

# MEETING MINUTES



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOVEMBER 19, 2025, 5:00 pm

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Floen called the meeting to order at 5:01 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, Accounting Supervisor Rich, Executive Assistant Thompson

**Consultant(s) Present:** Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich, CPA, Jonathan Abadesco

**Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present:** David Carrillo

#### 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

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

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

#### 5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice President Doolittle requested that the 11.05.25 draft minutes be pulled from the Consent Calendar to allow corrections to her comment.

##### A. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION -

##### B. DRAFT MINUTES – 11.05.25

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve the 11.05.25 draft minutes, with an amendment to Vice President Doolittle’s director comment to say: “private cloud drive”, seconded by Director Short and approved by the following vote:

1 <sup>st</sup> / 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jarlsberg/Short
Ayes:	Floen, Doolittle, Jarlsberg, Short, and Fick

Noes: None  
Abstain: None  
Absent: None

**6. DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR**

**A. 2024/25 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT (AKA "AUDIT")**

PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, ANNE ROMAN, INTRODUCING JONATHAN ABADESCO, CPA  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: REVIEW AND APPROVE

Director of Finance Anne Roman presented the 2024/25 Annual Financial Report and noted that the audit required only minimal adjustments. Roman introduced Jonathan Abadesco, CPA, from CJ Brown & Company, who provided an overview of the audit process, audit requirements, the auditor's report, the management report, and key financial highlights.

Abadesco reported that the District received an unmodified (clean) opinion with no material weaknesses or significant discrepancies, its third consecutive year without findings. Abadesco also highlighted an increase in the District's net position, driven by higher water sales and scheduled rate adjustments. Abadesco concluded by commending General Manager Johnson and Director of Finance Roman for their exceptional work.

Roman thanked the Finance Department for their preparation and support throughout the audit process and also expressed her appreciation to the Board. Johnson acknowledged the team's efforts as well, noting that this marks the District's third consecutive clean audit and thanking both the Finance Department and the Board for their continued support.

Director Vice President Doolittle made a motion to approve the 2024/25 Annual Financial Report (Aka "Audit"), and seconded by Director Jarlsberg

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

**B. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS REGARDING POTENTIAL SEPTIC-TO-SEWER PROJECT IN JOSHUA TREE**

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON

RECOMMENDED ACTION: FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. NO ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN.

General Manager, Sarah Johnson, presented the Preliminary Discussions Regarding Potential Septic-to-Sewer in Joshua Tree. Johnson explained that San Bernardino County has received some inquiries from residents seeking sewer service and, as a result, approached Joshua Basin Water District to begin very early, exploratory conversations about the feasibility of a future project.

Johnson emphasized that these discussions are conceptual only. There are no plans, commitments, or formal proposals at this stage. Johnson summarized the County's initial interest, possible funding pathways, and very preliminary conceptual boundary ideas.

Vice President Doolittle shared findings from her own research, including information on potential funding requests and anticipated challenges. The Board discussed potential funding sources such as federal dollars and grants, noting that engineering studies and community engagement would be essential in the future.

Johnson reiterated that this effort remains in the earliest exploratory phase and that staff will continue to monitor the County's progress in pursuing funding and remain engaged in ongoing conversations.

C. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO SENATE BILL (SB) 707 (2025) BROWN ACT MODIFICATIONS  
PRESENTED BY: GENERAL COUNSEL, JEFF HOSKINSON  
RECOMMENDED ACTION: INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION FOR POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTION.

General Counsel Jeff Hoskinson presented an overview of Senate Bill 707 and its 2025 updates to the Brown Act. He explained that while many of the new provisions primarily affect larger agencies, all board members are now required to receive a copy of the Brown Act statutes.

Hoskinson reviewed several key changes, including the permanent adoption of social media restrictions for board members, expanded definitions of "eligible legislative body," and new requirements for public outreach, language accessibility, and participation from underrepresented communities. He noted that these requirements are optional for smaller districts like JBWD but may be implemented if the Board chooses.

Hoskinson also covered updated teleconferencing rules, including options for remote participation by board members with disabilities, new quorum requirements, and revised procedures for emergencies and "just cause" remote attendance. He clarified that at least three board members must be physically present at the meeting location to form a quorum, and that minutes must reflect when members participate remotely. Because JBWD already offers Zoom access for the public, he noted that many of the changes will have minimal operational impact.

Regarding social media, Hoskinson advised board members not to interact with each other's posts related to district business and not to "like" or otherwise engage with posts containing agendas. Interaction with official district posts is acceptable.

Hoskinson also explained new authority under SB707 that allows the removal or limitation of individuals who disrupt meetings, including those participating remotely. He suggested the Board may wish to consider adopting policies related to managing disruptions and offering translated agendas.

The Board discussed potential future steps, including allowing remote participation for advisory committee members and making agendas available in Spanish upon request.

## 7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

### President Floen

- Floen noted that many people assume the District receives its water from the Colorado River, and he clarified that this is not the case. Floen explained that the District relies on local aquifers and recharge water delivered through the Morongo Basin Pipeline. Floen emphasized that the District has a strong and reliable water supply because it is well-managed, and he reiterated the District's responsibility to continue providing a secure supply to the community.

### Vice President Doolittle

- Doolittle inquired if President Floen would organize a legislative Ad Hoc meeting during this session.
- Doolittle asked where in the agenda the report listing the monthly board stipends could be found.
- Doolittle reported that she recently used Artificial Intelligence to estimate how long the District's water supply could meet the annual demand for approximately 6,000 people. The analysis showed the supply could last more than 1,000 years, far exceeding the 200-year estimate she had previously

understood. Doolittle noted that she was surprised by how much water the District actually has available.

- Doolittle attended Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh's meeting at Copper Mountain College on November 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Doolittle reported that she attended the ACWA Region 9 event on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Doolittle noted that the presentations covered topics such as the Metropolitan Water District's water storage and statewide growth and population trends. Doolittle also asked one of the speakers how Artificial Intelligence might affect small districts and was told that A.I. is expected to significantly increase productivity, reduce workforce needs, and improve administrative efficiency. Doolittle added that she recently heard a news segment in which Nvidia's CEO suggested that, within the next ten years, working or having a job could become "optional." Additionally, Doolittle met with Assemblyman Jeff Gonzales' representative for Indio and with Beatrice Audrey, who works on the MWA water banking project in Victorville. Doolittle requested that Stantec provide a presentation to the District on this topic due to its significance and interest.
- Doolittle reported attending the November ASBCSD Membership meeting and dinner, describing it as very informative. A BBK attorney spoke about First Amendment audits, explaining that auditors can record in any public space without consent and may even follow employees to their cars. Doolittle advised that Customer Service staff be mindful of keeping sensitive information or images out of view to avoid them being recorded and shared online. Doolittle suggested that if approached by auditors, employees should remain bland and unengaging. Doolittle noted that District staff may want to review these precautions.

#### Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg reported attending the November ASBCSD Membership meeting, where the discussion focused on First Amendment rights and guidelines for public and non-public areas. Jarlsberg noted that non-public spaces should be clearly designated and that posting signage is recommended. Jarlsberg also learned that employees should remain calm, boring, and brief if approached.
- Jarlsberg reported attending the ACWA Region 9 event on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> and found it very helpful, with informative presentations and useful resources. The first speaker, a former General Manager of the Metropolitan Water District, discussed the history of the water district in Los Angeles, including population growth and drought impacts. Another presentation focused on issues related to the Colorado River.
- Jarlsberg shared that recent meetings have been fascinating. Jarlsberg emphasized the importance of water in today's society and expressed that she is grateful to be part of the work, learning something new every day.

#### Director Short

- Short reported attending the MWA Board meeting on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The meeting included a presentation from Investment Advisors, who noted that the federal government remains concerned about inflation and tariffs and may make an upcoming rate decision to support the economy. Another item discussed was the authorization of payment to the Department of Fish & Wildlife for take permits related to Joshua trees.
- Short reported attending the ACWA Region 9 event on November 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. Short shared that the main focus was the Colorado River, which is becoming increasingly unreliable as states continue to dispute water allocations. Other discussions regarding the Colorado River included surface storage options and the Delta Conveyance Project. Short noted that every water source in the state faces uncertainty and emphasized the importance of making the most of the resources we have.

#### Director Fick

- Fick reported attending the November ASBCSD Membership meeting and noted that the room was somewhat crowded and too small. Fick mentioned that the discussion included First Amendment topics and provided clarification on the distinction between assault and threat.

- Fick attended a meeting with Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh at Copper Mountain College on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

#### General Manager Report

Johnson reported on the following:

- Johnson reported attending Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh's meeting at Copper Mountain College on November 6<sup>th</sup>, along with Vice President Doolittle, Director Jarlsberg, and Director Fick. Johnson noted that both Directors represented the District very well.
- Johnson reported that yesterday's Manager Meetups with Directors Fick and Short went very well and was very informative.
- Johnson reported that all staff participated in CPR and first aid training last Monday.
- Johnson reported that interviews were conducted the previous day. Johnson noted that one field employee serving on the interview panel arrived straight from repairing a leak and was still covered in mud. Johnson commented that this provided the candidate with an authentic representation of the type of work involved in the Maintenance I position.

#### 8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Jarlsberg, seconded by Director Short, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



---

Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary






# 2. JBWD MINUTES 2ND MEETING TEMPLATE 11.19.25

Final Audit Report

2025-12-09

Created:	2025-12-09
By:	LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAhPDKG6NkUzzt29QPOQD7dTGjbPtZQLmD

## "2. JBWD MINUTES 2ND MEETING TEMPLATE 11.19.25" History

-  Document created by LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)  
2025-12-09 - 4:56:08 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com) for signature  
2025-12-09 - 4:56:29 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com)  
2025-12-09 - 5:12:52 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com)  
Signature Date: 2025-12-09 - 5:14:05 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.  
2025-12-09 - 5:14:05 PM GMT