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Satisfying our Community's
Water Needs

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MESA WATER DISTRICT
Wednesday, December 11, 2024
1965 Placentia Avenue, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
4:30 p.m. Regular Board Meeting**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by President DePasquale.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Director Fisler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Directors Present

Marice H. DePasquale, President
Shawn Dewane, Vice President *(teleconference, disconnected at 4:38 p.m.)*
Jim Atkinson, Director
James R. Fisler, Director

Directors Absent

Fred R. Bockmiller, P.E., Director

Staff Present

Paul E. Shoenberger, P.E., General Manager
Denise Khalifa, Chief Administrative Officer/
District Secretary
Marwan Khalifa, CPA, MBA, Chief Financial Officer/
District Treasurer
Andrew D. Wiesner, P.E., District Engineer
Tyler Jernigan, Water Operations Manager
Stacy Taylor, Water Policy Manager
Kurt Lind, Business Administrator
Kaitlyn Norris, Public Affairs Specialist
Rob Anslow, Partner, Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo

Others Present

Emily Owens-Bennett, P.E. BCEE, Drinking Water Lead, Trussell Technologies, Inc.
David Martinez, City of Costa Mesa Commissioner, Division 5

District Secretary Khalifa stated one Mesa Water Director was attending the meeting via teleconference.

For each action, a roll call vote was taken in accordance with California Government Code Section 54953(b)(2) which states, "all votes taken during a teleconferenced meeting shall be by roll call."

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President DePasquale asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

There were no comments and President DePasquale proceeded with the meeting.

ITEMS TO BE ADDED, REMOVED OR REORDERED ON THE AGENDA

General Manager Shoenberger reported that there were no items to be added, removed or reordered on the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS:

1. Approve minutes of adjourned regular Board meeting of October 29, 2024.
2. Approve minutes of regular Board meeting of November 13, 2024.
3. Approve attendance considerations (additions, changes, deletions).
4. Board Schedule:
 - Conferences, Seminars and Meetings
 - Board Calendar
 - Upcoming Community Outreach Events
5. Receive and file the Developer Project Status Report.
6. Receive and file the Mesa Water and Other Agency Projects Status Report.
7. Receive and file the Water Quality Call Report.
8. Receive and file the Outreach Update.
9. Receive and file the Accounts Paid Listing.
10. Receive and file the Monthly Financial Reports.
11. Confirm the Board of Directors’ Regular Board Meeting schedule for Calendar Year 2025 and cancel the May 14, 2025, November 26, 2025 and December 24, 2025 Board of Directors’ Meetings.
12. Approve a proclamation honoring Marek Pelka for his dedicated and committed service to Mesa Water District.

Director Fisler requested to pull Item 12. There were no objections.

MOTION

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Director Fisler, to approve Items 1 – 11 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 4 – 1, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	Bockmiller

Item 12 – Approve a proclamation honoring Marek Pelka for his dedicated and committed service to Mesa Water District.

Director Fisler offered comments on Mr. Pelka’s contributions and dedicated service to Mesa Water District.

MOTION

Motion by Director Fisler, second by Director Atkinson, to approve Item 12 of the Consent Calendar. Motion passed 4 – 1, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Fisler, Dewane, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	Bockmiller

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS:

13. FREE CHLORINE CONVERSION EFFICACY:

Water Operations Manager Jernigan introduced Trussell Technologies, Inc. Drinking Water Lead Emily Owens-Bennett who proceeded with a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Nitrification Mitigation Strategies
- Free Chlorine Conversion
- Free Chlorine Conversion Results
- Conclusions

Ms. Owens-Bennett responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the presentation.

14. REQUESTS FOR WILL-SERVE LETTERS:

District Engineer Wiesner provided a presentation that highlighted the following:

- 220 – 236 Victoria Street
- 960 W. 16th Street
- 3150 Bear Street

Mr. Wiesner responded to questions from the Board and they thanked him for the presentation.

15. SOCIAL MEDIA CONSULTING SERVICES:

Public Affairs Specialist Norris provided a presentation that highlighted the following:

- Purpose and Overview
- Campaigns
- YouTube Ad
- YouTube – Campaign Summary
- Key Learnings: YouTube
- Next Steps: YouTube
- Instagram – Campaign Summary
- Key Learnings: Instagram
- Next Steps: Instagram
- Questions

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Ms. Norris responded to questions from the Board and they thanked her for the presentation.

MOTION

Motion by President DePasquale, second by Director Atkinson, to approve a three-month contract extension with Westbound Communications for \$30,000 to provide Social Media Consulting Services. Motion passed 3 – 2, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Fislser, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	Bockmiller, Dewane

ACTION ITEMS:

16. CHANDLER & CRODDY WELLS AND PIPELINE PROJECT:

MOTION

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Director Fislser, to approve a contract amendment to Butier Engineering, Inc.'s On-Call Professional Construction Management and Inspection Services for an amount not to exceed \$150,000 for continued Construction Management and Inspection Services for the Chandler & Croddy Wells and Pipeline Project. Motion passed 3 – 2, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Fislser, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	Bockmiller, Dewane

17. PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONSULTING SERVICES:

MOTION

Motion by President DePasquale, second by Director Atkinson, to approve a contract renewal with Brenda Deeley PR, LLC from January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025 for an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to provide Public Affairs Consulting Services. Motion passed 3 – 2, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Fislser, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	Bockmiller, Dewane

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18. SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL SERVICES:

MOTION

Motion by Director Atkinson, second by Director Fisler, to approve legal fees to Meyers Nave, A Professional Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$20,000 to provide Special Legal Counsel Services regarding *Irvine Ranch Water District v. Orange County Water District*. Motion passed 3 – 2, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	DIRECTORS	Atkinson, Fisler, DePasquale
NOES:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSTAIN:	DIRECTORS	None
ABSENT:	DIRECTORS	Bockmiller, Dewane

REPORTS:

- 19. REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER
 - November Key Indicators Report
- 20. DIRECTORS' REPORTS AND COMMENTS

INFORMATION ITEMS:

- 21. CUSTOMER INFORMATION SYSTEM UPDATE
- 22. FEDERAL ADVOCACY UPDATE
- 23. STATE ADVOCACY UPDATE
- 24. ORANGE COUNTY UPDATE
- 25. DIRECTORS' REPORTS (AB 1234) PER CA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 53232.3(D)

President DePasquale announced the Board was going into Closed Session at 5:28 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION:

- 26. CONFERENCE WITH GENERAL LEGAL COUNSEL – PENDING LITIGATION:
Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(4) and 54954.5(b)
Number of Cases: 1
Ferreira Construction Co. Inc. v. Mesa Water District, et al

The Board returned to Open Session at 5:32 p.m.

Attorney Anslow announced the Board conducted one Closed Session with the General Manager, District Secretary, District Engineer and General Legal Counsel regarding Government Code Sections 54956.9(d)(4) and 54954.5(b).

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The Board received information and there was no further announcement.

President DePasquale adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m. to a Regular Board Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

Marice H. DePasquale

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Marice H. DePasquale, President

Signed by:

Denise Khalifa

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Denise Khalifa, District Secretary

Recording Secretary: Sharon D. Brimer