



AGENDA

CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

5:00 PM

JOIN BY ZOOM

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/J/6175061750?PWD=EDJGdTBbTLBRKzLBUkXAANRKQ1k2Dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6175061750?pwd=EDJGdTBbTLBRKzLBUkXAANRKQ1k2Dz09)

Meeting ID: 617 506 1750 Passcode: 61750

You may also join by phone at 1-669-444-9171

1. **CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
2. **DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4. **APPROVAL OF CAC MINUTES**
 - A. **DRAFT MINUTES – 11.08.22**

NOTE – There are no CAC minutes for 01.10.23, as this was a joint CAC / board meeting. Board Meeting minutes are available.
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. **ELECTION OF CAC OFFICERS FOR 2023**

CAC to nominate and elect a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Minute Taker for 2023. Officers are to take their new positions immediately.
 - B. **CAC MEMBER ROUNDTABLE COMMENTS**

For informational purposes only on subjects not covered by the agenda and no action to be taken. The CAC may provide staff with requests for future agenda items.
 - C. **RECOGNIZE AND THANK KAREN TRACY FOR HER YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE CAC**
6. **NEXT MEETING DATE – MAY 09, 2023**
7. **ADJOURNMENT**

Joshua Basin Water District
Minutes of the Citizens Advisory Council Meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2022

CALL TO ORDER- Chairperson D. Carrillo called the meeting to order at 5:14 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM- D. Carrillo confirmed quorum.

IN ATTENDANCE- Dave Carrillo, Hannah Campbell, Via Zoom: Karen Morten, Karen Tracy, Shari Long, Are Zeret (member of public- guest)

STAFF PRESENT- Anne Roman, Director of Finance, Sarah Johnson, General Manager

CONSULTANTS PRESENT- Kathleen Radnich, Public Information Consultant, Alex Handlers of Bartle Wells Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT- Karen Tracy asked to have the floor when we talked about budgeting money for Chromium 6 Remediation.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES- Dave Carillo moved to approve the minutes; Hannah Campbell motioned and Karen Tracy seconded.

Regarding the prior meeting minutes of 9/13/2022, a mistake was made when the minutes were moved to be approved and Hannah Campbell did not write which people approved the minutes. The minutes were put up for re-approval and Hannah Campbell and Karen Tracy seconded.

NEW BUSINESS- Note: During this meeting, a storm was raging outside. We had several power outage problems throughout, and lost people on Zoom multiple times.

2022 RATE STUDY PRESENTATION- This meeting, we went into the fine details of the various rate options for our community members. We looked at three potential rate increases; Option A, which was best practices management (a 5 year rate increase to get us as a district to where we need to be, which also is the most money upfront), Option B which is a reduced rate increase, using partial drawdown of fund reserves, and Option C, which limits overall rate increases to 9% per year (which balances

affordability). We also looked at the option of putting the rate increase on our tax roll, which would be an Option D.

The main question of the night was do we want to keep the rates lower or raise them so we could support best management. Our fund reserves are at a healthy level, but our pipes and other infrastructure need repairs and replacements. Each member had time to ask questions and say their concerns about the rate increase options. The discussion is as follows:

The concerns: Hannah Campbell voiced the concern that if we increase too much, we may force people out of the area. Karen Tracy stated that with all the utilities rising, people would have trouble paying all of them and might not choose to pay their water bill that month. Shari Long brought up people on fixed incomes, and how this would really hurt their ability to make ends meet, particularly those on retirement.

The benefits: The benefit of the best practices rate increase is that the district will be able to repair and replace miles and miles of pipeline. The goal is to have a robust water district.

The replies: Kathleen Radnich stated that we can't bank on charging people for volume alone, as that will be shooting ourselves in the foot so-to-speak, if the government passes the 57 gallons/capita/person in 2025. We need more of a fixed rate at the beginning. Alex Handlers stated that our fixed charge is at 40%, and most agencies cap this at 20%. Anne Roman replied that we are in a good place with fixed/volumetric. We have enough of a balance to last till the next rate study. Anne also pointed out that all of the plans will use some of the reserves. She reminded us that reserve funds can be gone through quickly, and we must be careful how they're used. We have 13 million in reserves, but are looking at a 2 million in reserves draw down. Kathleen stated that the 9% inflation of Option C was justifiable to the public, since it matches the inflation rate. Alex concluded by reminding us that we are in a good place- any of these plans will keep our district healthy. Every 5 years we re-evaluate and reset our water rates. More pipeline dispersed over less people will always cost more, which is the price to be paid for rural living.

ROUNDTABLE COMMENTS- Every member voted on which rate option they liked the most. Option A, Best Practices, got two votes: Karen Tracy and Dave Carrillo. Option B got 0 votes. Option C, 9% rate raise, got two votes: Shari Long and Hannah Campbell. Option D (Putting the increase solely on property taxes) got 0 votes.

NEXT MEETING DATE- January 10, 2023 (Public Information Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT- Hannah Campbell motioned to adjourn, Sheri Long seconded, and Dave Carrillo adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Carrillo, CAC Chairperson