson explained that the district received a \$10,000 grant from MWA to help fund the gabion rock wall project. The 132-foot wall will manage stormwater, protect assets, and educate the public.

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve the MWA Storm Water Strategic Partners Program Grant Award and approve the proposed project, seconded by Director Short approved by the following vote:

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

C. MOJAVE WATER AGENCY STRATEGIC PARTNERS PROGRAM AWARD – CONSERVATION MEDIA CAMPAIGN

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE MWA BASIN-WIDE CONSERVATION MEDIA CAMPAIGN STRATEGIC PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANT AWARD.

General Manager, Sarah Johnson reported on the Mojave Water Agency's (MWA) Strategic Partners Program Award. Johnson highlighted the successful conservation media campaign and the attainment of grant funding, both of which were the result of multiple years of effort. This initiative was coordinated by Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich, who also provided an overview of the MWA's conservation media campaign messaging and her own involvement.

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve and accept the MWA Basin-Wide Conservation Media Campaign Strategic Partners Program Grant Award seconded by Director Short and approved by the following vote:

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

D. ACWA/JPIA GRANT WELLNESS AWARD

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE ACWA JPIA WELLNESS GRANT

General Manager, Sarah Johnson provided an overview of the ACWA/JPIA wellness award. Johnson explained that JPIA offers wellness grants to member agencies participating in their Anthem medical plans for employee wellness initiatives. This year, the district successfully applied for a grant to cover the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) benefits, resulting in a \$1,040 savings for the district this fiscal year.

Director Doolittle made a motion to approve and accept the ACWA/JPIA Grant Wellness Award, seconded by Director Short and approved by the following vote:

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

9. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

President Floen

- Floen explained that the relationships between board members and customers can be ambiguous. Floen gave an example of someone inquiring about high usage, in which he informed them of the district's policies and mentioned that there are programs available to assist them. Floen clarified that the primary responsibility lies with the property owner in terms of their usage.

Vice President Doolittle

- Doolittle mentioned that a customer on low income contacted her about a high water bill.
- Doolittle mentioned that she would like to request a report showing how many customers have experienced increased usage in their bills over the last five years.
- Doolittle expressed her interest in implementing a temporary solution using technology to detect leaks.
- Doolittle mentioned that there is a lot of interest in the native seed event.

Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg mentioned that she saw in the newspaper that Hi-Desert Water District is undergoing rate increases.
- Jarlsberg mentioned that she is an agent for Desert Arc and her duty is to follow up on customers' water bills. Jarlsberg expressed frustration in finding someone to locate leaks on a customer's property due to a lack of resources.
- Jarlsberg mentioned that there has been positive feedback on the district's website and social media postings.

Director Short

- Short attended the MWA Tac Meeting on August 1 and reported that there was a presentation on Getting to Know the Flow which was a State Water Project. Short shared that at the meeting, he learned about a situation with contamination in the ground and a water master plan.

Director Fick

- Fick mentioned that all the board members up for re-election, including himself, are running again. Fick also stated that he has already received questions from customers about their water usage issues.

General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson mentioned that there have been numerous meetings and priorities lately involving Chromium 6. Johnson pointed out that dealing with Chromium 6 has been a significant challenge, consuming a lot of time.
- Johnson is working with US Water Alliance and will bring a presentation to the board in September.
- US Water Alliance is helping the district find engineers to conduct an analysis on Chromium 6 treatment. They will attend the September 4 board meeting via Zoom to make a presentation. Later in September, staff will give US Water Alliance a tour of the district, and they will also be present at the farmers' market with a New York Times photographer.
- The Strategic Planning Interviews by Ortega Strategies went well.

Meetings attended:

- Morongo Basin Coffee Group at the County office. Johnson met with the fire chief and had a discussion about the use of district fire hydrants.
- Johnson met with Susan Kennedy Chairman & CEO of Cadiz, who gave an overview of their projects. Kennedy asked to hold a meeting with Johnson, President Floen, and Director Fick.
- Special CAC meeting on Strategic Planning.
- Johnson and the Interim Director of Operations, Jeremiah Nazario, met with Engie, a public sector energy company, and gained valuable insights. During the meeting, Johnson and Engie discussed the feasibility of installing solar panels in the parking lot. Johnson expressed that this particular solar project is not financially viable.
- Johnson met with the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) to discuss a Regional Urban Water Management Plan.

10. CLOSED SESSION -

Conference with Legal Counsel—Anticipated Litigation (Govt. Code § 54956.9(d)(4)) Potential Initiation of Litigation: 1 case

Adjourned to closed session at 9:03 pm.

Returned to open session at 9:47 pm. Legal Counsel Jeff Hoskinson stated no reportable action.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Short, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary






2.. JBWD MINUTES TEMPLATE 1ST MEETING TEMPLATE 08.07.24

Final Audit Report

2024-09-05

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