

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

September 16, 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
 Seth Zielke, Director of Water Resources and Operations
 Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant
 Gil Granito, District Counsel, Redwine & Sherrill

GUESTS 9

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC Luckman/Johnson, 5/0 to approve the agenda for the September 16, 2015 meeting.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Luckman/Johnson, 5/0 to approve Draft Minutes of the September 2, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

6. INACTIVE METER CHARGES

GM Curt Sauer gave the report. Sauer advised that the rate study conducted in 2013 by Bartles and Wells Associates recommended a 7% per year rate increase over a 5 year timeframe, plus charging the basic monthly

fee for inactive meters. Rate increase was recommended as rates had not been increased since January 2011 and were designated to pay for operations for the next 5 years, water purchases for groundwater recharge, and repayment of loan for pipeline replacement. Chromium 6 issue is currently unfunded. The Board adopted a 6% rate increase and tabled the Inactive Meter issue until the current timeframe. Written staff report in agenda packet can be reviewed for further detail.

Changes to basic service charge have previously been made by the Board.

Public Comment:

Gary Wilson, 46 year JBWD ratepayer, previous employee of JBWD, and former JBWD Director, Joshua Tree: In 1980's Wilson had two 1 inch meters installed on a lot, pulled the meters in the 1990's and received a letter from the District stating that if he wanted the meters reinstalled then he would be required to pay the monthly fee or applicable fees to reinstall.

Karen Tracy, JBWD ratepayer, Joshua Tree: Ms. Tracy is in support of the current staff report and in support of Inactive Meter Charges.

Richard Fountain, JBWD rate payer and past director, Joshua Tree: Mr. Fountain stated that meters had previously been charged the basic monthly fee if in place and half of the basic monthly fee if pulled. Mr. Fountain believes the charge of the monthly basic fee for inactive meters is ridiculous as Mr. Fountain owns property with two inactive meters. Mr. Fountain supports a charge of 50% of the basic monthly fee for inactive meters. If charged the basic monthly fee then Mr. Fountain states he will install the meters.

Fred Klintworth, JBWD rate payer, Sunfair area, Joshua Tree: Mr. Klintworth states times are changing and today JBWD is facing Chromium 6, groundwater recharge, and pipeline replacement. Inactive meter charges are equitable and fair.

Tom Floen, JBWD rate payer, Joshua Tree: Mr. Floen states there is justification needed for receipt of money, and for receipt of water. These justifications may include efforts of conservation, outreach to the public, and basic due diligence before we can receive generosity of the State. Showing that JBWD is looking for revenue within the District within reason would help defend District requests for money from other sources.

Karen Morton, rate payer, Joshua Tree: Ms. Morton states she is in support of fairness, and that inactive meter charges are the best solution for JBWD. Everybody should contribute. Ms. Morton points out that other water districts are already charging a basic fee for inactive meters and JBWD is on track to charge the basic fee for inactive meters as well.

Director Comment:

Director Reynolds states policy in place at the time of meter purchase should be honored. Director Reynolds states he is not in support of inactive meter charges for past purchases, but is in support of inactive meter charges from this point forward.

Vice President Luckman states policy changes because circumstances change, and states the policy to charge the basic monthly fee for inactive meters is fair and equitable for all the ratepayers in the District.

Director Unger also supports staff recommendations, and believes the policy to charge the basic monthly fee for inactive meters is fair and equitable for all ratepayers in the District.

Director Johnson clarified that discussion is regarding the monthly service fee, and not additional charges for a meter.

President Fuller states the monthly basic rate charges represent equity for all of the ratepayers in the community, and fully supports the staff report and basic monthly rate charges for inactive meters.

MSC Luckman/Unger, 4/1 to recommend that the Board take the following actions:

- 1) Approve memorandum from Bartle Wells Associates regarding inactive meters, which updates the 2013 Rate Study; and
- 2) Set the public hearing date to consider inactive meter charges for November 18, 2015; and
- 3) Approve the District's proposed notice to customers and property owners about the impending changes to the monthly charges for inactive meters.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	No
Unger	Aye

7. CONSERVATION UPDATE

GM Sauer gave the report and presentation. Tier 4 level water usage was analyzed for residential and institutional accounts. JBWD had a 28.25% cumulative savings from June thru August 2015 for water produced.

The Board received the conservation update for information only.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Unger: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant, gave the report. On September 25th 10:00AM there is a meeting at the District office for previous and new docents regarding tours of the demonstration garden and the Fall Native Plant Sale, which will be on November 14th at the Mojave Desert Land Trust.
- B. FINANCE COMMITTEE: President Fuller and Director Johnson: There has not been a meeting since the last Board meeting.
- C. WATER RESOURCES & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Johnson: There was not a meeting last month.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Marquez, Sunfair Area, Joshua Tree: Mr. Marquez commented regarding the public comment periods within the Board Meetings. Mr. Marquez had concerns, as expressed in the previous meeting that President Fuller indicated on August 5th that the Public Comment periods during the Board meetings would be reduced from two to one. Mr. Marquez provided government codes regarding public comment and again opined that the public comment time should be provided twice during the meetings, and suggested that changing the number of public comment periods from two to one should have been an action item on the Agenda and up for vote by the Board of Directors.

Gary Wilson, Joshua Tree: Mr. Wilson stated that in the late 1980's – early 90's there was a project called 87-1. In 1991 the Board voted for a surcharge on all meters in the District to help finance the project, with a promise that within 6 months the project would start and the money would be refunded to the ratepayers. In most instances ratepayers with one meter would be surcharged approximately \$100.00 over a 6 month period. Mr. Wilson stated he had six meters and was surcharged approximately \$625.00 over the six month period. Mr. Wilson states the project name changed from 87-1 to Copper Mountain Mesa project, and JBWD did not send a notice or refund any of the money.

10. DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT

Counselor Granito stated there is no specific legal report. Granito complimented Director Unger with regards to a noteworthy observation of how efficient or not JBWD is running the District with regards to the fact that State Water Resource Control Board has been granted the power to dissolve districts that are not operating efficiently. Granito applauded the JBWD for their conservation efforts, and noted he has observed other water districts evaluating potential revenue enhancement in his travels.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager Curt Sauer gave the report. GM Sauer discussed nitrogen levels from last year compared with this year at the monitoring site with regards to the arrival of groundwater recharge, showing that the nitrogen levels are decreasing. Nitrogen levels at wells 10 and 14 continue to remain within their historical range.

Seth Zielke, Director of Water Resources and Operations presented a report regarding the groundwater recharge. The Board received the reports for information only.

12. FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Mojave Water Agency Board Meeting September 24th – Director Luckman
ASBCSD Meeting September 28th – Director Reynolds

13. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Director Unger went to a MAC meeting and stated there will be lunch with a supervisor on September 29th at the county building.

Vice President Luckman attended the Mojave Water Agency meeting and was impressed with the presentation “Live like a Desert Native.”

14. DIRECTORS COMMENTS/FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Reynolds was impressed with a news item with regard to capturing rainwater, and giving away the captured water.

Director Unger would like to put forth a vote on the next agenda to change the public comment period from two to one.

15. ADJOURNMENT

MSC Reynolds/Luckman, 5/0 to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of September 16, 2015 at 8:27 PM.

Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Unger	Aye

Respectfully submitted:


Curt Sauer, General Manager and Board Secretary