

JUNIPER RIVIERA COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
25715 Santa Rosa Rd, Apple Valley, CA 92308
Phone (760) 247-9818 Fax (760) 247-3974

MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday April 18, 2022 5:00 PM

Board of Directors:

PRESENT

Erin D’Orio, President
Jason Chormicle, Vice-President
Charlene Grenier
Waldo Stakes

Staff:

PRESENT

Lorrie Steely, General Manager
Lee Logsdon, Director of Operations

Absent:

Daniel Taylor

I. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE

II. ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECORDED MEETING/ ROLL CALL:

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS: The public is invited at this time to address the Board on matters relating to water district business. Comments regarding specific agenda items may also be addressed during the time that the item is before the Board of Directors, with prior notice being given. The Board of Directors at its discretion may impose time limits on the speaker(s).

IV. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING; MARCH 17, 2022
Motion by Jason Chormicle; Second by Waldo Stakes; All in favor 4, All Opposed, 0; Motion Passed 4/0.

V. APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT INCLUDING MONTHLY OPERATING EXPENSES: Item was carried over to be discussed at the May Board of Director’s Meeting.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS: The following items, announcements and/or reports are presented for information and discussion only:

- **Operations/Water System Update – Lee Logsdon**
 - + **Overall System update:** Another new meter was requested on Outpost Road. Staff will be scheduled ½ day for meter installation and ½ day of hydrant flushing to optimize High Desert Underground personnel for an entire day of work.
 - + **Clean-out Storm Drains & Culverts, Regular System Maintenance:** Discussion regarding the need to proactively clean out storm-drains and culverts before winter season, has not been done in probably more than 10 years.
- **District Business/General Managers Update – Lorrie Steely discussed each of the following topics;**
 - + **GM Meeting Mariana Ranchos Water District:** Very fruitful 4 hours meeting with Jim Hanson, General Manager of Mariana Ranchos Water District. Topics of discussion included; cost for new meters, recovery of bad debts thru County Taxes, solutions for water service interruption on case by case basis, possible partnership for mutual use of equipment/tools and parts.

+ **Marijuana issues and water consumption update:** : Growing season will soon be upon us growers will be preparing for another season. Please be cognizant of any suspicious activities. Let neighbors and residents know if they see something - say something!! Staff has direct contact with the Marijuana Enforcement Team, neighbors can report it directly to our office and remain anonymous.

+ **Cal Rural Water Association Annual Expo:** Lorrie Steely was planning to attend the annual Water Expo from April 25th to April 28th as discussed at the February Board Meeting. Excellent change for networking and very good educational classes offered throughout the entire event. Attendance to the event was cancelled due to the timing and the delays on Well No. 02 grant. Staff will request a reimbursement for fees and try to attend next year.

+ **Grant Updates:**

+ **Demonstration Garden – Edible Garden:** Grant application was submitted March 31st, results and award announcements are expected by July 1, 2022.

+ **IRWMP:** The Profiling of Well No. 03 began on March 28th. Besst Environmental/Tri-County Pump and JRCWD Team determined the next course of action which is to pull the well piping and install an access tube in order to achieve the profiling work. Potential costs include; additional work to access well and pull pump/motor, install new air-bubbler/access tube and re-set. Long term cost is the possibility of replacement of pump/motor, this would be only if the well is determined to be a good candidate for remediation. Staff discussed considerations of potential cost for environmental requirements if profiling is successful, as well as State permitting requirements to revise well from on call/emergency-only to full-time, productive well. Priority for Rebuilding/Replacing PRV Stations have been identified, this work is scheduled to begin after staff concludes cost vs. funding analysis for Well No. 03.

+ **State Water Resources Control Board:** Status for application for generators; remains pending.

+ **MWA/Prop 1:** Preliminary Engineering Report draft under review, survey work complete, profiling of Well No. 02 has begun; pump/motor and well casing removed due to access issues. Staff recommends replacing pump and motor while it is exposed as preventative measure. Cost for labor already covered in the Prop 1 Grant, time to take advantage and save money long term.

VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discuss internship program with Victor Valley College, Ag Department; Lorrie Steely discussed the opportunity that the District may have to obtain an intern for some of the administrative workload. Staff has just begun to explore this possibility and will update more next month.
- Discuss rescheduling date for Finance/Budget Committee meeting; Board discussion regarding date and time, meeting was re-scheduled with Waldo Stakes and Jason Chormicle as participants.
- Discuss Cal Rural Water Rate Study; Lorrie Steely provided the Board with a packet of information from the 2018 Rate Study. Staff recommends the District will need to consider a rate increase for our monthly service fee as well as cost increase for the cost for new meter installations, and in order to be consistent that should occur in September. Changes/reductions to our annual allocations, also with growth and new residents/meters that will mean more water produced and consumed each year were discussed. All of this means long term the District will need to purchase more water on an annual basis. Another consideration, due to the current climate, is that costs are increasing everywhere and the District will need to be proactive rather than reactive in order to anticipate these impacts. Any increase to rates require legal notifications to our customer's including public advertisements and a public hearing. Because of this added burden in cost and administration, staff recommends implementing a 5-year plan which was the recommendation in the Rate Study. There was further discussion regarding possible customer participation during this process as part of Finance/Budget Committee.

VIII. **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Approve changing start time for Board of Director's monthly meeting on the third Thursday of each month from 6:00pm to 5:00pm. Note: any meeting that could generate public attendance will be scheduled for 6:00pm to accommodate/encourage public attendance.
Motion by Jason Chormicle; Second by Waldo Stakes; All in favor 4, All Opposed, 0;
Motion Passed 4/0.
- Approve engagement of new law firm Wesierski & Zurek LLP; retaining long-time attorney Arto Nuutinen JRCWD as District Counsel. Motion by Jason Chormicle; Second by Charlene Greiner; All in favor 4, All Opposed, 0; Motion Passed 4/0.
- Approve expenditure for Well No. 02 in the amount of \$18,000 for new Gould's submersible pump, Franklin 20HP motor, 930 LF submersible cable, and 3/4" Sch 40 flush thread air tube. Lorrie Steely discussed the cost to replace the pump and motor during the time that NV-5 has already paid the cost of the labor to have the equipment removed during the profiling process. In this case, the District would pay material costs only. Estimated savings for labor costs; \$15,000. In addition, there is a very good possibility this cost may be reimbursable and will depend upon cumulative total expenditure for our IRWM Project Grant.
Motion by Jason Chormicle; Second by Charlene Greiner; All in favor 4, All Opposed, 0;
Motion Passed 4/0.

- IX. **ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn the April Board of Directors Meeting; Motion by Jason Chormicle; Second by Charlene Greiner; All in favor 4, All Opposed, 0; Motion Passed 4/0.

Approved:


Board Secretary, Lorrie L. Steely

05.19.2022