

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 18, 2014

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
Gary Wilson	Present

STAFF PRESENT:

Curt Sauer, General Manager
Susan Greer, Assistant General Manager/Controller
Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator
Jim Corbin, Distribution Supervisor
Marie Salsberry, HR Manager/Administrative Specialist
Anne Roman, Accountant

CONSULTANTS PRESENT:

Gil Granito, District Counsel
Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant

GUESTS 5

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Director Luckman stated that staff had asked to remove Item 6 from the agenda.

MSC 5/0 to approve the agenda for the June 19, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors as modified, removing Item 6, "Public Hearing to Consider the Water Availability (Standby) Charges for Fiscal Year 2014/2015.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	Aye

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

6. PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE WATER AVAILABILITY (STANDBY) CHARGES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014-2015

Removed, per Item 4.

7. ADOPTION OF 14/15 – 15/16 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

General Manager Curt Sauer reported that a presentation had been given at the last Board meeting on June 4th and that staff recommends adoption of the 14/15 – 15/16 Operating Budget and deferral of adoption of the Capital Budget until a strategic planning or similar workshop can be held, probably in July.

Directors Luckman, Reynolds, Johnson and Fuller commended staff for doing a good job on the budget and the

presentation. Director Wilson stated he would not be in agreement and would like to see a 10% cut across the board, or at least 5%.

MSC Luckman/Reynolds 4/1 to adopt the 14/15 – 15/16 Operating Budget and defer adoption of the Capital Budget until after a strategic planning or similar workshop can be held.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	No

8. APPOINT GENERAL MANAGER SAUER AS LABOR NEGOTIATOR FOR AFSCME UNION NEGOTIATIONS

GM Sauer reported he has been working with staff and union negotiators and the District's labor counsel.

Assistant General Manager/Controller Susan Greer has been the District's labor negotiator since being appointed as Acting General Manager. Since the general manager position is filled, GM Sauer recommended that the general manager be appointed as the District's labor negotiator. Director Wilson stated he would not support anyone on the management team being a negotiator because the last general manager, in his opinion, mishandled the negotiations.

MSC Reynolds/Luckman 4/1 to approve staff recommendation to appoint General Manager Curt Sauer as Labor Negotiator for AFSCME Union negotiations.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	No

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

AD HOC COMMITTEES:

- A. ADMINISTRATION CODE UPDATE PROJECT: President Fuller and Director Luckman: No report.
- B. HOSPITAL WASTEWATER PROJECT: Director Luckman and President Fuller: No report.
- C. MOJAVE WATER AGENCY INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN COMMITTEE: Director Luckman and President Fuller: No report.
- D. RULES AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE: President Fuller and Vice President Reynolds: No report.
- E. TANK RESTORATION PROJECT: Director Wilson and Director Johnson: No report.
- F. SOLAR PROJECT REVIEW COMMITTEE: President Fuller and Director Luckman: No report.

10. STANDING COMMITTEES:

- A. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: Director Luckman and President Fuller. Public Outreach Consultant Kathleen Radnich reported that a docent meeting will be held on June 27. The District office will be closed on July 4th. Beginning next month, the District monthly newsletter is going electronic; however, printed copies will still be available at the office and at the District's booth at the Joshua Tree Farmers Market on Saturdays. She reported speaking with a local teacher of gifted students who wants to use the demonstration garden as a teaching tool the next school year.
- B. FINANCE COMMITTEE: President Fuller and Director Johnson: No report.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

12. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

GM Sauer reported that Distribution Supervisor Jim Corbin led District staff in coordinating with the local hospital for repairs that required water to the hospital to be shut down for a period of time.

Distribution Supervisor Corbin gave a presentation on the project which involved coordinated advance planning with the Hi-Desert Medical Center staff, a backflow specialist, and a local water hauler to keep the hospital's chillers served with water while the meter and valve serving the hospital were replaced and the backflow system repaired. He explained that replacement of the meter had been planned for Fall but was prioritized because the hospital's backflow system was beginning to fail. District staff worked 7 hours to replace the meter and valve and the project was a success.

GM Sauer continued with the GM Report, stating that the Management Team Advance held over three days last week resulted in a new commitment to teamwork and communication. The new regulation for Chromium-6 will go into effect next month and staff has met with the District Engineer and hydrology experts to formulate a plan that will allow the District to comply with the stricter regulation. Prior United States Geological Survey studies indicate a possibility that some wells might be modified to draw water from areas of the aquifer where there is less occurrence of total chromium. A feasibility study has been requested for treatment options. He also reported that staff will report on Well 11 at the next Board meeting on July 2.

Director Wilson asked if GM Sauer had filed a Form 700 and if he had given it to the Board. GM Sauer replied he had completed the form and given it to the Human Resources Manager. Director Wilson asked if GM Sauer had received his letter and did he have an answer. GM Sauer replied he did receive the letter from Director Wilson. He read the letter which asked how much standby revenue would be lost due to the transfer of ownership of Section 33 and whether the general manager was involved in the negotiations or purchase of Section 33. AGM/Controller Greer answered that no standby revenue was lost due to the change in ownership; standbys remain the same for the parcel. GM Sauer answered that he had no involvement in either the negotiations or purchase agreement for the property.

Director Wilson referred to a 2009 staff report he had copied for the Board and staff, noting this is the only report on Well 11 he could find. He suggested viewing Board meeting videos from July to October of 2005 for more information on Well 11.

13. FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

President Fuller noted the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) Technical Advisory Committee will be held June 23, 2014.

14. INDIVIDUAL DIRECTOR REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED

None.

15. DIRECTORS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Director Johnson thanked Supervisor Corbin and staff, noting he appreciated the presentation. Director Luckman commented that the budget had been reviewed prior to tonight's meeting by both the Finance Committee and the full Board. Director Reynolds gave kudos to Supervisor Corbin and his crew for a good job and a good presentation. He reported attending the Mojave Water Agency meeting where three scholarships were awarded to Cal Poly students for their demonstration garden designs. He noted that water conservation grants may be available in the future for replacing pipes that waste water due to leaks. President Fuller stated that a lot of time went into the preparation and review of the draft budget. She thanked Mr. Corbin for a job well done, and GM Sauer for bringing staff together.

16. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

District Counsel Gil Granito reported on litigation against Yorba Linda Water District which was recently settled. The district had sued by for the loss of homes to fire and although the Yorba Linda Water District had not been responsible for causing the fire they were sued on the basis of inverse condemnation. The lawsuit resulted in a multi-million dollar settlement. The result may be that it will be difficult for water districts to get excess carrier coverage in the future.

17. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None requested.

18. ADJOURNMENT 7:43 PM

MSC Reynolds/Luckman 5/0 to adjourn the June 18, 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

Fuller	Aye
Johnson	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	Aye

Respectfully submitted:



Curt Sauer, General Manager and Board Secretary
