

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

June 17, 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
Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator

CONSULTANTS PRESENT:

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

GUESTS 9

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC Luckman/Johnson 5/0 to approve the agenda for the June 17, 2015 meeting.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Unger	Aye
Reynolds	Aye

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Fred Kintworth, Joshua Tree: Regarding standby charges: Klintworth states standby charges are only levied against people who own property within our district, and only benefit us by providing a source of income for JBWD to provide viable potable water. Klintworth suggests looking at the issue not as a penalty clause, but as a use – benefit clause for our District.

Michael McCourt, Joshua Tree, past JBWD Director (letter read at McCourt’s request; read by Curt Sauer): McCourt requests that Board member compensation be reviewed and discussed at a future meeting.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Public Comment: Al Marquez, Joshua Tree, Sunfair area: Regarding Resolution 15-950 – Marquez asks, what is the amount?

Answered by Susan Greer: Appropriation limit is \$1,529,671.00.

MSC Luckman/Reynolds, 5/0 to approve Draft Minutes of the June 3, 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Unger	Aye
Reynolds	Aye

7. CONSIDER CHARGES FOR INACTIVE METER ACCOUNTS

Curt Sauer gave the report; see staff report in the agenda packet for details.

Public Comment:

Karen Tracy, Joshua Tree (President of the Citizen Advisory Committee): All members of the Citizens Advisory Committee approve of the charges for inactive meter accounts. Tracy states JBWD Board has a duty to bring in as much money as possible, including the \$200,000 to support the operations of the District.

Al Marquez, Joshua Tree, Sunfair area: Marquez points out that since the early 2000's other Boards have previously voted no on this issue. Marquez compared DMV car registrations for non-operating vehicles and inactive credit card charge accounts to make a comparison of other entities that have no charge for services not being utilized. Marquez is against inactive meter fees.

Michael McCourt, Joshua Tree, past JBWD Director (letter read at McCourt's request; read by Curt Sauer): McCourt is not supportive of charges for inactive meters, citing the high poverty levels in Joshua Tree. McCourt suggests potential negative impacts financially to taxes, real estate market values, and possibly having to install radio read meters.

Director Reynolds states he believes the charge to be unfair, and also does not support the opt out option.

Vice President Luckman states the charge is fair and just.

GM Sauer states that the infrastructure developed and maintained to provide water access is financed in part by the basic rate fees. GM Sauer and President Fuller state customers paying the basic fee are financially subsidizing the customers with inactive meters who are not paying the basic fee. Fuller states that it is fair for everyone to be paying for the infrastructure.

Counselor Granito states Guiding Premise is: Board is statutorily mandated to adopt a budget and to apportion rate fees and charges in a fair and impartial way that will finance the operations of the District.

MSC Luckman/Johnson, 4/1 to approve of the following:

1. Conceptual approval to begin charging inactive meter accounts the monthly Basic Fee; and
2. Authorize development of the Proposition 218 mailing to all customers, with final approval for the mailing and setting of the public hearing date at an upcoming Board meeting; and
3. Understanding that final approval of the inactive meter charges cannot occur until after the public hearing is held.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Unger	Aye
Reynolds	No

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Unger: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant, gave the report. Mojave Water Agency awarded JBWD a grant for \$3400 for Public Information and Education. Mojave Desert Land Trust will do a fall sale of Native Plants. Seed collection will be on July 20, 21, and 22. Summer Splash will be on Saturday June 6, District will be there from 12:15 to 2PM at the Joshua Tree Community Center.
- B. FINANCE COMMITTEE: President Fuller and Director Johnson: There was not a meeting since the last Board meeting.
- C. WATER RESOURCES & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Vice President Luckman and Director Johnson: There was not a meeting since the last Board meeting.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Marquez, Joshua Tree, Sunfair area: Requests that Joshua Tree Library receive DVD recordings of the Board of Director meetings as indicated in the agenda. Marquez requests Board members state their reasons for their votes on issues.

10. DISTRICT COUNSEL REPORT

No report. Comment: Counselor Granito discussed and updated events surrounding the San Juan Capistrano case regarding tiered structure.

11. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

General Manager Curt Sauer gave the report. GM Sauer commented on Board member compensation in reference to a public comment. GM Sauer reported on conservation/water consumption, and a leak detection class that was conducted. Approximately 4 miles of pipes were surveyed and no leaks were found. GM Sauer mentioned additional conservation strategies that are being implemented. The Board received the report for information only.

12. FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Mojave Water Agency Board Meeting: June 25th – Victoria Fuller
The Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board, Drought and Urban Water conservation Symposium: June 26th – Curt Sauer

13. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

Directors Luckman and Unger attended the Morongo Basin Pipeline meeting and the Colorado Regional Water Quality Control Board Meeting. Hi Desert was congratulated – sewer assessment district passed by 70%. Directors Johnson and Fuller attended the MAC meeting. Conservation presentation was informative and JBWD is supported in water conservation efforts.

14. DIRECTORS COMMENTS/REPORTS:

Director Unger commented regarding her voting choices.
Director Johnson commended JBWD staff for moving forward on issues.
Director Luckman expressed appreciation of Mojave Water Agency and their support for various projects.
Director Reynolds discussed the advantage of converting units to gallons on the bills.
Director Fuller thanked the public for their participation at the meetings.

15. CLOSED SESSION

At this time the Board went into Closed Session in accordance with Government Code Section 54956.9 (d) (2) to consult with legal counsel on one matter of Potential Litigation.

Into session at 8:05. Returned at 8:50. No further reportable action.

16. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None.

17. ADJOURNMENT

MSC Luckman/Unger, 5/0/ to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of June 17, 2015 at 08:56pm

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Unger	Aye
Reynolds	Aye

Respectfully submitted:


Curt Sauer, General Manager and Board Secretary