



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING (WORKSHOP) MINUTES

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 9:00 AM

66575 Second St, Desert Hot Springs, CA AND/OR Via Teleconference

## CALL TO ORDER

President Sewell called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

## ROLL CALL

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** President Ivan Sewell; Vice President Robert Griffith, Director Russ Martin  
Director Amber Duff, Director Ted Mayrhofer

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brian Macy, Marion Champion, Kurt Kettenacker, Amanda Lucas, Carol Morin,  
Arthur Cabrera, April Scott, Dori Petee

## PUBLIC INPUT

No public input

## ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### CHROME VI REGULATION DISCUSSION

A recent State hearing set the limit for Chrome IV to 10 parts per billion. As a result, MSWD has welcomed a consultant to give us an update on how to proceed. Chad Sidel and Juliette Kaplan of Corona Environmental Consulting, LLC, presented to the Board.

On April 17, 2024, the California State Water Resources Control Board unanimously (5-0) approved finalizing 10 µg/L hexavalent chromium MCL. The regulation is expected to be in effect on October 1, 2024, with monitoring and compliance schedules dependent on the expected date. Mr. Sidel shared the proposed Resolution and reviewed the compliance schedule. A review of the timeline concluded with a compliance deadline of October 1, 2026. He reviewed the MSWD Well Cr6 levels and average results since 2014.

There was a lengthy discussion amongst the Board and the consultant.

Gerald McKenna, a DWA Board member and DHS resident, addressed the Board. He noted that the opinions he expressed here today are his own and not those of DWA or its Board of Directors. He asked for transparency from the District moving forward. He made claims of higher Chrome VI levels in his home, which were immediately disputed by staff. He suggested we work with other valley agencies to share solutions and involve the community as well.

### FY 2024/25 BUDGET

#### A. Administration Building Repairs

Danny Friend shared a presentation with the Board that outlined the history of the building repairs. In 2022 the cost of building repairs was \$74,995. The 2024 costs to repair are closer to \$95,000. He noted the reasons we didn't move forward in the past. There was a brief discussion amongst the Board. The Board gave a consensus on fixing the insulation in certain areas, but no drywall repair will occur.

The conversation moved to replacing the fencing around the demonstration garden between the annex and the administration building. This action would cost between \$11,000 - \$22,000 and may add an additional layer of security. The Board didn't feel like there were substantial security issues to move forward with the fence, but they discussed additional signage around that area.

**B. Employee Requests**

Oriana Hoffert presented the employee requests for the Board's consideration. She reviewed the history and procedure and then presented the current requests. She presented all of the requests made at the March 7th employee meeting and then presented the requests evaluated by the executive team. The requests before the Board today are a cost-of-living increase and an increase in standby holiday pay. The direction from the Board was to move forward with these requests.

**C. Electric Vehicle Update**

This update will be pushed to the May workshop.

**D. Affiliation List Update**

The Assistant General Manager presented the updates to the Affiliation List. Staff is requesting more specific details on the list under each approved Board function. The approved function should be a Board decision, not a staff decision.

**FIXED WATER CHARGES AND PROPERTY TAXES**

This item will be pushed to the May workshop.

**BOARD HANDBOOK UPDATES**

The Assistant General Manager presented the handbook with redline edits. Those edits include the Strategic Plan updates to Sections 3.01 and 3.02. Additionally, language about the Leadership Academy was added to Section 4.01. Changes stem from comments made at recent Board meetings. The Board was strongly encouraged to send any additional comments or changes to the General Manager.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

General Manager Macy thanked the Board for today's conversation.

**DIRECTORS' COMMENTS****A. Director General Comments**

Director Mayrhofen noted he has lived here for 50 years, and every time he has asked a Director in the past, he was directed to ask an engineer. He noted he never participated in Board meetings previously because he felt he would not get any straight answers, and now that he is on the Board, he feels nothing has changed.

Director Duff noted that it was brought to her attention that the City Manager overrode an occupancy issue on one of our plumbing/development plans. She encouraged us to talk to legal and find out what we need to do to make sure that the City is aware that they do not have that kind of authority.

**B. Director Requests for Future Agenda Items****ADJOURN**

With no further business, President Sewell adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dori Petee  
Executive Assistant