

Borrego Water Coalition Meeting Notes

March 28, 2013 – 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

ATTENDEES

Agricultural Representatives –	Dennis Jensen - Oasis Ranch Management Company Jim Seley – AAWARE, Seley Ranches Mike Seley – Seley Ranches Duane Young – Roadrunner Tree Farm Ryan Hall - Borrego Farms
Recreational -	Jim Wermers – De Anza Country Club Dan Wright – Road Runner Club Bill Berkley - Rams Hill Golf Course
Resorts/Lodging	Derek Downey – La Casa del Zorro
BWD & District Ratepayers -	Beth Hart – President, BWD 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 Ralph Singer – Anza Borrego Foundation
CA Dept of Water Resources -	Tim Ross, Senior Engineering Geologist 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

- The following two members were added to the BWC:
 - Derek Downey - La Casa del Zorro
 - Ralph Singer – Anza Borrego Foundation
- When documents are routed for review and comment via email, the author of document will receive and incorporate all changes into a single document and send to group for final consensus.
- The Preamble, Vision, and Mission and Goals for the Coalition were accepted.
- Changes in the wording of the MOU will be incorporated and circulated as v10.
- Appendix C – Stakeholder Representation will be developed and circulated to the group for input.
- The March 7 meeting notes were adopted pending minor corrections.

Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Process and Funding

There was a discussion about the status of other IRWM regions and other potential DWR funding sources. If members of the group are interested in investigating these topics, it was suggested that the DWR website and the Roundtable of Regions would be good resources to explore.

If the group chooses to pursue IRWM implementation funds, and would like to revise the conditions of the Anza Borrego IRWM Region Acceptance Process, a letter from the Coalition will need to be prepared and sent to the chief of DWRs Division of Integrated Regional Water Management, Financial Assistance Branch, Tracie Billington, to request a change in focus or a phased regional focus. The executed MOU should be attached to the request.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The group reviewed the March 19, 2013 version of the MOU (v9) and agreed to several changes in wording. Some specific wording was discussed and some minor changes suggested and accepted:

- Page 1, Paragraph 1. – add as second sentence **“The BWC has attempted to create a working group that represents all constituencies in the valley.”** In the next sentence, the word **“economic”** was deleted.
- Page 1, paragraph 4, **“waving”** was changed to **“waiving”**.
- The first sentence of paragraph 2 of **“What comprises a “Managed Basin Plan?”** was changed to read: **“A deliberative body with the authority to enforce the negotiated plan: this enforcement authority is typically established either with legislation or through the courts.”**
- The basic task outline was revised as follows:
 - **Agree to MOU – June 30, 2013**
 - **Develop Roadmap that identifies options, actions, issues, time frames, milestones – November 7, 2013**
 - **Public Meeting to present and discuss Roadmap – November 14, 2013**
 - **Revised Roadmap (or plan) – February 27, 2014**
 - **Public Meeting – March 26, 2014**
 - **Adopt Final Plan (roadmap) – June 26, 2014**
- A bullet in Appendix A was changed to say **“If a member becomes unavailable to attend a meeting, or to continue in the BWC, he or she is expected to send a knowledgeable replacement.”**

Appendix C will be added to illustrate stakeholder representation and channels of communication.

The group is interested in exploring the use of electronic signatures for executing the MOU.

Facilitation Support

Some members are supportive of a professional facilitator to help navigate the expected difficult discussions ahead. The DWR facilitation process was explained including what information is required in

the application; specifically that the MOU must be executed and that it takes several months to put a facilitator in place.

Potential Options

AB3030 is legislation that allows local agencies to adopt and implement a groundwater management plan (GWMP) for the groundwater basin, or portion of a groundwater basin, located in their service area. BWD has an adopted GWMP, and the potential of using this authority to update the plan to manage the BVGB, was explored. A primary question posed was “Is there a means to enable the BWC to be the governing body for the District’s AB3030 authority? For example, could a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) carve-out for be accomplished that enables the BWC to have basin-planning responsibility under the District’s AB3030 basin management authority?”

Another option considered was the use of San Diego County’s authority to establish a groundwater ordinance for the BVGB that establishes the BWC as the planning body for the BVGB.

The group agreed to continue this discussion next meeting.

Action Items

- Jerry Rolwing will send contact for the Roundtable of Regions.
- Laura will send the announcement for the IRWM Strategic Plan Workshops to the group for site and date information.
- Mike will prepare draft Appendix C of MOU and Laura will incorporate, along with agreed upon modifications, and circulate for review.
- Bill will investigate the mechanics of using electronic signatures for circulating and signing the approved MOU.
- Laura will circulate the resume of a professional facilitator that could potentially work with the group.
- Derek, Jerry, Mike and Linda, or some combination thereof, will prepare the draft application for DWR facilitation services.
- Jerry will circulate the web link to BWD’s 2002 GWM plan that established the District as an AB3030 GWM authority.
- Laura will contact the Colorado River Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding their Salt and Nutrient Management Plans.