

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 19, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM: By roll-call vote:
Bill Long Present
Gary Given Absent
Gary Lovelace Present
Gary Wilson Present
Karl Wyne Present

STAFF PRESENT: Joe Guzzetta, General Manager
Susan Greer, Assistant GM/Controller
Terry Spurrier, HR/Administrative Services Supervisor
Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator

GUESTS: 10

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Marquez of Joshua Tree commented that the Board elections will not be certified until December, and applauded the outgoing Board members who have done a very good job.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Item C was removed from the Consent Calendar, for discussion at a later time.
MSC Wyne/Lovelace 4/0 (1 Absent) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 15, 2008 and to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 5, 2008.

7. CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUNFAIR ROAD ELECTRICAL CONDUIT

General Manager Guzzetta presented the staff report recommending award of bid to install underground electrical conduit for Edison Company to provide electrical power to Well #16. Director Wilson said, "Was this advertised in the newspaper? Just trade magazines? Thank you."

Al Marquez of Joshua Tree commented on the need to run conduit to get power to the well.
MSC Long/Lovelace 4/0 (1 Absent) to approve staff recommendation to award the bid to construct the electrical conduit in Sunfair and Gold Nugget Roads to Tri-Star Contracting II, Inc., for the amount of \$188,855.54 and authorize contingency of \$30,000 for a total project budget of \$218,000.

8. PARTICIPATION WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO DEVELOP A COMMERCIAL DEMONSTRATION GARDEN AT TURTLE ISLAND

GM Guzzetta reported, recommending that the District work with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a commercial demonstration garden at Turtle Island using volunteer labor from the Chamber, and grant funds available to the District for irrigation and planting materials, with the District paying for on-going water as had been done under a previous arrangement. Director Wilson said, "Well, I'm against it due to the fact it's on private property. Even if you get an easement." Al Marquez of Joshua Tree objected to the District participating, stating that it would open the door to assisting charitable organizations. Cynthia Shepard spoke in favor of the project as demonstrating how to use water wisely. Mike Reynolds asked what the water usage would be and spoke in favor of the project. Mickey Luckman spoke in support of the project.

MSC Lovelace/Wyne 3/1 (1 Absent) to approve staff recommendation to authorize staff to work with the Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce to develop the concept of a commercial demonstration garden at Turtle Island with the District to provide on-going water.

Given	Absent
Long	Aye
Lovelace	Aye
Wilson	No
Wyne	Aye

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH RED CROSS TO INCLUDE MAKING SPACE AVAILABLE AT THE SHOP FOR RED CROSS VEHICLES

GM Guzzetta reported, recommending that the District provide space to park five Red Cross emergency response vehicles in exchange for Red Cross assistance in disaster planning and during emergencies. President Long noted that this proposal arose from a meeting of the Basinwide Foundation, and that the Red Cross vehicles have suffered from vandalism in the past. An agreement to provide parking so that the vehicles will be safer could be beneficial to the District as well. Director Wilson said, "Well, as far as I know, LAFCO has never designated Joshua Basin Water District as the lead agency for community emergency response. And I don't believe we should be providing space for a non-profit private agency. Steven Whitman, member of the Municipal Advisory Council and Morongo Basin Emergency Preparedness Council supported the proposal to protect vehicles, assuring that they'll be available to the community in emergencies. Al Marquez spoke in opposition stating that it would be a liability to the District. Jim Corbin, rate payer, spoke in favor of supporting other agencies in disaster preparedness. Director Wyne requested that the agreement limit access to one or two Red Cross employees. Cynthia Shepard spoke in favor of the proposal and suggested that staff give the Red Cross access to the vehicles rather than give the Red Cross keys to the yard. Discussion continued, and the following action was taken:

MSC Lovelace/Long 3/1 (1 Absent) to approve staff recommendation to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with the Morongo Basin Red Cross that will provide space for several vehicles at the shop in exchange for Red Cross assistance in planning and during emergencies.

Given	Absent
Long	Aye
Lovelace	Aye
Wilson	No
Wyne	Aye

10. ATTENDANCE AT ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA WATER AGENCIES FALL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

GM Guzzetta reported that the next regular Board meeting conflicted with the ACWA conference and recommended that a meeting be held on December 10th.

MSC Long/Lovelace 3/1 (1 Absent) to approve staff recommendation to set the date of the next Board meeting at December 10, 2008 to enable Board Members and Members-elect to attend the ACWA Conference in Long Beach.

Given	Absent
Long	Aye
Lovelace	Aye
Wilson	No
Wyne	Aye

Director Wilson said: "Point on that Mr. President, that's not on the agenda, about changing the date of the meeting." "Are you saying, then, that non-board members are going to attend?" "No, non-board members. There's no prospective, because they haven't been sworn in. As long as they pay their own expenses."

11. STRATEGIC PLANNING BOARD WORKSHOP

GM Guzzetta reported that the Strategic Planning Workshop has been planned tentatively for February 11, 2009.

12. PROJECT PRIORITY LIST

GM Guzzetta reported that the emergency generator is expected to arrive within about two weeks. The new software installation and application is on-going; the final step will be the utility billing model, scheduled for February.

6C. APPROVE PURCHASE OF PORTABLE WELDER GENERATOR AT A COST OF \$5,808 PLUS TAX

GM Guzzetta noted that this is a budgeted item. Jim Corbin of JBWD gave a presentation to the Board explaining the need for the welder equipment with generator. He stated that the new welder with generator would enable the crew to do any welding job required in the field. Director Wilson said: "Is the existing welder in the trailer still working? Yeah, because I asked Management, and they didn't even know the trailer existed. When it was stolen." Al Marquez of Joshua Tree commented opposing the purchase. Cynthia Shepard of Joshua Tree commented that there could be emergency needs in the field.

MSC Lovelace/Wyne 3/1 (1 Absent) to approve staff recommendation to approve the purchase of a Miller Trailblazer 302 welder generator with Kohler engine from Vagabond Welding Supply for the bid amount of \$5,808 plus tax.

Given	Absent
Long	Aye
Lovelace	Aye
Wilson	No
Wyne	Aye

13. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

GM Guzzetta reported that the Notice of Preparation for the Environmental Impact Report for the recharge project would be sent out this week and a meeting would be conducted by

ESA consultants on Tuesday, December 9 at 2:00. The purpose is to hear comments from other agencies and the public on what issues should be studied in the EIR.

Al Marquez of Joshua Tree commented opposing recharging water for Joshua Basin, and supported banking water for sale to other agencies. Cynthia Shepard spoke in favor of recharge commenting that the basin could be damaged by drawing down water too far without appropriate recharge. Director Wyne commented on the money the ratepayers have paid to Mojave Water Agency which would be lost if the recharge project is not developed. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Assistant General Manager/Controller Greer reported on a webcast meeting held by the California State Municipal Finance Officers Association to discuss the security of LAIF. The fund is a State government fund created for the purpose of allowing local governments to invest in a very liquid short term instrument while typically earning more than alternative secure instruments. The 21 billion dollar fund has been invested very conservatively. Only one percent is invested in mortgages, and none of those are "sub-prime". The State is prohibited by State law from seizing or borrowing the funds.

HR/Administrative Services Supervisor Spurrier reported that employees are preparing Thanksgiving food baskets for needy residents of the community. He also reported that they are embarking on a payroll deduction program so that employees may contribute funds to Dreams for Kids and Morongo Basin ARCH.

14. DIRECTOR COMMENTS/REPORTS

Director Lovelace requested that staff present a report showing alternatives to having Directors sign checks.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Marquez of Joshua Tree commented opposing the District's lobbyist expense. He also commented that new directors take office after the first week of December, and further commented on campaign contributions from construction and development interests.

16. ADJOURNMENT 8:30 PM

MSC Wyne/Lovelace 4/0 (1 Absent) to adjourn the November 19, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted;



Joe Guzzetta, General Manager

The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for December 3, 2008.