

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT  
Minutes of the  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS &  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 12, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 PM
  
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
  
3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: Mickey Luckman Present  
Bob Johnson Absent  
Geary Hund Present  
Rebecca Unger Present  
Tom Floen Present

STAFF PRESENT: Curt Sauer, General Manager  
Susan Greer, Assistant General Manager  
Randy Mayes, Interim Director of Water Resources & Ops.  
Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator  
Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant  
Gil Granito, Redwine & Sherrill  
Alex Handlers, Bartles Wells Associates

GUESTS 6

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –

Director Unger was concerned that the Citizens Advisory Committee felt that the Board had hindered their regular meeting night. Director Unger wanted to ensure that the CAC did not feel encumbered by having the Board in attendance.

GM Sauer responded that this was an introductory meeting and a more effective use of Alex Handlers time. There will be a series of meetings that Alex can attend by phone but we are not getting into the specifics at this time.

Karen Tracy, CAC, Chairperson, encouraged the Board to attend the CAC meetings and that the CAC was informed that this was a joint introductory meeting.

MSC/Hund/Floen 3/1 to approve the Special Joint Meeting of the Board of Directors & the Citizens Advisory Committee Agenda of September 12, 2017.

Floen	Aye
Hund	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Absent
Unger	No

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Items on the Consent Calendar are considered routine in nature and will be adopted in total by one action of the Board of Directors unless any Board Member, individual or organization interested in one or more consent calendar items wishes to be heard.

- Approve Draft Minutes of the August 16, 2017 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.
- 16/17 Bad Debt Write Off (reviewed by Finance Committee on August 28, 2017)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Financial Report (reviewed by Finance Committee on August 28, 2017)
- June Check Registers (reviewed by Finance Committee on August 28, 2017)

Director Hund asked Staff to elaborate on the billing of 1,000 additional accounts, if it was due to locked meter accounts.

AGM Greer affirmed that it was because of the locked meter accounts.

Director Unger pulled the 16/17 Bad Debt Write Off from the Consent Calendar for further discussion.

MSC/Hund/Unger 4/0 to approve the Consent Calendar with the removal of the 16/17 Bad Debt Write Off from the Consent Calendar.

Floen	Aye
Hund	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Absent
Unger	Aye

AGM Greer gave a brief overview of the 16/17 Bad Debt Write Off asking that the \$15,500.98 be approved tonight and that the Board defer discussion about policy alternatives to reduce bad debt at a subsequent meeting.

MSC/ Unger/Hund 4/0 to approve the 16/17 Bad Debt Write Off of \$15,500.98.

Floen	Aye
Hund	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Johnson	Absent
Unger	Aye

7. RATE STUDY – Alex Handlers, Bartles Wells Associates, an independent public financing consulting firm, which has performed the District’s last two rate studies. After a brief introduction, Alex presented the Board, CAC, and the public in attendance with an overview of what the rate study will consist of. A brief Q&A with the Board followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Johnnie Painter, Copper Mountain Mesa, asked that as we look at new rates, are we considering accommodations for ratepayers that are on low or fixed incomes. Mr. Painter stated that he could afford to pay more of a premium on his rates to help his neighbors that are struggling.

Mr. Handlers responded that from a legal prospective you could not charge one group of ratepayers a higher amount to fund the discounted ratepayers. The JBWD does have other revenue sources to help fund this, it is certainly a possibility. The State is also looking into the same issue.

Al Marquez, Sun Fair Community, stated that it is well known that Joshua Tree is a depressed community, with the medium per capita income is \$26,000 per year while in other areas it is \$50,000 per year. It’s not that we don’t want rate increases but a reasonable rate increase. Right now, the reserve funds are \$9M so with the rate increases we have had for the last 10 years it has increased the reserve fund. Mr. Marquez also asked about what is the thought for the next 5 years.

Mr. Handlers responded that nothing has been planned, which is what this whole process is about. We look at what the funding needs are and come up with that balance. There are significant funding needs out there and we have to determine our comfort level with rate increases.

Jeff Dongvillo, Copper Mountain Mesa, asked if there are other water districts that are importing so much water because of growth or to add to the recharge basin.

Mr. Handlers stated yes some water districts are importing water but that is their entire water supply, which is not the case here in Joshua Tree.

GM Sauer commented that about three months ago AGM Greer developed three different scenarios, which the Citizen’s Advisory Committee concurred with, and forwarded them to Alex. GM Sauer proceeded with a short presentation on the three different scenarios.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED

8. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - Mr. Granito reported that the Little Hoover Commission had completed its 2017 Report. Mr. Granito indicated that he had not completed his review but generally speaking, the Commission, while offering 20 suggestions for improvement, did acknowledge the contributions of special districts and the value of local control.
9. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT- None

Director Hund asked for an update on Well 14.

GM Sauer gave a brief statement on the testing procedures for Well 14.

10. DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED, COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – (All comments should pertain to current Agenda items only)

- Mojave Water Agency – August 24, 2017- President Luckman gave a brief overview of the MWA Board meeting.
- Finance Committee Meeting – August 28, 2017 –Vice President Johnson and Director Floen. In Vice President Johnson’s absence, President Luckman gave a brief overview of the Finance Committee meeting.
- Water Resources and Operations Committee – August 28, 2017 – President Luckman and Vice President Johnson. President Luckman gave a brief overview of the Water Resources and Operations Committee meeting.
- Public Outreach Consultant – Kathleen Radnich briefed the Board and the CAC on the following:
  - Water School 101 classroom presentation: Sept. 14th and Sept. 26th.
  - PIO Coalition meeting /Host: SBCO. Fire (Sept. 13th)
  - Turtle Island directional Water Wise Garden Sign

11. FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES –

- Mojave Water Agency Board of Directors Meeting – September 14, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. Director Unger
- Finance Committee Meeting – September 25, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.- Vice President Johnson and Director Floen
- Water Resources and Operations Committee Meeting – September 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. President Luckman and Vice President Johnson
- Mojave Water Agency Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – October 5, 2017 at 10 a.m. President Luckman

12. ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully Submitted:

  
Curt Sauer, GM and Board Secretary