

MEETING MINUTES



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEBRUARY 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, Director Jarlsberg, Director Short, Director Fick

Board Members Absent: Vice President Doolittle

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

Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present: David Carrillo, Debra Truncale

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. DRAFT MINUTES – 01.15.25

Director Short made a motion to approve the 01.15.25 draft minutes, seconded by Director Jarlsberg, approved by the following vote:

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

6. **ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION** - None

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

A. **PUBLIC OUTREACH REPORT**

Consultant Kathleen Radnich provided a PowerPoint presentation on outreach activities, detailing past and upcoming events.

January Events

- **Farmers Market Booth Theme:** Careers in Water – Held every Saturday. Radnich noted an increase in people relocating to Joshua Tree due to recent fires in Los Angeles County.
- **Seed to Salad Program:** A 15-week course began last Thursday.
- **Market Booth Repairs:** Radnich discussed the repairs made to the market booth.
- **Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) Recruitment:** Emphasized the need for new members, actively seeking potential candidates, and distributing applications at the Farmers Market booth.
- **Spring Outreach:** Discussed upcoming outreach activities and programs.

February Events

- **Farmers Market Booth Theme:** Invasive Plants & Water Survey – Held every Saturday.
- **February 21:** Docent meeting from 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
- **Morongo Basin First Responders Meeting:** Radnich will attend the semi-annual meeting.
- **Strategic Partner Grant:** Working on water conservation ad updates for spring.
- **Seed to Salad Program:** Weekly course continues.

March Events

- **Farmers Market Booth Theme:** Growing Native Plants to Save Water – Held every Saturday.
- **March 4:** Xeriscaping & Native Plants class.
- **March 19-20:** La Contenta Middle School students will visit the Water-Wise Demonstration Garden with Careers in Water in focus, with 120 students expected over two days.
- **March 30:** Native Plant Sale from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.
- **AWAC & CAC Meetings:** Announced for March.
- **Seed to Salad Program:** Weekly course continues.

April Events

- **Farmers Market Booth Theme:** Water for Emergencies – Held every Saturday.
- **April 8:** Summarizing Landscape Irrigation class.
- **April 9:** Palm Vista Elementary School students will visit the Water-Wise Demonstration Garden to learn about conservation, with 48 students expected.
- **April 27:** MBCA/JBWD Landscape Tours.
- **Seed to Salad Program:** Weekly course continues.

May Events

- **Farmers Market Booth Theme:** Water Conservation the Tortoise Way – Held every Saturday.
- **May 3:** Copper Mountain Mesa Association – Water for Emergencies Outreach.
- **May 8:** La Contenta Middle School Water Education Festival – All-day event.

- **May 9:** Public Garden Day Water-Wise Demonstration Garden tours from 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM.
- **Wildcrafting Course:** A four-week course begins, held on Friday mornings.

8. ACTION CALENDAR

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

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

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

Director Fick made a motion to appoint Crystal Wysong as a Citizens Advisory Council Member, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the following vote.

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

President Floen called for a vote to appoint Glen Harris as a Citizens Advisory Council Member. President Floen voted in favor, while Directors Jarlsberg, Short, and Fick voted against the appointment. The motion did not pass.

Ayes:	Floen
Noes:	Jarlsberg, Short, Fick
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Doolittle

9. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

President Floen

- Floen announced the dissolution of the Finance and Water Resources & Operations Committees in alignment with the adopted Administrative Code policies. He explained that maintaining these committees is redundant, incurs unnecessary costs, and requires a significant amount of staff time. It was also discussed that this change is intended to improve efficiency, as agenda items will now be presented directly to the entire board for consideration, and ad hoc committees will be formed as needed to address complex topics.

Vice President Doolittle

- Absent

Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg acknowledged the need for Citizens Advisory Council recruitment and stated that she will actively seek potential candidates.
- Jarlsberg attended the ASBCSD meeting on January 27th, where she spoke with the San Bernardino Tax Collector and inquired about specific County items.

Director Short

- Short attended the ASBCSD meeting on January 27th and shared a website for finding property tax information by address. During a legislative session, they discussed Governor Newsom's executive order delaying property tax payments for fire-affected communities in Los Angeles. Short clarified that the delay does not apply to all California property owners.
- Short noted that people have been asking about sticking with the rate study increase and wanting more information on its meaning and impact. Short asked if the rate study public hearing recording could be posted on the website.

Director Fick

- Fick discussed his concerns about the County's approval of the Lovemore Ranch project and noted that MBCA has appealed the County's decision.
- Fick attended the ASBCSD meeting on January 27th and noted that he and Director Jarlsberg met with the San Bernardino Tax Collector.

General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson shared that the $\frac{3}{4}$ of the defective pipe has been picked up, and the last $\frac{1}{4}$ is scheduled for tomorrow. Johnson will be discussing the credit balance with Core & Main next week.
- Johnson reiterated President Floen's announcement regarding the dissolution of the Finance and WRO Committees and mentioned that Ad Hoc Committees could be formed in the future as needed.
- Johnson provided another update on the California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Western Joshua Tree Conservation Plan, which has raised concerns among several regional water districts. The primary concern is that the plan is overly restrictive, placing undue strain on critical infrastructure and disadvantaged communities. In response, multiple local water agencies and the Community Water Systems Alliance (CWSA) collaborated to pursue all available administrative remedies. As part of this effort, we submitted a joint letter outlining concerns and offered sustainable recommendations.
- Johnson reported that the EPA has paused funding allocated to the US Water Alliance, which was supporting the Chromium 6 Alternatives Analysis currently underway with Jacobs Engineering. She emphasized the urgency of continuing the project, given the fast-approaching state regulations on Chromium 6. To prevent delays, she stressed the importance of contracting directly with Jacobs and self-funding the project, estimated at \$200,000. Johnson will meet with the US Water Alliance and Jacobs next week to discuss the next steps.

10. CLOSED SESSION – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957 (B)(1) PUBLIC PERFORMANCE EVALUATION OF THE GENERAL MANAGER.

Adjourned to Closed Session at 7:04 pm

Returned to Open Session at 8:18 pm.

President Floen motioned to (1) approve a \$10,000 bonus pursuant to 7(d) of the General Manager's contract, and (2) direct legal counsel to prepare an amendment for the Board President's signature reinstating the original vehicle allowance language from the General Manager's contract with a monthly allowance of \$850 per month in recognition of Johnson's extraordinary good service to the district under incredible pressure and cruelty by others. The motion was seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the following vote:

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Short, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary






2. .JBWD MINUTES TEMPLATE 1ST MEETING TEMPLATE 02.05.25

Final Audit Report

2025-02-25

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