

# Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency



## Board of Directors

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

Marina D West, PG, General Manager

A Public Agency

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## Board of Directors' Special Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Office  
1720 N. Cherokee Trail, Landers, CA 92285  
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.

### Call to Order

Meeting convened by Board President J. Larry Coulombe at 6:00 p.m.

### Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Mr. Edwards

### Roll Call

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

Staff Present: Marina West  
Michelle Corbin

### Approval of Agenda

*Motion to approve the agenda.*

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Staley/Corl-Lorono) unanimously approved.

### Five Year Budget Review

General Manager West reviewed the five year budget. The budget was included with the Plan for Services given to the Local Agency Formation Commission during the annexation process. In order to keep the Agency within ten percent revenue over expenses a rate increase may be necessary. The projected rate increase is proposed to go from \$3.00 to \$3.10 per every 100 cubic feet of water (3%) and the basic service charge would increase from \$27.50 to \$28.05 per month (2%). The general tax revenue is proposed to go up approximately one percent per year. GM West reiterated the necessity to maintain annual cash flow into the fund for long-term capital refurbishment and replacement as well as annual unforeseen expenses. The final decision on any rate changes will follow the Prop 218 process and will be scheduled such that any rate increase would not become effective until the August 2016 billing cycle. Lastly, West reminded the Board that the Agency has not had a rate increase since 2008.

Public comments:

Anonymous asked for clarification of the debts identified on the property tax bills.

Anonymous commented on properties that are agricultural.

### **Platinum Consulting Group Proposal**

General Manager West gave a brief update on the purpose for contracting the assistance of the Platinum Consulting Group. West also reviewed the accounting services this company will provide the Agency. West introduced Cindy Byerrum of Platinum Consulting Group who was available for questions.

No public comment.

### **Motion No. 16-008**

*(After brief Board discussion), Vice President McBride made a motion to Authorize General Manager to execute Task Order with Platinum Consulting Group for various accounting services on a time and materials basis not-to exceed \$25,000. The motion was seconded by Director Burkhart.*

MSC<sup>1</sup> (McBride/Burkhart) unanimously approved.

### **Ames/Reche "Native Carry-Over" Water Account and Formation of Ad Hoc Committee**

General Manager West gave the staff report. West reviewed water purchased from the State Water Project. West stated this water is kept on the books indefinitely. Each producer in the agreement has a baseline and a pumping cap. Should an agency over-pump, they would be required to purchase water to make up for the amount of water over-pumped. Native water can only be carried over for up to two years. All accounts are based on a Fiscal Year calendar beginning July 1.

West reviewed with the Board, discussions she has had with Hi-Desert Water District. Hi-Desert Water District is interested in purchasing water from Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency. Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency has "native carry-over" water that will be lost to storage in the current fiscal year if it cannot be transferred. Therefore, 375 Acre-Ft is available for sale to Hi-Desert Water. Another 435 Acre-Ft is available until July 1, 2017.

West is recommending formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to assist GM West with final terms and conditions of any water transfer. She recommended President Coulombe and Vice President McBride be appointed.

Public comment:

Anonymous asked for clarification of the definition of "Native Water".

Anonymous commented on the inter-tie between Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency and Hi-Desert Water District.

Anonymous commented on the cost involved with water banking.

### **Motion No. 16-009**

*(After brief Board discussion), Director Corl-Lorono made a motion to authorize General Manager to negotiate for the exchange/sale of "native carry-over" water from the Ames/Reche Groundwater Storage Bank, and to authorize creation of an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of President Coulombe and Vice President McBride to assist General Manager in determining final terms and conditions for exchange/sale of "native carry-over" water. The motion was seconded by Director Staley.*

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Corl-Lorono/Staley)

Coulombe: Y

McBride: Y

Corl-Lorono: Y

Staley: Y

Burkhart: Y

Adjourned for a Break at 6:50 p.m. - Reconvened from Break at 7:02 p.m.

**NV5 Task Order to Evaluate Well Pump Efficiencies and Prepare a Capital Improvement Plan Recommending Future Upgrades to Pumping Units at a Cost Not-to-Exceed \$39,156**

General Manager West reviewed the scope of work that would be completed by NV5. West stated NV5 was selected because they have been “pre-vetted” as a “Preferred Provider” through California Rural Water Association.

No public comment.

**Motion No. 16-010**

*(After brief Board discussion), Vice President McBride made a motion to authorize General Manager to execute Task Order No. 3 with NV5 for evaluation of well and pump efficiencies and to prepare Capital Improvement Plan in an amount not to exceed \$39,156. Director Burkhart seconded the motion.*

MSC<sup>1</sup> (McBride/Burkhart)

Coulombe: Y  
McBride: Y  
Corl-Lorono: Y  
Staley: Y  
Burkhart: Y

**Adoption of Board of Directors Handbook**

General Manager West gave a brief overview of the Board of Directors’ Handbook. The PLEGS (Planning, Legislative, Engineering Grant and Security) Committee has reviewed the Handbook and suggested it go to the full Board of Directors for adoption. West reminded the Board this Handbook has been a goal of the Board of Directors for some time and is also a requirement to receive the District of Distinction Award from the California Special Districts Association.

No public comment.

**Motion No. 16-011**

*(After brief Board discussion), After Board discussion, Director Corl-Lorono made a motion to adopt of Resolution 16R-01 adopting a Board of Directors Handbook for purposes of providing a comprehensive desktop reference for Board Members. The motion was seconded by Director Staley.*

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Corl-Lorono/Staley)

Coulombe: Y  
McBride: Y  
Corl-Lorono: Y  
Staley: Y  
Burkhart: Y

**High Desert Water Summit**

General Manager West gave the staff report.

No public comment.

**Motion No. 16-012**

*(After brief Board discussion), Director Burkhart made a motion to authorize attendance for the High Desert Water Summit April 13, 2016 at an estimated cost of \$125.76 per Director. Director McBride seconded the motion.*

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Burkhart/McBride)

Coulombe: Y  
McBride: Y  
Corl-Lorono: Y  
Staley: Y  
Burkhart: Y

**Consent Items**

- a. Improvement District Goat Mtn. Restricted/Unrestricted Account Summaries.
- b. Service Order Report, January 2016.
- c. Production Report, January 2016.
- d. Goat Mtn. Production Report, January 2016.
- e. Regular Board Meeting Minutes, January 26, 2016.

No Public comment.

**Motion No. 16-013**

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

MSC<sup>1</sup> (Burkhart/McBride)

Corl-Lorono: Y  
 Staley: Y  
 Burkhart: Y  
 McBride: Y  
 Coulombe: Y

**Matters Removed From Consent Calendar**

None

**Public Comment Period**

Daniel Nichols, of Landers, commented on solar power for the well pumps.

Anonymous commented on the Board Workshop.

Anonymous commented on battery storage systems for solar.

**Verbal Reports**


General Manager West reported on the Cash for Grass Program and the monies the Homestead Valley Park is expected to receive.

President Coulombe reported on the Alliance for Water Conservation (AWAC) meeting he had attended January 27, 2016. Director Coulombe also reported on the Municipal Advisory Council meeting February 15, 2016.

Director Staley reported on the Homestead Valley Community Council meeting he attended on February 15, 2016.

**Adjournment** – President Coulombe adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approved by:

  
 Judy Corl-Lorono, Secretary of the Board

MSC<sup>1</sup> – Motion made, seconded, and carried.