

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Minutes of the
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 20, 2013

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM:

Frank Coate	Present
Victoria Fuller	Present
Mickey Luckman	Present
Mike Reynolds	Present
Gary Wilson	Present

STAFF PRESENT:

Joe Guzzetta, General Manager
Susan Greer, Assistant General Manager/Controller
Marie Salsberry, HR Manager/Administrative Specialist
Keith Faul, GIS Coordinator
Anne Roman, Accountant

CONSULTANTS PRESENT:

Gil Granito, District Counsel
Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant

GUESTS 14

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MSC Reynolds/Fuller 5/0 to approve the agenda for the March 20th, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

MSC Fuller/Coate 5/0 to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors and to approve the check audit report for February 2013.

7. BRIDGES' APPEAL FOR REQUIREMENT OF FIRE HYDRANT

Director Coate reported for the Ad Hoc Rules and Regulations committee, stating that the committee recommended that the Board authorize the District to provide a fire hydrant at no cost to the applicant, to be installed at the applicant's expense for the proposed line serving 61160 Trentwood Drive; staff concurs with the recommendation.

Director Reynolds requested that his comments be held until after other discussion. District legal counsel Gil Granito stated that Director Reynolds had previously recused himself from discussion of this topic; however Director Reynolds will rescind his voluntary recusal as there is no financial interest or conflict of interest in this matter. Director Reynolds stated that he would participate in discussion and action on this matter.

Doris Bridges commented that she agreed with the committee's recommendation but did not agree with the

need for a mainline.

Director Reynolds made a motion to grant the Bridges a variance to allow a remote meter to serve the property. Director Wilson seconded the motion. Discussion ensued.

Director Fuller noted that the ad hoc committee had several discussions including with staff and the District engineer and the committee felt it could not support a variance to the District's existing remote meter policy. Vice President Coate stated that the request does not meet the District's requirements for remote meter.

Richard Fountain of Joshua Tree commented opposing the District's water mainline extension policies. President Luckman commented that although she is sympathetic she is not in favor of a variance to the remote meter policy.

Director Reynolds commented that there are exceptions to every rule and the board has the latitude to grant the variance in this very special circumstance.

President Luckman called for a vote on the motion made by Director Reynolds and seconded by Director Wilson; the motion failed:

Coate	No
Fuller	No
Luckman	No
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	Aye

Vice President Coate made a motion with Director Fuller seconding the motion, to authorize the District to provide a fire hydrant at no cost to the applicant, to be installed at the applicant's expense for the proposed line serving 61160 Trentwood Drive. After further discussion the Board voted as follows:

Coate	Aye
Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	No
Wilson	No

8. APPOINTMENTS TO CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

General Manager Joe Guzzetta reported that the District has received five applications from members of the public for appointment to the Citizens Advisory Committee. After brief discussion the Board took the following action:

MSC Reynolds/Coate 5/0 to appoint the five applicants to the Citizens Advisory Committee.

9. DEMONSTRATION GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS

GM Guzzetta introduced the District's conservation coordinator Deborah Bollinger. Ms. Bollinger reported on the proposed demonstration garden signage. Director Reynolds requested that local sign companies be consulted regarding this project. GM Guzzetta noted that staff could check local companies to see if they can offer the same product as what has been recommended. It was noted that this item was included in the District's supplemental budget.

Director Fuller read a letter to the editor praising the District's demonstration garden. Director Fuller noted that the garden shows how water can be conserved.

Director Wilson commented opposing the garden improvements.

MSC Coate/Fuller 3/2 to approve staff recommendation to approve the educational interpretative plan for the Demonstration Garden and to authorize the use of \$10,000 in the Supplemental Budget for the purchase of signs to implement the educational interpretive program.

Director Reynolds commented that he has supported the garden and a substantial part of the cost for the garden was from grants; however he does not agree with this expenditure.

Coate	Aye
Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	No
Wilson	No

10. MID-TERM BUDGET REVIEW

Assistant General Manager/Controller Susan Greer reported on the status of the District's operational budget noting that the district is tracking well and feels comfortable with the operational budget at this time.

General Manager Guzzetta reported on the District's supplemental budget and reviewed the status of many of the significant projects funded under the supplemental budget.

Director Reynolds requested information on results of the large meter testing, and the cost of having large meters tested compared to the cost of replacement.

MSC Reynolds/Coate 5/0 to table consideration of the request for additional funding for large meters pending receiving additional information as requested.

MSC Reynolds/Coate 4/1 to approve staff recommendation to approve an additional \$4,000 for a new wall in the shop.

Coate	Aye
Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	No

11. INDEMNITY AGREEMENT WITH MOJAVE WATER AGENCY FOR PROPOSITION 84 FUNDING FROM DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

GM Guzzetta reported that Mojave Water Agency has signed an agreement with the Department of Water Resources for eight million dollars in grant funds, three million of which are for JBWD for the Recharge Basin and Pipeline project. Mojave Water Agency requires the indemnity agreement with JBWD in order for JBWD to receive the grant funds. Board discussion ensued.

MSC Coate/Reynolds 4/1 to approve staff recommendation to authorize the indemnity agreement with Mojave Water Agency (MWA) which is necessary to utilize the \$3 million Proposition 84 grant from California Department of Water Resources (DWR) for construction of the Ground Water Recharge Basin and Pipeline, contingent upon the other two parties approving the same agreement.

Coate	Aye
Fuller	Aye
Luckman	Aye
Reynolds	Aye
Wilson	No

12. CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Jay St. Gaudens, Chairperson of the District's Citizens Advisory Committee reported that the committee met and discussed the proposed signage for the demonstration garden. He welcomed the new CAC members.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMITTEE: President Luckman and Director Fuller: Kathleen Radnich, Public Outreach Consultant reported the Public Information Committee has discussed offering an opportunity to home-schoolers for a morning of education in the demonstration garden. The District will be working with local merchants to address any concerns about the recharge pipeline construction. On March 8 the garden was dedicated by the National Wildlife Federation as a certified wildlife habitat.
- B. RECHARGE BASIN AND PIPELINE PROJECT: Vice President Coate and Director Fuller: No report.
- C. HOSPITAL WASTEWATER PROJECT: President Luckman and Vice President Coate: No report.
- D. TANK RESTORATION PROJECT: Director Wilson and Vice President Coate: No report.
- E. RULES AND REGULATIONS UPDATE PROJECT: Director Fuller and Vice President Coate: The committee met with staff today and began the process of reviewing the District's rules and regulations.
- F. ADMINISTRATION CODE UPDATE PROJECT: Director Fuller and President Luckman: No report.

14. PUBLIC COMMENT

Steven Whitman of Joshua Tree commented in favor of the Board's decision to waive the cost for a fire hydrant. He stated that he has been re-appointed to the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) and noted that another CAC member is very experienced with geographic information systems.

Jay St. Gaudens of Joshua Tree commented that asphalt repairs are needed along the recharge pipeline construction route.

15. GENERAL MANAGER REPORT

GM Guzzetta reported that the contractor that is installing the recharge pipeline will be resurfacing the asphalt that has been disturbed.

16. DIRECTORS COMMENTS/REPORTS

Director Reynolds welcomed new CAC members. He reported attending the Mojave Water Agency Board meeting where that agency was reviewing their strategic plan. He attended the Association of San Bernardino County Special Districts meeting where a presentation was given on cost savings that had been realized by a large agency using alternate energy such as solar and windmill.

Director Wilson commented on a pipeline replacement project that was engineered but nothing further was done.

Vice President Coate noted he has requested the general manager to ask the contractors already working on District projects what the cost would be to replace pipeline on Veterans Way. He reported attending the District's Strategic Planning Board meeting and the Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission (MBPC) meeting where he was appointed as the alternate member from the MBPC for the integrated regional water management plan.

17. DISTRICT GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT

District Legal Counsel reported on Assembly Bill 416 that would allow local districts to apply for funds for energy-efficient projects.

18. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director Reynolds requested the ad hoc committee and the Board review remote water meter policy.

19. CLOSED SESSION

The Board went to closed session at 8:53 pm for a discussion with the District's legal counsel pertaining to the matter described in Item 19 of this meeting's agenda. The Board resumed meeting in open session at 9:56 pm; no reportable action was taken during the closed session.

Vice President Coate reported on his trip to Washington DC with the General Manager, meeting with legislators and staff members of agencies to seek funding for District projects. He commended the General Manager in conducting the business of the District in Washington DC.

The Board called a special meeting for Wednesday April 3, 2013 at 4:30 pm to continue the annual evaluation of the General Manager.

20. ADJOURNMENT 9:55 PM

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted:



Joe Guzzetta, General Manager

The next regular meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for April 3, 2013 at 7:00 pm.