

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

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Thursday February 17, 2022 6:00 PM  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**Board of Directors: ALL PRESENT**  
**Erin D’Orio, President**  
**Jason Chormicle, Vice-President**  
**Charlene Grenier**  
**Daniel Taylor**  
**Waldo Stakes**

**Staff: PRESENT**  
**Lorrie Steely, General Manager**  
**Carol Stubblefield, Clerk**

**ABSENT:**  
**Lee Logsdon, Director of Operations**

**I. CALL TO ORDER/FLAG SALUTE**

6:00pm, The meeting was called to order and the flag salute was led by Erin D’Orio.

**II. ROLL CALL / ANNOUNCEMENT OF RECORDED MEETING:** Roll call was taken by Erin D’Orio.

All Directors were present. Staff present were Lorrie Steely and Carol Stubblefield, Lee Logsdon was absent.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There was no public present at the meeting.

**IV. APPROVE MEETING MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING:**

Board discussion; Waldo Stakes asked about new Board officer positions, Lorrie Steely stated not necessary to swear in new officer positions. Charlene Grenier stated she was not on the Budget committee in 2021 as stated in the January minutes.

**MOTION TO APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 20TH 2022, WITH REVISION THAT CHARLENE GRENIER DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE 2021 BUDGET COMMITTEE. MOTION BY JASON CHORMICLE, SECOND BY DANIEL TAYLOR ALL IN FAVOR (5); ALL OPPOSED (0); MOTION PASSES 5-0**

**V. APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT INCLUDING MONTHLY OPERATING EXPENSES:**

Erin D’Orio asked about the printer, and recommended possibility of looking into a new printer. Lorrie Steely discussed accounts that are still open at Citizens Business Bank, one account is for the bond and one account is where taxes are received via ACH from the County, we closed general checking account. Now the District has 3 accounts at First Foundation Bank, we receive our statements on time it seems to be better. There was a general discussion on the profit and loss sheet; regarding bank charges, vehicles, and miscellaneous fees.

**MOTION TO APPROVE FINANCIAL REPORT INCLUDING MONTHLY OPERATING EXPENSES MOTION BY CHARLENE GRENIER, SECOND BY DANIEL TAYLOR ALL IN FAVOR (5); ALL OPPOSED (0); MOTION PASSES 5-0**

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

- Water System Operations Update – Lee Logsdon

**+ Equipment update:** Dump Truck is running and road worthy. Replaced all 6 tires, and 4 old rims for safety purposes. Ready again for system infrastructure and road maintenance.

Lorrie Steely discussed status of the dump truck, replaced all 6 tires, and 4 rims last month, she requested cost before having it added to the insurance, waiting on an answer. Truck is exempt from registration, just have to finish working on brakes and it is ready to go.

**+ Overall System update:** Two leaks that were temporarily repaired in January were permanently repaired by High Desert Underground. Will be scheduling flushing hydrants in the next few months. Lorrie Steely provided an update stating the District temporarily fixed two small leaks and High Desert Underground fixed them permanently. Staff is scheduling flushing the hydrants in the next few months. Also, discussed that asphalt grindings were purchased from a local resident for use on road. General discussion regarding the best method to cover the district main roads, Lorrie Steely will ask some contractors for recommendations. District is looking cost of having a fuel tank at the water district office.

**+ Clean-out Storm Drains & Culverts:** Staff recommends making use of our equipment and cleaning out accumulated debris/ dirt from storm drain culverts intended to divert water and prevent eroding the road-cover over the District's infrastructure. There are 22 miles of pipeline within the District, and much of that is in areas prone to wash-out. Regular maintenance will help prevent infrastructure exposure & potential damage long term. Lorrie Steely discussed need to clean out culverts and storm drains, has not been done since 1993. ErinD'Orio mentioned we need to reimburse for fuel if we use any personal equipment. Waldo Stakes recommended that staff could prioritize locations within the District that need the most attention and work from that.

- **District Business Update:**

- + IRWMP Grant Update:**

- Lorrie Steely stated this funding is the MWA grant money, includes work for profiling of Well No. 03 and rebuilding PRV Stations and that we received an email from the State confirming the funding is in the works. Coachella Valley Water District will act as the administrator for the grant, and they will issue a contact to the District when the funding from the State is approved.

- + State Water Resources Control Board Grant:** Lorrie Steely stated at the Small Water Systems Committee meeting the group was told that these grants were approved to move along, and are now in the review process. We can expect that we will get at least one generator because the District was added to the priority list by Hector from State Control Board.

- + SAFER Grant: Preliminary Engineering Report draft currently under review.** Lorrie Steely stated this is the grant that our engineer, NV-5 is working on and that Lee Logsdon is currently reviewing their recommendations. He will get his comments back to Lorrie and she will provide in writing back to the team before the next conference call on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

- + Annual Water Production:** Discuss the annual Water Production Verification process. The District used 74-acre feet in water year 2020-21 which makes our replacement obligation for the Water Year 48-acre feet corrected from 65-acre feet. Lorrie Steely shared a handout regarding the history of the adjudication, explained the District's allocation, what it means and why there is a line-item for replacement water assessment in the Budget. The Board discussed the letter from Watermaster and the purchase of replacement water. Lorrie Steely stated she has negotiated purchasing water for \$40 per acre foot, and recommended the District purchase an extra 48 acre feet as a pre-purchase for the next year, suggests we can do that on a regular basis. Daniel Taylor asked if we could acquire an agreement to buy water for up to 10 years. Lorrie Steely stated that we can try to ask, but mentioned it may not be likely and stated District should encourage residents to save water and conserve. Lorrie Steely stated the District could request staff from Mojave Water Agency come to the District and explain the adjudication in the future.

- + Marijuana issues and water consumption update:** The Board had a general discussion regarding the issue of marijuana growers, Waldo Stakes mentioned putting warning sign in the District that the water is not for marijuana growers, include the phone number where to make report. If they see something, say something. In the summer last year, the District put five locks on the most remote hydrants, we need to put locks on the few other hydrants in the outer perimeter of the District.

- + Discuss possibility of adding future new operations position;** Lorrie Steely stated there is a real need for maintenance work that should be done, and has not been since Jay Moore was alive and working at the District. Discussed adding a future operations position and adding that line-item to the Budget for the next fiscal year.

VII. ACTION ITEMS:

- Approve the 2019-2020 Annual Fiscal Audit by Messner & Hadley, LLP  
**MOTION BY DANIEL TAYLOR, SECOND BY JASON CHORMICLE  
ALL IN FAVOR (5), ALL OPPOSED (0) MOTION PASSES 5-0**
- Approve the 2020-2021 Annual Fiscal Audit by Messner & Hadley, LLP  
**MOTION BY JASON CHORMICLE, SECOND BY CHARLENE GRENIER  
ALL IN FAVOR (5) ALL OPPOSED (0) MOTION PASSES 5-0**
- Approve compensating Peggy Einhorn with P&S Accounting for an additional \$4,000 for the work on the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Audits:  
Lorrie Steely discussed efforts by Peggy in preparing the documents for this Audit and hours Peggy worked; an estimated 120 manhours in November, stating this was her primary focus that month; an estimated 80 manhours in December and in January an estimated 40 hours, for a total of 240 manhours. If we were to figure that at an average of \$35 per hour, this effort could have easily cost the District up to \$8,400.  
**MOTION BY WALDO STAKES, SECOND BY CHARLENE GRENIER  
ALL IN FAVOR (5) ALL OPPOSED (0) MOTION PASSES 5-0**
- Annual Water Production of 74 acre-feet of water which our replacement obligation is 48 acre-feet, to be procured from Charles H. Bell Trust & Miguel & Maria Gaeta. Staff recommends buying additional 48 acre-feet for next water year for a total of 96 acre-feet.  
**MOTION BY JASON CHORMICLE, SECOND BY WALDO STAKES  
ALL IN FAVOR (5) ALL OPPOSED (0) MOTION PASSES 5-0**

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

- Staff is working on a grant for a Demonstration Garden from MWA Strategic Partnership.  
Lorrie Steely discussed she has been working on a grant in the amount of \$25,000 for a Demonstration Garden from MWA thru their Strategic Partnership, just waiting on a quote from a landscape company. The grant can also include a vegetable garden so she will be including that in the application.
- Discuss the State Drought Proclamation and recent Press Release.  
Lorrie Steely discussed a press release from the state regarding the drought. Since the District has to purchase more water and we are being ramped back, District needs to think about reminding residents to conserve. We can identify easy ways to conserve to share with residents. Discussed the service rates and the next year's budget, mentioned potential rate increase to help offset costs.
- New property owner has requested water meter, discuss permitted County Land Uses:  
Lorrie Steely discussed land use issues and the District's Rules and Regulations. Stated additional information was requested from the County regarding some definitions, waiting on a return call, will discuss details with the attorney and report more report next month.
- Lorrie Steely discussed nomination by Chuck Bell (Mojave Desert Resource Conservation District) Dave Ribb (Mitsubishi Cement) and Richard Selby (Cal Rural Water Association) to the WaterMaster's Este Sub-Advisory Committee. Stated she was also invited to participate as a member of the Small Water Systems Committee. Discussed the value of networking.
- Lorrie Steely discussed the annual State Water Expo occurring April 25 – 28 in Tahoe and discussed attending the event.
- Erin D'Orio discussed replacing the District's printer, Lorrie Steely stated she would like to use the toner that was already purchased first.

- IX. **ADJOURN:** Motion to adjourn  
**MOTION BY JASON CHORMICLE, SECOND BY DANIEL TAYLOR  
ALL IN FAVOR (5) ALL OPPOSED (0) MOTION PASSES 5-0**

**MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 7:57PM**

Approved:

  
Board Secretary Lorrie I. Steely

03/17/2022