MEETING MINUTES

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Proudly providing water from an ancient source...well into the future

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 15, 2026, 5:00 PM

1. **CALL 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, Director of Administration Shook, Accounting Supervisor Rich, Executive Assistant Thompson

   Consultant(s) Present: Legal Counsel, Jeff Hoskinson, Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radich, Rojas Public Affairs Consultant, Jasmid Enciso

   Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present: David Carrillo, Jeff Walter

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

   Director Jarlsberg moved to approve the agenda and seconded by Director Floen and approved by the following vote:

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

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** –
   Wade Andrew, Joshua Tree resident, voiced concern with Hexavalent Chromium 6 and mentioned he does not drink the water.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
   A. DRAFT MINUTES – 06.17.26
   C. APPROPRIATION LIMIT
   F. ADOPT REVISED RESOLUTIONS FOR STANDBY AND CMM

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

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

A. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION

Director Jarlsberg requested items B, D, and E to be pulled from the Consent Calendar:

B. May 2026 Check Register

Director Fick made a motion to approve the May 2026 Check Register, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the following vote:

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

D. 3rd Quarter Financial Report

Vice President Short made a motion to approve the 3rd Quarter Financial Report, 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

E. Operations Report

Director Floen made a motion to approve the Operations Report, seconded by Director Fick and approved by the following vote:

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

B. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT – 2ND QUARTER 2026

PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON, INTRODUCING ROJAS PUBLIC AFFAIRS

RECOMMENDED ACTION: RECEIVE AND FILE THE ATTACHED QUARTERLY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY REPORT

General Manager Sarah Johnson introduced Jasmid Enciso of Rojas Public Affairs, who presented updates on federal and state advocacy for the 2nd Quarter. Enciso outlined key upcoming timelines, including federal funding deadlines, congressional review, and appropriations in the summer. Enciso also summarized advocacy activities from April through June and provided an overview of planned efforts for July through September.

B. EXTRA HELP AGREEMENT WITH RAY KOLISZ AS A RETIRED ANNUITANT
PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER, SARAH JOHNSON
RECOMMENDED ACTION: ADOPT RESOLUTION NO. 26-1091 APPROVING A RETIRED ANNUITANT – EXTRA HELP EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH RAY KOLISZ

General Manager Sarah Johnson presented the proposed Retired Annuitant Extra-Help Employment Agreement with Ray Kolisz. Johnson explained that the agreement provides temporary, part-time extra-help support for specialized regulatory, planning, capital improvement, and administrative initiatives, including Chromium-6 compliance, infrastructure planning, development standards, mentorship, and other special projects. The appointment is separate from Mr. Kolisz's previous Interim Director of Operations role, does not fill a vacant position, and is structured to comply with applicable CalPERS retired annuitant requirements.

Vice President Short made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-1091 Approving a Retired Annuitant – Extra Help Employment Agreement with Ray Kolisz, seconded by Director Fick and approved by the following vote:

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

C. MOJAVE WATER AGENCY (MWA) STRATEGIC PARTNERS PROGRAM AWARD – EMERGENCY WATER STORAGE PROTECTION
PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, DAVID SHOOK
RECOMMENDED ACTION: APPROVE AND ACCEPT THE MWA STRATEGIC PARTNERS PROGRAM GRANT AWARD FOR EMERGENCY WATER STORAGE PROTECTION

Director of Administration David Shook presented the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) Strategic Partners Program Award – Emergency Water Storage Protection. Shook advised the Board that the District had been awarded a $7,500 grant through the Mojave Water Agency Strategic Partners Program. The grant will help fund an emergency storage container for supplies, water, and potential emergency operations use. Staff also budgeted matching capital funds to complete the project during the current fiscal year.

Vice President Short made a motion to approve and accept the MWA Strategic Partners Program Award – Emergency Water Storage Protection and seconded by Director Floen, approved by the following vote:

1st/ 2nd	Short/Floen
Ayes:	Doolittle, Short, Floen, Jarlsberg, Fick

Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

C. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. AD HOC BOARD RETREAT COMMITTEE REPORT
PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR JARLSBERG, VICE PRESIDENT SHORT
RECOMMENDED ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING A PROFESSIONALLY FACILITATED BOARD GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP ALIGNMENT RETREAT

Director Jane Jarlsberg and Vice President Tomas Short, members of the Ad Hoc Board Retreat Committee, presented the committee's recommendation to proceed with a professionally facilitated Board Governance and Leadership Alignment Retreat, subject to vendor vetting and legal review. The Board discussed the purpose of the retreat, potential costs, expected outcomes, and timing. Several Directors expressed support for improving Board communication, governance, and onboarding, while others questioned the cost and whether the objectives could be achieved through other means.

The Board considered two facilitator options.

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve Option 2, seconded by Vice President Short. The motion failed by a 2–3 vote (Directors Jarlsberg and Vice President Short in favor; President Doolittle and Directors Floen and Director Fick opposed).

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

Director Jarlsberg made a motion to approve Option 1, seconded by Vice President Short. The motion failed by a 2–3 vote (Directors Jarlsberg and Vice President Short in favor; President Doolittle and Directors Floen and Director Fick opposed).

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

The Ad Hoc Committee will remain in place through the end of the year, and no further direction was provided to staff.

B. WATER AND GROWTH COMMITTEE REPORT
PRESENTED BY: PRESIDENT DOOLITTLE, VICE PRESIDENT SHORT
RECOMMENDED ACTION: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE COMMITTEE CHARTER

President Stacy Doolittle and Vice President Tomas Short presented the Water & Growth Standing Committee report, summarizing the committee's inaugural meeting. They reviewed the committee's purpose, including evaluating the impacts of future growth on the District's water resources, infrastructure, and ratepayers. Discussion topics included developing policies for high-demand water users, improving coordination with county agencies, monitoring regional development activities, and ensuring growth-related costs are appropriately addressed.

The Board discussed the committee's scope, meeting frequency, and role in supporting long-term planning. Following discussion, the Board approved the Water & Growth Standing Committee Charter, as amended, by a 4–1 vote, with Director Jarlsberg opposed.

Director Fick made a motion to approve the charter language as presented, seconded by Vice President Short, and approved by the following vote:

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

D. DIRECTOR REPORTS/COMMENTS

President Doolittle

- Doolittle reported that the July 14th ACWA Working Group meeting was canceled.
- Doolittle requested to add the Cadiz discussion on an upcoming agenda item. She shared that, in the past, the District's attempt to pass a resolution on the Cadiz matter was unsuccessful and stated that the Board should discuss its position moving forward.
- Doolittle attended the Landers Homestead Community Association meeting and noted the value of participating in the meeting. During the meeting, Marina West, President of the Mojave Water Agency Board and an employee of Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency, commented that residents should consider purchasing recharge water from Cadiz if it becomes available and is offered at a lower cost than water purchased from the Mojave Water Agency.

Vice President Short

- Short reported attending the ACWA Region 8 event on June 26th, which included a presentation on artificial intelligence. Short stated that he does not support the use of generative AI, believes there is no ethical use of the technology.
- Short shared that the County election filing period has opened for candidates seeking office and announced that he filed his paperwork and will be running for reelection.

Director Floen

- Floen attended the Landers Homestead Association meeting and shared that County Supervisor Dawn Rowe discussed the construction of a new communications center in San Bernardino, which will also serve as an emergency operations center.
- Floen shared that Governor Newsom signed SB 394, which is intended to address water theft by allowing local agencies to take action against individuals who illegally obtain water from fire hydrants.

Director Jarlsberg

- Jarlsberg attended the MWA Board meeting on July 9th, where the Board discussed the annual reauthorization of groundwater level monitoring and a proposed amendment to professional engineering services.
- Jarlsberg attended the Landers Homestead Association meeting on Monday, where County Supervisor Dawn Rowe was in attendance. Discussions included SB 707 related to water issues. Jarlsberg also shared that the County will no longer provide livestream video of Supervisor meetings; meetings will instead be available by telephone. Representatives from the Mojave Water Agency, including Marina West, and the new General Manager of Bighorn, Jennifer Cusack, also attended the meeting.

Director Fick

- Fick mentioned that he previously attended a meeting with Susan Kennedy, Executive Director and President of Cadiz, along with former President Floen and General Manager Johnson. During the meeting, Kennedy discussed offering water at cost.

E. MANAGER'S REPORT

Johnson prepared and distributed a written manager's report which is included as an attachment to the minutes.

F. AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE BOARD

- Doolittle – Cadiz discussion
- Short – None
- Floen – None
- Jarlsberg – None
- Fick – None

G. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Vice President Short, seconded by Director Floen, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Johnson, General Manager & Board Secretary

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

Proudly providing water from an ancient source...well into the future

Managers' Report

PRESENTED ON: 07.15.26

PURPOSE:

The Managers Report provides the Board of Directors with a summary of **noteworthy** activities, meetings attended, and updates from the General Manager, Operations, Administration, Finance and other District functions. The report is not intended to be all-inclusive and does not replace separate staff reports or agenda items for matters requiring Board discussion or action. The Managers Report will be provided at least monthly and may be presented more frequently as needed.

GENERAL MANAGER

CSDA General Manager Leadership Summit Update

GM Johnson attended the June 2026 CSDA General Manager Leadership Summit, which was excellent as usual and provided strong, practical content for public agency leadership. Sessions included artificial intelligence, resolving conflict, public contracting, and other timely issues facing special districts. The main keynote speaker was John O'Leary, a nationally recognized speaker and author whose message focuses on resilience, perspective, and purposeful leadership. His presentation was impactful and served as a strong reminder of the importance of leading with intention, especially during challenging times

Monthly All Staff Meetings (aka Lowdown Meeting)

The District continues to hold Monthly Lowdown meetings as an internal communication tool to keep employees informed, connected, and engaged. These meetings provide an opportunity to share District updates, discuss current priorities, highlight upcoming projects, and recognize work being done across departments. As part of the newer format rolled out about six months ago, one employee is randomly selected each month to present at the next meeting. This has created a fun and meaningful opportunity for staff to share their work, bring forward creative ideas, and showcase talents that may not always be visible in day-to-day operations. In June, the District's new Maintenance Worker gave a memorable presentation by singing "Mack the Knife," rewritten to explain how a water leak is repaired. The presentation received strong applause from staff and was a great example of the creativity, humor, and talent within the District team. This format has been valuable for the District because it strengthens communication, builds connection across departments, encourages employee engagement, and helps staff better understand and appreciate the work happening throughout the organization.

OPERATIONS

CHROME-6 PILOT STUDY UPDATE:

The Chrome-6 pilot study began on June 25, 2026, with Wells 14 and 16. Additional wells will be added as the study progresses, and the full pilot study is expected to conclude by the end of the calendar year. The District will also conduct PFAS sampling during this study. Although PFAS sampling is not required as part of the Chrome-6 pilot study, and the District does not currently have identified PFAS concerns, this additional sampling is being conducted out of an abundance of caution. Completing the sampling at the same time allows the District to gather supplemental water quality data efficiently and support future planning or regulatory response if needed.

WATER RECHARGE UPDATE On July 1, 2026, the District began taking recharge water through Mojave Water Agency under its CY 2026 Ordinance No. 9 application. The District's approved annual allotment is 1,300 acre-feet, designated for groundwater recharge, with deliveries scheduled from July through December. Staff anticipates it will take through the end of the calendar year to complete the full allotment.

E2-1 RESERVOIR UPDATE: The District met with Ardurra to review the current status of the E2-1 Rehabilitation Project and discuss next steps. Staff is evaluating the use of Ardurra for construction management support to help keep the project on schedule, ensure key deadlines are met, and maintain clear, consistent communication with the contractor throughout the project. A new proposal for these services may be forthcoming after additional evaluation.

ADMIN

RISK & RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT UPDATE: Staff worked with Jacobs and completed the Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA) and have complied with the completion verification with the EPA prior to the due date of June 30. Staff had a kickoff meeting with Jacobs to plan out the renewal of the Emergency response Plan (ERP) and have a comprehensive plan that will be a useable document and meet compliance requirements by December 29, 2026.

FINANCE

TYLER EXCELLENCE AWARD The District's Director of Finance applied for, and the District was awarded an honorable mention in the 2026 Tyler Excellence Awards in the Operational Efficiency category. Tyler Technologies is the company behind the District's financial and billing software, Incode/ERP Pro 10. The Operational Efficiency category recognizes organizations that have increased operational efficiencies through technology projects using Tyler solutions, specifically those reducing barriers for performing autonomous, essential tasks and delivering better public service. Here is a brief description of the achievement:

Looking to enhance budget accountability in a complex responsibility structure, Joshua Basin Water District used ERP Pro's customizable financial configurations to align accounts with responsible staff, improve oversight, and drive efficiency. Since leveraging this functionality, the district has:

- Reduced manual reporting to improve budget management accuracy.
- Preserved general ledger structure to maintain audit integrity and compliance.
- Improved reporting precision to increase data clarity.

Director of Finance, Anne Roman, was onsite at the 2026 Tyler Connect conference to receive the award and provide an interview. It is an honor for the District to be recognized for this innovative use of the software to bolster accountability and transparency in the budgeting process for our disadvantaged community.

OTHER

No Report

2. JBWD MINUTES MEETING 07.15.26

Final Audit Report 2026-08-10

Created:	2026-08-06
By:	LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA7qwR2Cnqh1PqCVQQ-P8CbnleKFD442if

"2. JBWD MINUTES MEETING 07.15.26" History

Document created by LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)
2026-08-06 - 10:22:49 PM GMT

Document emailed to Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com) for signature
2026-08-06 - 10:23:20 PM GMT

Email viewed by Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com)
2026-08-06 - 10:24:11 PM GMT

Document e-signed by Sarah Johnson (sjohnson@jbwd.com)
Signature Date: 2026-08-10 - 1:47:35 PM GMT - Time Source: server - Signature Appearance Selected: MOBILE_IMAGE

Agreement completed.
2026-08-10 - 1:47:35 PM GMT