

Borrego Water Coalition Meeting Notes

March 7, 2013

ATTENDEES

Agricultural Users –	Dennis Jensen - Oasis Ranch Management Company Mike Seley – Seley Ranches Duane Young – Roadrunner Tree Farm David Bauer – Borrego Farms
Recreational Users -	Jim Wermers – De Anza Country Club Dan Wright – Road Runner Club Bill Berkley - Rams Hill Golf Course
BWD & District Ratepayers -	Beth Hart - President Borrego Water District Lyle Brecht – BWD Board Member Jerry Rolwing – BWD
School District -	Martha Deichler – Borrego Spring Unified School District
Public Space -	Jim Wilson - President of Board for Christmas Circle Park
Commercial Businesses -	Linda Haddock – Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
Watershed and Desert Ecosystems -	Kathy Dice – Anza Borrego State Park
CA Dept of Water Resources -	Tim Ross, Senior Engineering Geologist Brian Moniz, Senior Engineer, WR Laura Peters, Senior Engineer, WR

The Borrego Water Coalition (BWC) met to discuss how they were going to work together towards collaborative solutions to the water issues in the Borrego Valley. Below is a summary of the discussion:

Consensus Items

- Add meeting attendees and organizations to the notes.
- Everyone supports the format of the notes.
- Representatives from the Anza Borrego Foundation and La Casa Del Zorro will be invited to participate as members of the BWC. Existing members will brief these two representatives on information discussed to date prior to the next meeting.
- Decisions will be made based on agreement of 2/3 of the voting membership of the Coalition at the time of the vote.

The group discussed what brought them together and agreed upon the following:

Preamble: The consequential risks of dewatering the basin may include deleterious impacts to the Park, loss of economic growth opportunities, reductions of recreational alternatives, collapse if real estate values, and loss of agricultural productivity; with the ultimate loss of our vibrant community.

Mission: Develop recommendation for establishing a plan for managing the basin.

Vision: Water for the future!

Goal: To establish a collaborative, inclusive, transparent, and robust planning process for managing the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin that has the resilience to productively contribute to a positive future for Borrego Valley.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The group began working on the draft MOU. It was agreed that the purpose of the MOU is to assure that everyone is on the same page, and is committed to working toward an identified common goal. Topics discussed include:

- BWC is not here to deliberate water rights and responsibilities; it is here to make recommendations.
- Participants at the table need to be active contributors and not just observe the process.
- Several options will need to be reviewed as potential paths.
- An MOU is necessary to apply for professional facilitation to further the process.

Making decisions

- It is not good to assume that silence equals agreement or approval when decisions are made via email.
- Email good for distributing documents – not good for dialogue.
- If using email for a decision, then be very clear that a decision point is on the table and when the decision needs to be made.
- Though there are several representatives for some of the sectors, each member still counts as one vote.

Meeting quorum

- A quorum is the number people necessary for the meeting to make decisions.
- It was agreed by consensus that a quorum constitutes 2/3 majority of total membership rounded down, or 11 of 17 members at this time.
- Representatives are encouraged to find and send an informed alternate in their stead.
- Representatives may phone or Skype in to the meeting if necessary.
- If there is no quorum, topics can be discussed but no decisions can be made at that meeting

Preparing BWC documents

- Committees will be assigned when putting documents together.

Questions from the public

- The public needs to bring questions or concerns to their appropriate representative in the coalition.

Press Release

- Committee will draft a press release that is 1 page or less.
- Draft will be approved through coalition consensus.
- Final will be posted on the Chamber of Commerce and Borrego Water District website.
- BWD will incorporate into the town hall presentation.
- Group will prepare a Question/Answer sheet before the town hall presentation.

Action Items

- Committee will work on the assumptions of the MOU for review next meeting.
- Need to establish an RSVP process to determine if quorum is reached.
- Send out link to the IRWM guidelines
 - http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/Guidelines/GL_2012_FINAL.pdf
- Provide IRWM process for revising regional boundary.
- There will be no meeting in August.