MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 4, 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 Fick, Director Floen, Director Jarlsberg, Director Fawke

   Staff Present: General Manager Pro Tem Roman, Director of Administration Shook

   Consultant(s) Present: Legal Counsel, John Pinkney

   Citizens Advisory Council Member(s) Present: David Carrillo

3. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

   President Doolittle and Legal Counsel John Pinkney reviewed the Rules of Procedure prior to proceeding with 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, Fick, Floen, Jarlsberg, Fawke
Noes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT –**

   CAC Chair, David Carrillo asked about the status of the District's response to San Bernardino County regarding the Joshua Tree septic-to-sewer initiative and the status of County funding.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

   A. DRAFT MINUTES – 10.15.26

   Director Floen made a motion to approve the 10.15.26 minutes, seconded by Director Jarlsberg and approved by the following vote:

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

Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

6. ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR FOR DISCUSSION - None

7. <u>DISCUSSION/ACTION CALENDAR</u>

A. MBCA PRESENTATION OF DESERT-WISE LANDSCAPE TOUR OUTCOME
PRESENTED BY: LARAINE TURK, MBCA SECRETARY
RECOMMENDED ACTION: FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. NO ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN.

Laraine Turk, MBCA Secretary, presented the MBCA Presentation of Desert-Wise Landscape Tour Outcome. Turk provided an overview of the tour's history and evolution, including the transition to virtual and hybrid programming during and after COVID-19. Turk reported that MBCA's landscape tour videos have received more than 440,000 views and that the tour has attracted more than 1,000 participants over the past five years. Turk also highlighted the addition of native plant tours and educational how-to videos focused on desert-wise landscaping and water conservation. Turk thanked the District, Board, staff, volunteers, and Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich for their support, including the District's demonstration garden being featured in the tour.

B. <u>SEPTEMBER 2026 CHECK REGISTER</u>
PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER PRO TEM, ANNE ROMAN, ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR, AUTUMN RICH
RECOMMENDED ACTION: APPROVE CHECK REGISTER

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

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

C. ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) UPDATE
PRESENTED BY: DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION, DAVID SHOOK
RECOMMENDED ACTION: FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY, NO ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN.

Director of Administration David Shook provided an informational update on Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). Shook reported that the District received an updated propagation study from Sensus, which showed improvements in technology but continued concerns regarding reliable district-wide coverage. Staff is also awaiting additional information regarding the customer portal.

Shook discussed the District's interest in implementing web-based meter reading software to evaluate more frequent meter readings and identify unusual water usage and potential leaks. Shook noted that AMI may require additional infrastructure beyond what is identified in the propagation study and that staff will continue evaluating the feasibility, benefits, and costs of AMI and alternative approaches.

D. CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY SERVICES
PRESENTED BY: GENERAL MANAGER PRO TEM, ANNE ROMAN
RECOMMENDED ACTION: DISCUSS THE DISTRICT'S FORTHCOMING LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY NEEDS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION ON PROCUREMENT OPTIONS.

General Manager Pro Tem Anne Roman presented the Consideration of Legislative Advocacy Services. Roman discussed the District's options for future legislative advocacy and the timing of retaining a new advocate. The Board discussed the potential use of separate federal and state advocates or a combined firm, as well as the procurement process.

The Board directed staff to defer retaining a new legislative advocate until summer 2027 and to evaluate both combined and separate federal and state advocacy options. The Board also expressed a preference for soliciting quotes from multiple qualified firms rather than conducting a formal RFP, if appropriate.

8. DIRECTOR REPORTS/COMMENTS

President Doolittle

- Doolittle thanked the Board for its patience as the District works to follow the Rules of Procedure regarding public comments and noted that the process should improve with future meetings. Doolittle reported that she, General Manager Pro Tem Anne Roman, and Interim General Counsel John Pinkney met prior to the meeting to review the agenda and address questions regarding meeting procedures. Doolittle noted that training on the District's Rules of Procedure may be provided in the future and that modifications to the rules may also be considered.

- Doolittle commended General Manager Pro Tem Anne Roman for her work and leadership while managing her duties as Director of Finance, serving as General Manager Pro Tem, and providing additional supervisory support. Doolittle expressed her appreciation for Roman's dedication and noted that she has been a pleasure to work with.

Vice President Fick

- None

Director Floen

- Floen provided an update regarding the District's investments through the State of California's Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF). Floen noted the recent changes in state leadership and stated that he would monitor the state investment committee and related activities for any significant changes that may warrant further review.

Director Jarlsberg

- None

Director Fawke

- Fawke prepared a written report which is included as an attachment to the minutes.

9. MANAGER'S REPORT

General Manager Pro Tem Roman prepared and distributed a written manager's report which is included as an attachment to the minutes.

10. UPCOMING AGENDA AND FUTURE ITEMS

A. Anticipated Upcoming Agenda Items

Items currently anticipated for upcoming meetings; dates and items subject to change:

November 18, 2026

- Staff Items:
    - 2025/26 Audit Presentation
    - ERNIE Agreement
    - Proposed contract for SRF Grant Writer Assistance
- Board-requested item: None scheduled.
- Other anticipated items: Public Outreach Presentation

B. Future Agenda Items Requested by Directors

See attached list of future agenda items requested by Directors.

11. CLOSED SESSION

A. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9 (d)(2) AND/OR(3) 1 POTENTIAL CASE.
TITLE: ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

B. PUBLIC EMPLOYEE DISCIPLINE, DISMISSAL, RELEASE PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 6:55 pm. The meeting reconvened to open session at 7:56 pm.

Legal Counsel John Pinkney reported that no reportable action was taken regarding Item A, related to anticipated litigation.

Pinkney reported that reportable action was taken regarding Item B, related to Public Employee Discipline, Dismissal, Release. The Board approved an agreement of separation, severance, and general release with General Manager Sarah Johnson, with all Directors voting in favor. Counsel stated that the agreement is a public record.

President Doolittle announced that General Manager Sarah Johnson's tenure with the District concluded on November 5, 2026, following more than a decade of service. Doolittle read a statement from Johnson expressing her appreciation for the opportunity to lead the District and serve the community, recognizing the District's employees and the relationships and experiences from her tenure, and wishing the District continued success.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Johnson for her more than a decade of dedicated service and leadership and wished her continued success in her future endeavors.

Click the link below to view the announcement:
Exhibit B - General Manager Leadership Transition Announcement

C. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Director Floen seconded by Director Jarlsberg, and approved by the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

ANNE ROMAN (Nov 16, 2026 10:49:12 PST)

Anne Roman, General Manager Pro Tem & Board Secretary

TO VIEW THE MEETING RECORDING ON YOUTUBE, CLICK HERE:

2. JBWD MINUTES MEETING 11.04.26

Final Audit Report 2026-11-16

Created:	2026-11-16
By:	LISA THOMPSON (lthompson@jbwd.com)
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"2. JBWD MINUTES MEETING 11.04.26" History

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