

# MEETING SUMMARY – DECEMBER 5, 2013

## BORREGO WATER COALITION

### 1. Meeting Synopsis

The Borrego Water Coalition (BWC) met on December 5, 2013. The meeting began with review of the standing items and adoption of the November meeting summary. The group proceeded to review the revised objectives document, the work plan, and the standards and methodologies. The group discussed state funding opportunities. The group then reviewed and finalized its memorandum of understanding (MOU). Lastly, the group reviewed public meeting talking points and approach. The Coalition will meet next on January 9, 2014.

### 2. Status of November 7 Action Items, Adoption of November Summary, and Other General Business

- All items were completed with the exception of #2.
  - Regarding #2, updated references will be posted on the BWD site.
- Facilitator notified the members that the County representative has a persistent schedule conflict.
  - **ACTION ITEM: Facilitator** to ask County whether there is an alternate.
- BWD notified the group that BWD's work on its GWMP is ongoing and is parallel to the progress done at BWC.
- BWD is still waiting for the USGS report. BWC members expressed concern about the delay in receiving the USGS report
  - **ACTION ITEM: BWD** to contact USGS about urgent need for the document.
- BWD drafted a letter of response to Rams Hill Home Owners Association (RHHOA) in response to RHHOA's request to be included as a member of BWC. BWD met with RHHOA and explained that RHHOA is adequately represented by the current members of BWC. RHHOA will participate in the GWMP update process.
- The members reviewed a suggestion from the public to solicit money from various charitable organizations to buy farmland. Such efforts could be pursued through a newly formed non-profit organization or Anza Borrego Foundation.
- An article was posted as a press editorial in both newspapers in Borrego about no shortage of water in Borrego valley.

### 3. Review of Scope of Work to Evaluate Strategies

- Objectives Work Group incorporated in the BMO the answers to the compiled responses and questions to include roles and goals of BWC, some planning assumptions, and existence of overdraft in the basin presented by the USGS work.
- The group discussed the need for the GWMP in order to obtain state funding. A GWMP will also be required in case of a stipulated adjudication. An adversarial process would likely reduce the willingness of donors to support a solution.

- Sponsor Group is concurrently working on a similar plan. A couple of the BWC members are also members of the Sponsor Group and do not believe there are any conflicts between the two plans. BWC members will share their plan with the Sponsor Group to obtain their input, and invite them to the public meeting.
- The BWC members agreed to post the draft of the BMO on their BWC web site as well as the BWD web site.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** BWD to develop cover sheet noting draft and explaining release, then distribute revised BMO document.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator and member to post revised BMO document on December 11.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** BWC to update website (including summaries and flood control maps and link to BWD reference page).
- There will be a list of frequently asked questions posted on both web sites.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Member to update Frequently Asked Questions to be consistent with BMO document.
- It will be recommended that people attend the public meeting and address their questions there. A link shall be provided on the BWD site to forward people’s comments to the BWC site. Alternately, people will have the option to submit written comments, in care of the Chamber of Commerce.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** BWD to draft BWC website online comment language.
- BWC will send press release about the availability of the draft BMO document on line and the public meeting to Borrego Sun and Borregan newspapers.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Member to draft press release.
- The group emphasized the importance of the availability of the draft of USGS report for review by those members of BWC who have expressed concern about the overdraft problem.
- The status of UCI’s plan to study the socio-economic impacts of the plan on economy, income, employment level, and school enrollment was noted as delayed.
- Social and economic costs apply to all strategies, progressively over time, and shall be referenced on Page 1 of the “Mission of Basin Management Objectives” as an incremental approach. Reference will be also added under “Methodology and Standards” and “Planning Assumptions”.

#### 4. State Funding Opportunity

- Members discussed the opportunity to submit a statement of interest to Senator Anderson regarding potential drafting of a bill that would allocate state funds to purchase farmland in Borrego Valley.
- Members were supportive of further conversation. At the same time, it was cautioned that once language enters the legislative arena, it is subject to the negotiation of elected officials and the final text cannot be guaranteed.

- The group agreed that several Coalition members should attend the December 17 meeting with Senator Anderson. In preparation for this, they should jointly draft a letter expressing their interest.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** **State Funding Work Group** to develop letter and attend further conversation with legislative office.

## 5. Final Review and Adoption of Suggested Governance Clarifications

- The facilitator reviewed the final clarifications to MOU. The document is finalized.
  - **AGREEMENT:** Members adopted by consensus the suggested governance clarifications to the MOU.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** **Facilitator** to distribute and post final MOU.

## 6. Review of Public Meeting Talking Points and Approach

- Members noted they had some additional comments on the “Draft Responses to Likely Public Meeting Questions” and would provide final comments on a Word version of the document.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** **Members** to send suggested revisions to public meeting question responses to Public Meeting Work Group via Dorian.

The following suggestions for the public meeting were discussed:

- The presentation needs to be completed before question session starts.
- All BWC members are encouraged to attend.
- Any question that the attendees ask the members sitting at the tables and the members feel that it needs to be answered by the panel, may be written on a question form and given to the panel to answer.
  - Every member of BWC will review the Responses document prior to the meeting and will be familiar with the responses.
- BWC members shall wear nametags with their representations and logos.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** **Facilitator** to send BWC logo for inclusion on the cover sheet of the BMO document.
- For the purpose of equal access, a Spanish translator will be provided. There shall be a table assigned for this purpose.
- A powerpoint presentation shall be prepared for the meeting to include BWC’s goals, interest areas, timetables, objectives, list of strategies, public meeting dates in spring and the meeting agenda.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** **Facilitator and member** to draft a powerpoint for Public Meeting Work Group review
- Ask for comments to be submitted at the end of the meeting, or 10 days before the next meeting in February (so, January 24).
- **ACTION ITEM:** **Member** to post meeting flyer in select areas around town.
- **ACTION ITEM:** **Member** will provide Spanish translation of the press release.

## 7. Attendees

Agriculture	Ryan Hall – Borrego Farms Dennis Jensen – Oasis Ranch Management Company Jim Seley – Seley Ranches
Recreation	Bill Berkley – Rams Hill Golf Course Jim Moxham – Borrego Springs Resort Jim Wermers – De Anza Country Club Dan Wright – The Springs at Borrego and Road Runner Club
Borrego Water District	Lyle Brecht – BWD Board Member Beth Hart – BWD Jerry Rolwing – BWD General Manager
Watershed and Desert Ecosystems	Kathy Dice – Anza Borrego State Park Ralph Singer – Anza Borrego Foundation
Schools	Martha Deichler – Borrego Spring Unified School District
Commercial Business	Linda Haddock – Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
Public Space	Jim Wilson – Christmas Circle Park
CA Dept. of Water Resources	Tim Ross – Senior Engineering Geologist
Center for Collaborative Policy	Dorian Fougères – Senior Mediator Vida Tarassoly – Assistant Facilitator
University of California, Irvine	Emily Brooks – Doctoral Student Observer