

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 01, 2015

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
Rebecca Unger	Present

STAFF PRESENT:

Curt Sauer, General Manager
Susan Greer, Assistant General Manager/Controller
Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator

CONSULTANTS PRESENT:

Gil Granito, District Counsel, Redwine & Sherrill
Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant
Mike Metts, Engineer, Dudek

GUESTS 7

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC Luckman/Johnson 5/0 to approve the agenda for the April 01, 2015 meeting, Tabling Item 10.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Valleri Woodard of Joshua Tree: Government Brown 25% reduction of water usage - how do we save 25% and bring in new water users, potentially pumping more water at the same time?

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Luckman/Reynolds, 5/0 to approve Draft Minutes of the March 18, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors with corrections to name "Fick."

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

7. CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION FOR WATER EDUCATION EFFORTS PRESENTED BY SENATOR JEAN FULLER'S FIELD REPRESENTATIVE JIM SCHOOLER

Victoria Fuller expressed appreciation to Senator Fuller for her interest in the community of Joshua Tree, acknowledging she has visited the JBWD twice this year.

Jim Schooler informed the Board that Senator Fuller would be establishing a Morongo Basin field office at 7248 Joshua Lane in Yucca Valley. Hours will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 to 12 noon.

Jim Schooler presented the Certificate of Recognition for Water Education Day.

President Victoria Fuller accepted the Certificate on the Board's behalf.

8. OVERVIEW OF DISTRICT WASTEWATER TREATMENT STRATEGY

Mike Metts, Consulting Engineer from Dudek, gave the presentation.

Questions and discussion followed from the Board and from the Public.

9. A REVIEW OF INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE BOARD CONCERNING THE KAYE KEENE REQUEST FOR A VARIANCE

General Manager provided information only. General Manager Curt Sauer reviewed all documentation from 2011 through 2014 including DVDs of Board meetings, and conducted meetings with Ms. Keene, Mr. Fountain, Mr. Metts, former Board member Gibbons and staff. GM Curt Sauer found no significant errors provided to Kay Keene or to the Board. Current policy was correctly presented to the Board. In regards to the review of the protracted variance request, the information provided to the Board for decision making was accurate and complete.

Public comment: Richard Fountain representing Ms. Keene gave comment and requested information from Mr. Metts, and challenged Mr. Metts' report, specifically regarding whether or not elevations in Pressure Zone D could be serviced.

General Manager Sauer provided additional detailed information found during his review regarding remote meters, [to accommodate Mr. Fountain's comment and question] including regulations and policy, and engineering information specific to the Kaye Keene property.

GM Curt Sauer provided evidence that the Kaye Keene property was not occupied previously and continuously by the current owner from January 1, 2000 to present, which was one of the requirements needed to establish eligibility for remote meter installation.

Estimate of cost for review: GM stated costs to review this issue, just since last April are over \$3000.00. GM stated the costs for all reviews easily exceed \$10,000.00

The Board Chair denied the request of Richard Fountain representing Kay Keene the opportunity to question Mr. Metts, contracted Engineer.

Board member Mike Reynolds expressed disappointment and concern that Richard Fountain was not provided adequate time to ask questions and discuss the issue and would like to hear the other side of the story (i.e. reconsideration).

Reynolds moved for a motion to grant the variance to Kaye Keene if she paid back payments as though she was in the assessment district, plus review costs. Gil stated Motion would need to be rescheduled as per the Brown Act.

Mickey Luckman moved that the Board ratify and confirm that the information provided by staff is correct and accept that the two previous decisions not to issue a variance are appropriate and to consider the matter closed.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	No
Unger	Aye

10. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant, gave the report. Water Education day was a great success. April is state earthquake preparedness month. Message: Everyone should take responsibility and prepare for their own households waterwise in case of potential water service interruptions, and so that the District can concentrate on repairing infrastructure should that become necessary in an emergency. Next year Water Education day will be held during the last weekend in March 2016.
- B. FINANCE COMMITTEE: President Fuller and Director Johnson: Tabled
- C. WATER RESOURCES & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Johnson: There will be a meeting next month.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

Loretta of Joshua Tree: Requested less use of acronyms during the Board meeting.

David Fick, Joshua Tree resident: March 14th was the grand opening of golf course in Yucca Valley, and mentioned concerns for the large acreage and water usage. Fick states snowpack at 6%, a record low, and refers to a new executive order that will require water use to be reduced by 25%. Mr. Fick expressed concern for providing Will Serve letters for the Nexterra solar project which will potentially use large amounts of water. Can the Board consider a moratorium on elective water projects, including Nexterra?

12. DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT

General Counsel Granito gave report: No report. Commentary regarding a Will Serve letter: Water availability is only one side – both water and sanitation must be considered for a Will Serve letter. Thus, “Will Serve” may be an ambiguous term. Counselor Granito suggests possibly changing to “water availability report” so that wastewater treatment strategy would be treated as a separate issue.

13. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager Curt Sauer gave the report. An Executive Order was issued from Governor Brown re: 45 days to implement emergency regulations.

14. FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Technical Advisory Committee on April 2, 2015 10:00 AM
FEMA Training April 8, 2015

15. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

None.

16. DIRECTORS COMMENTS/REPORTS:

Director Reynolds was complimentary of the garden, and concerned about the drought, and noted the County of San Bernardino was washing the street with water on the mesa in Yucca Valley last week. Johnson and Fuller expressed gratitude and appreciation for information provided during the meeting and for a successful Water Education Day.

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Unger would like more commentary regarding a Moratorium. General Counsel Granito will provide information about a case example that was challenged for a moratorium at a future Board meeting.

18. ADJOURNMENT

MSC Luckman/Reynolds 5/0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of April 01, 2015 at 9:20 pm

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

Respectfully submitted:



Curt Sauer, General Manager and Board Secretary