

Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency



Board of Directors

Judy Corl-Lorono, President
J. Dennis Staley, Vice President
Terry Burkhart, Secretary
Michael McBride, Director
J. Larry Coulombe, Director

Marina D West, PG, General Manager

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A Public Agency

www.bdvwa.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

BOARD MEETING OFFICE
1720 N. Cherokee Trail, Landers, CA 92285
Tuesday, January 28, 2014 - 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting convened by Board President Michael McBride at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Susie Johnson

ROLL CALL

Directors Present: Judy Corl-Lorono
J. Dennis Staley
Terry Burkhart
Michael McBride
J. Larry Coulombe

Staff Present: Marina West
Michelle Corbin

Guests: 40

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda.

MSC¹ (Staley/Corl-Lorono) unanimously approved.

CSA 70/W-1 REORGANIZATION

General Manger West addressed the Board of Directors and approximately 40 members of the public consisting of both Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency customers and CSA 70/W-1 Landers area customers.

GM West went over her proposal on the possible merger of the two entities. Items within the proposal included budgets, water rates, property taxes and the debt service of each entity (ie, Bighorn Mountains, Desert View and County Service Area W-1 Landers).

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), the group that will oversee the merger has suggested the proposed budget be very conservative. GM West budgeted on 80% of actual customers paying, 80% of water actually produced, three additional full time staff members and she obtained tax increments from the tax assessor. Based upon this information GM West concluded there will be a surplus each year to fund major repairs and refurbishment.

GM West reminded the audience that Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency (BDVWA) can operate under its existing rate structure and maintain a healthy reserve for now but future rate increases are inevitable. There is much closer oversight of the BDVWA by the community compared to County Special Districts. West also stated BDVWA understands it serves a disadvantaged community and acknowledged how our customers must live within their personal budgets and so should the water company that serves them.

Since the CSA 70/W-1 rate increase last year, several of their customers have approached BDVWA inquiring about a possible merger into BDVWA. This community has a right to initiate a merger however the community is not likely to be able to raise the funds to proceed. Based on the number of signatures, calls and emails from CSA 70/W-1 customers (780) and the BDVWA Board of Directors interest in the merger, the request to proceed and fund the initiation of the application to LAFCO is before the Board this evening.

Each member of the public was invited to give their public comment. Questions and comments ranged from:

What will be the yearly cost for the maintenance of the system?

What cost is BDVWA inheriting?

Why is CSA 70/W-1 raising their rates?

What will happen when the bonds for CSA 70/W-1 expire?

General Manager West addressed each question and concern to the satisfaction of the audience.

Adjourned for a Break at 7:04 p.m. - Reconvened from Break at 7:18 p.m.

MOTION NO. 14-001

(After brief Board discussion), Director Burkhart made a motion to authorize staff to initiate an application for the dissolution of County Service Area 70/Zone W-1 (Goat Mountain/Landers); and establish an initial project budget of \$41,000 from unrestricted reserves for expenses outlined in the staff report; and authorize execution of Agreement with Stanley R. Hoffman, Associates in the amount of \$9,500 plus a 10% contingency. Vice President Corl-Lorono seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:	Coulombe, Staley, Burkhart, Corl-Lorono, McBride
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

MSC¹ (Burkhart/Corl-Lorono) unanimously approved.

BOARD TO APPOINT A PRESIDENT

No public comment.

MOTION NO. 14-002

(After brief Board discussion), Director Burkhart made a motion to nominate Director Judy Corl-Lorono as President of the BDVWA Board of Directors. The motion was seconded by Director Coulombe.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:	Staley, Coulombe, Burkhart, Corl-Lorono, McBride
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

MSC¹ (Burkhart/Coulombe) unanimously approved.

BOARD TO APPOINT A VICE PRESIDENT

No public comment.

MOTION NO. 14-003

(After brief Board discussion), Director Burkhart made a motion to nominate Director Dennis Staley for Vice-President of the BDVWA Board of Directors. Director McBride seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:	Burkhart, Corl-Lorono, McBride, Coulombe
Nayes:	None
Abstain:	Staley
Absent:	None

MSC¹ (Burkhart/McBride) motion carried.

BOARD TO APPOINT A SECRETARY

No public comment.

MOTION NO. 14-004

(After brief Board discussion), Director Staley made a motion to nominate Director Burkhart for Secretary of the BDVWA Board of Directors. Director McBride seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:	Coulombe, Burkhart, Staley, Corl-Lorono, McBride
Nayes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

MSC¹ (Staley/McBride) unanimously approved.

BOARD TO APPOINT A DISTRICT ENGINEER

General Manager West gave the staff report summarizing that Krieger and Stewart, Inc. has recently terminated its role as District Engineer. She will work with the Planning Legislative Engineering and Grants Committee to decide on how to proceed with future engineer needs. For the time being the Agency will contract work with smaller firms saving the Agency money.

No public comment.

MOTION NO. 14-005

(After brief Board discussion), After Board discussion, Director Burkhart made a motion to appoint General Manager Marina West as District Engineer. The motion was seconded by Director McBride.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes:	McBride, Burkhart, Staley, Coulombe, Corl-Lorono
Nayes:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

MSC¹ (Burkhart/McBride) unanimously approved.

SCHEDULING OF BOARD WORKSHOP FOR FEBRUARY 2014

The Board agreed to set the date for Saturday, February 22, 2014 at 10:00 a.m..

DISBURSEMENTS OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2013

No public comments

MOTION NO. 14-006

Director Burkhart made a motion to approve the Disbursements (Check Register - Payment of Bills) for October, November and December 2013. Director McBride seconded the motion.

MSC¹ (Burkhart/McBride) unanimously approved.

CONSENT ITEMS

- a. Financial Statements October, November and December 2013
 1. Balance Sheet
 2. Statement of Revenue and Expense
 3. General Account (Union Bank)
 4. Disbursements
 5. Local Agency Investment Fund Balance Timeline
- b. Service Order Report, November and December 2013
- c. Production Report, November and December 2013
- d. Special Board Meeting Minutes, November 19, 2013
- e. Authorize staff execute a purchase order with Nelson Heating and Air in accordance with their proposal dated December 16, 2013 in an amount not to exceed \$7,900.

No Public comment.

MOTION NO. 14-007

Director McBride made a motion to approve consent items a - e. The motion was seconded by Director Burkhart.

MSC¹ (McBride/Burkhart) unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

John Burkhart, of Johnson Valley, stated how he found it very encouraging to witness the public input this evening.

Bob Karmen of Yucca Mesa commented on how well General Manager West communicates to the public.

Anonymous stated he was glad to be part of a community that can come together.

VERBAL REPORTS

General Manager West reminded the Board and public that Senator Jean Fuller will be visiting soon for a meet and greet. The public is welcome. West also thanked the people that helped complete the Desert-Wise Landscape Garden at the Landers Post Office.

Director Staley expressed his happiness with the new garden and also thanked those that contributed towards its completion.

Director Coulombe reported on the Symposium on Renewable Energy he had recently attended.

Director Burkhart also commented on the Symposium on Renewable Energy she has also attended.

Director McBride commented on how interesting he found the Morongo Basin Conservation Association symposium on renewable energy.

President Corl-Lorono reported on the Homestead Valley Community Council meetings she had attended where they covered the base expansion, area maps for recreational shooting, the new emergency medical technicians for the area and the proposed Dollar General store in Flamingo Heights.

President Corl-Lorono also reported on the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation meeting, the Joint Powers Insurance Authority Board Meeting and the Association of California Water Agency conference.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items will include committee appointments and CSA 70/W-1.

ADJOURNMENT - President Corl-Lorono adjourned the meeting at 830 p.m.

Approved by:


Terry Byrkhart, Secretary of the Board

MSC¹ – Motion made, seconded, and carried.