

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6, 2019

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Vice President Unger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM –Vice President Unger, Vice President Unger, Director Hund, Director Luckman, and Director Reynolds. President Johnson is absent.

STAFF PRESENT -Curt Sauer, GM, Mark Ban, AGM-Ops, Susan Greer, AGM/Controller, Sarah Johnson, HR Manager, and Beverly Waszak, Executive Assistant

CONSULTANTS PRESENT - Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach, Jennifer Farrell, Rutan & Tucker, LLP

APPROVAL OF AGENDA –Director Reynolds commented that he made a request at the last Board meeting for a financial report to be on this Agenda and it is not. Director Reynolds requested to have it on the next Board meeting agenda. GM Sauer responded that it would be on the next Board meeting agenda.

Director Luckman motioned to approve the agenda. Director Reynolds seconded.

MSC¹ (Luckman/Reynolds) motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Hund, Luckman, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: Johnson

Abstain: None

PUBLIC COMMENT – David Ficke, Joshua Tree, commented on his three months of high water bills and asked if it was possible for a payment plan for the event instead of the current bill.

General Manager Sauer responded to Mr. Ficke to make an appointment.

CONSENT CALENDAR - Director Luckman made a motion to approve the Consent Calendar. Director Hund seconded.

MSC¹ (Luckman/Hund) motion carried by the following vote

Ayes: Hund, Luckman, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: Johnson

Abstain: None

PRESENTATION FROM DUDEK ENGINEERING UPDATING THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT STRATEGY – Mike Metts, Dudek Engineering gave a presentation followed by a brief Q&A with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Steven Whitman, Joshua Tree asked if Mike Metts had implied that with the increased tourism comes increased nitrates that infiltrate into our water. If so, is there any program to receive Federal reimbursement to solve this problem?

Mike Metts replied that he didn't necessarily mean the tourists; however, the Nitrate problem is generated by the number of people that are in the area. From time to time there are Federal grants and funding available, which we will take advantage of those as we move forward.

David Ficke, Joshua Tree commented on the MAC and who was on the Board at the time. He also commented on the Alta Mira project.

Tom Floen, Joshua Tree, thinks it is premature to get into some of the concerns we might have now because we don't have the full picture of what the current situation is. He asked if this was State-mandated or are we just being proactive?

Mike Metts responded that it is not State mandated yet, however, treating your wastewater is.

Al Marquez, Joshua Tree commented on when the District had an in-house engineer and the costs associated with that person.

David Ficke asked what the liabilities are when hooking up your own septic tank.

AGM Ban stated that when he left Hi-Desert it was still being discussed.

Director Hund made a motion to approve the update of the 2009 Wastewater Treatment Strategy by the original author of the document, Dudek Engineering, at a cost not to exceed \$44,000 with a 10% contingency fee. Director Luckman seconded.

Director Reynolds stated that he was concerned that it wasn't noted on the Agenda correctly. GM Sauer informed the Board that staff would bring it back for approval at the next Board meeting. The Board concurred.

ACCEPT SENSUS/AQUA METRIC PROPOSAL FOR WATER METER REPLACEMENT – AGM Greer reported on the condition of the water meters in the District.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Gayle Austin, Joshua Tree, commented that she would prefer that the Board remain with AMR, even though the AMI has more bells and whistles, it can also come with more problems and possibly higher costs.

Tom Floen, Joshua Tree, stated that in order to switch to a different person, and we have already been with AMR for 19 Years, it doesn't seem like a practical thing to do.

Al Marquez, Joshua Tree, gave his support of AMR because they have been good meters, however, he didn't agree with the percentage numbers that staff brought forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED –

Director Reynolds made a motion to accept the proposal from SENSUS/AQUA Metric for a multi-year AMR meter replacement project; bid \$1,343,719 plus a 10% contingency, for a total of \$1,478,091.

Motion¹ (Reynolds/Luckman) was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Hund, Luckman, Reynolds, and Unger

Noes: None

Absent: Johnson

Abstain: None

The Board and GM Sauer complimented AGM Greer on her outstanding analysis for this project.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AND AWARDS PROGRAM – GM Sauer gave the report and a Q&A period followed with the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Al Marquez, Joshua Tree stated that he agreed with everything in the report except the procedures. Specifically, item #2 non-monetary recognition, for instance, certificate, trophy, time off (Mr. Marquez does not agree with), etc. or monetary recognition (Mr. Marquez doesn't accept), cash award or step increase. This is going over and above recognition for an employee.

Gayle Austin, Joshua Tree stated that if an employee does an outstanding job or thinks of something that can help the District, then you should be able to reward that person on the spot.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED –

Director Reynolds stated that he would like the GM to bring it back to the Board with a budgeted line item.

GM Sauer responded that he would bring back a \$5,000.00 line item back to the Board.

The Board discussed whether to approve the Employee Recognition Awards Program tonight or postpone to the next Board Meeting.

Director Hund made a motion to approve the Employee Recognition and Awards Program as stated.
Director Luckman seconded

The motion was defeated by the following tied vote:

Ayes: Hund, Luckman,
Noes: Reynolds, and Unger
Absent: Johnson
Abstain: None

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (CIRP) CREW ALTERNATE WORK SCHEDULE -

AGM Ban gave the staff report of the alternative work schedule for the District's CIRP Crew.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

Tom Floen, Joshua Tree, commented that the 9/80 and the 4/10 schedule are very popular and we can use it as a recruitment tool during a time when the labor market is tight.

Gayle Austin, Joshua Tree, commented that with traffic on Friday's trying to leave town and tourists entering town, it may be a good idea to stay off the roads.

Steven Whitman, Joshua Tree, attends the Finance Committee meetings and a lot of information is discussed openly because the videographer is not in the room. The public needs to know what is discussed in the Finance Committee and it should be discussed in the Board meetings also.

PUBLIC COMMENT CLOSED –

Director Reynolds made a motion to approve the alternative work schedule presented by AGM Ban.
Director Hund seconded.

MSC¹ (Reynolds/Hund) was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Hund, Luckman, Reynolds, and Unger
Noes: None
Absent: Johnson
Abstain: None

DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT – Mr. Gil Granito – None

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT – GM Sauer requested that AGM Ban give his report first.

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER-OPERATIONS REPORT – AGM Ban informed the Board that he would give a full report on Well 14 at the March 20, 2019 Board meeting.

GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT - GM Sauer stated that the California Energy Commission (CEC) has completed our Solar Feasibility Study. The next step is to find a consultant to do all the planning and to coordinate with Southern California Edison (SCE) and what it will cost to construct this project here and over at the shop.

DIRECTOR COMMENTS & REPORTS ON MEETINGS ATTENDED –

Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach consultant, reported on the following:

- Low-Income Assistance Program
- Water Education Day, Sunday, March 31, 2019, from 1-4 p.m.
- Farmers’ Market –

Director Luckman reported on the Mojave Water Agency Board meeting and that Jennifer Pierre is the State Water Contractor Manager, and her job is to interact with the State Contractors.

FUTURE DIRECTOR MEETINGS AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES – Vice President Unger started to read off the future director meetings and training opportunities, Director Reynolds interrupted Vice President Unger to say that he had one more meeting to comment on.

Director Reynolds reported on the ASBCSD meeting February 25, 2019, at the Castaway Restaurant, San Bernardino

After Director Reynolds comments Vice President Unger continued reading off the future meetings.

ADJOURN –

Director Hund made a motion to adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:46 p.m. Director Luckman seconded.

MSC¹ (Hund/Luckman) was carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Hund, Luckman, Reynolds, and Unger
Noes: None
Absent: Johnson
Abstain: None

Respectfully Submitted:

Curt Sauer, GM and Board Secretary