

BWC Meeting Notes

Agenda and Goals

- The acting facilitator opened the meeting, and reviewed agenda items:
 - Knowledge Sharing; update all members on their understanding of recent activities/ events.
 - Further develop shared-costs financing concept for GSP.
 - Develop a “Representative Committee” for BWC to work/negotiate with BWD and County to support BWC’s requirements for participating in GSP development and implementation. Continue to develop these requirements.
 - Further develop common understanding for approach to water use and future allocation approach.
 - Define approach and ownership for next steps.
- Prior to the meeting, seven items were distributed to members via email, and made available on the dropbox. Two additional handouts were distributed in person at the meeting.

General Updates

- Action Items from previous meetings were reviewed. Reference complete Action Items list on **Page 4**. Members agreed that certain Action Items should remain “in progress” as ongoing topics for general update.
- Members also discussed recent community and professional events:
 - A member updated the group on the DWR groundwater basin boundary workshop, and members reviewed current BVGB boundary specifications. Any request to change the current boundary must be supported by geological data and be defensible; boundaries cannot be changed for purely political or administrative reasons.
 - Members discussed the recent lecture by Dr. Jay Famiglietti on groundwater.

Drought Emergency Reduction Response

- A member reviewed a handout and fact sheet explaining the April 1, 2015 Executive Order and 25% mandatory water reduction, and noted that all requests for exceptions to the Order have been rejected. Key details of the Emergency Order include:
 - The 25% reduction order applies to municipal users only. All commercial, industrial, and institutional well users must be prepared to report their use.
 - The baseline is June-November 2013. Because Borrego is a smaller district, the BWD will report in December (rather than monthly) and can report aggregate use. If Borrego does not meet the mark in December, there will be a yet-to-be-specified penalty. Preliminary review shows rate payers have already reduced 10%, and the BWD has the ability

to raise rates as needed. The BWD hopes to opt for a more moderate course and encourage voluntary conservation.

- A 25% reduction in water sales from the BWD is also a 25% reduction in water income. The BWD will discuss this issue at their next two meetings in May.
- It is very important that the Emergency Order not derail the community from its ability to address the groundwater overdraft.
- A member shared a list of recommendations for reducing household water use. Members discussed further ideas for conservation, and plans for contacting academic and horticultural experts working with similar desert climates for further suggestions. Key points include:
 - Much of Borrego's municipal water use goes to landscaping. Making changes to make lawns more drought-friendly should be encouraged, but homeowners and landscapers need resources in both English and Spanish to do so.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Members** to research existing resources and certification/knowledge sharing courses for homeowners and landscapers in nearby water districts.

Financing Options for GSP

- This agenda item continues a discussion from the previous meeting, where members considered a variety of suggested options for funding GSP development. Members discussed a few points of clarification for the suggested funding options:
 - It is in Borrego's interest to take action sooner, and take advantage of consultants that already have experience in the Valley.
 - Numbers provided in the slide deck are provisional.
- Discussion on funding options followed:
 - Community members contributing funds (including the BWC) should have input as to how those funds are spent for planning and implementation.
 - Estimates in the slide deck do not include alternate funding sources (such as grants) because these sources are not reliable.
 - The BWC would like to support a blended proportional share option, pending further details.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Member** to draft internal letter for **All Members** to review, summarizing the discussion that the BWC is supportive of the concept of a blended proportional share model, with details regarding proportional breakdown, cost, etc. to follow. Feedback will be sought as to whether this letter of support is sufficient for now.
- Members discussed potential stakeholder groups for GSP formation, and whether agencies like private water companies (which are not currently covered by the BWD) will be folded in during the GSP process.

“Representative Committee” Selection

- A Member presented a summary document distributed via email. The purpose of the Representative Committee is to create a sub-committee to work directly with the BWD and San Diego County in negotiations. This committee will likely be covered by the Brown Act. The full BWC could still meet privately, the the sub-committee’s meetings with other agencies would be public.
- The acting facilitator shared a list of members who received the most nominations, and the Representative Committee was confirmed.
- **ACTION ITEM: Member** will draft a letter to the BWD and San Diego County to introduce the Representative Committee.

BWC Needs and Positioning

- A Member opened the discussion for BWC to consider their charter and/or role at the table going forward, and what the group will need to be successful in that role. This will feed in to the BWC’s prospective relationship with the BWD and County. Potential roles are: thought leaders representing different voices in the Valley, problem solvers, stakeholder group representatives, etc.
- Members discussed this issue:
 - There is a need to keep agriculture involved so that they do not feel the need to pursue their legal interests on their own.
 - Some members suggested a role as a technical committee/group with technical experience, capable of hashing out questions.
 - While the Representative Committee and the BWC will have relationship with the County, their real relationship is with the BWD.
 - Members considered requesting an MOU with the BWD for recognition as a sub-committee or advisory committee.
 - A member suggested that the BWC think of itself as an “advisory” or “policy” committee, which would work with a technical committee of engineers and geologists. This role could potentially be written in to the GSP process.
- Members assessed potential stakeholders who are not yet represented in the GSP process or on the BWC, such as individual pumpers and private utility companies like the Borrego Air Ranch. Members agreed that one role for the BWC is to join the process of keeping the community informed.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Members** to develop a plan to engage the Air Ranch water board, and investigate options for sponsoring a public service announcement in the Sun about SGMA regulations and the Emergency Order.
- Members considered other skills needed for the BWC to fulfill its desired role:

Thursday, May 7, 2015

- Issues such as air quality (as agricultural land is fallowed), land use, and the cost of removing trees and dust abatement have not yet been considered in depth. The economic impact of reduced water sales (to hotels, restaurants, etc.) has also not yet been studied.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** **Member** to ask if UCI can recommend an academic partner for potential economic issues that may occur as water availability goes down.
- A member noted that water importation and storage have not been under consideration for much of the BWC's process.
- It was suggested that the BWC provide guidance to the Representative Committee regarding which issues should be the focus, so that letters of support can be provided at opportune times.
- **ACTION ITEM:** (to be combined with earlier Action Item) **Member** to schedule the first meeting of the Representative Committee to occur before June 4th. **Member** will also email the BWC for input regarding Representative Committee priorities, so the Committee can begin developing their agenda items.

Technical Questions/Discussion of Water Usage Model

- A member reviewed ongoing work on the Water Usage Model, focusing on how much water is being wasted by runoff or evaporation and won't infiltrate back to the aquifer. Efficiencies of different irrigation methods have been incorporated in to the model, and the goal is to gather and tighten up assumptions about water use and efficiency. Further data can be used to fine tune the model as that data becomes available.
- Calculations, assumptions, and definitions are now included in the PDF of the model that was distributed prior to the meeting.
- Members discussed current status of tamarisk removal at various properties in town, and the impact of plants such as oleander on water usage.

Action Items Recap and Next Steps

- The list of action items was reviewed and updated.
- The next meeting dates are: June 4th, July 9th, August 6th (TBA).

Thursday, May 7, 2015

Attendance

Borrego Water District

Beth Hart, Board President
Jerry Rolwing, General Manager
Joe Tatusko, Board Member (alternate)

Agriculture

Ryan Hall, Borrego Farms (alternate)
Dennis Jensen, Oasis Ranch
Jim Seley, Seley Ranch
Mike Seley, Seley Ranch
Duane Young, Cocopah Nurseries

Recreation

Bill Berkley, Rams Hill Golf Course
Jim Moxham, Borrego Springs Resort (alternate)
Mark Vonarx, De Anza Country Club
Dan Wright, Roadrunner Club

Community & Tourism

Martha Deichler, Borrego Springs School District
Linda Haddock, Chamber of Commerce
Jim Wilson, Christmas Circle Park Foundation

Ecosystems

Ralph Singer, Anza-Borrego Foundation

University of California, Irvine

Emily Brooks, Doctoral Student