

MEETING SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 7, 2013

BORREGO WATER COALITION

1. Meeting Synopsis

The Borrego Water Coalition (BWC) met on November 7, 2013. The meeting began with standing items, and an update on the Borrego Water District's (BWD's) Groundwater Management Planning Process. The group then reviewed descriptions of basin groundwater strategies identified at the October 3 meeting, and prioritized those strategies it felt should be examined in the greatest detail. The group began to identify critical questions to answer about each strategy, and corresponding information that exists or is desired. The group provided feedback on a revised draft vision, and adopted a final 2013-14 work plan. It reviewed suggested clarifications for its memorandum of understanding (MOU), provided by the facilitator. Lastly, the group discussed the goals of the January 14 public meeting and how to best prepare for the meeting. The Coalition will meet again in December.

2. Status of October 3 Action Items, Adoption of October Summary, and Other General Business

- All items were completed with the exception of #4 and #8.
 - Regarding #4, DWR to notify group of which economist they used for evaluating grant proposals.
 - Regarding #8, Public Meeting Work Group continues to draft talking points for public meeting materials, for review by full group.
- **ACTION ITEM:** BWC to update website (including summaries and flood control meeting summary maps and link to BWD reference page).
- The members inquired about the current amount of overdraft. From data available to BWD, the demand appears to be about 20,000 acre-feet, while recharge is about 4,000 to 5,000 acre-feet. The numbers will be verified after USGS data is received. BWD will contact USGS again to find out when requested information from USGS will be available.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** BWD to send facilitator latest USGS presentation link for distribution.
- Rams Hill Homeowner's Association's request for membership was presented to BWC. Members agreed that the homeowner's association is sufficiently represented by coalition members, and should not be added as a new member.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** BWD to respond to request for membership.

3. Update on Borrego Water District's Groundwater Management Plan Update Process

- BWD is utilizing the 2002 version of Groundwater Management Plan as the foundation for an updated plan.

- BWD will hold 2 meetings per month starting in January. The first meeting of each month will be a workshop, and the second will be the monthly board meeting held on the third Tuesday of every month.

4. Basin Management Strategies

- The work group presented Draft Basin Management Objectives & Strategies for Borrego Valley Groundwater Management Plan (2014).
- The revised glossary was reviewed for consistency and additional definitions for future use. This is a living document and may be updated as needed.
- The plan footnotes reflect that the plan must include a process for future amendments to be eligible for DWR grants.
- The following remarks about the plan were made:
 - The language regarding the second rejected strategy (“Free Market”) seems dismissive of the importance of market signals and will be revised to have a neutral tone.
 - “Economic incentives” shall remain to be a strategy under section 6 (“Expand Environmental Stewardship through Improved Land Use Management”). Economic impact, however, is incorporated throughout the plan.
 - Section 1 (“Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently”) should more clearly call out the incorporation of new science and technology, the role of education in the adoption of water-efficient technologies, and the possibility of changing crops or cropping patterns.
 - The group could use help from UCI in developing the components and an economic baseline against which the proposed changes could be measured for effectiveness.
- The group then indicated rough priorities by filling out the Personal Strategy Ranking Sheet, and compiling and reviewing the full set of individual responses. This information will be the basis of the Objectives Work Group’s revisions to the draft objectives document.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Objectives Work Group to update draft objectives and strategies description and develop scope of work.

As a next step, the facilitator noted it would be important for the group to identify the key questions it had about each strategy; what information was available and what additional information would be needed to answer these questions.

- **ACTION ITEM:** All members to send the facilitator key questions, information available/needed, and likely public meeting questions.

5. Work Plan Discussion

- The work plan was revised as follows
 - January 9th will be the monthly meeting (no longer January 2).

- Public meeting will be on January 14, 2014.
- March 26th will be a presentation at the annual townhall meeting.
- May 28th meeting will be moved to May 8th.
- June 5th will be the last monthly meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM:** **Facilitator** to distribute revised work plan.

6. Adoption of Vision Statement

- Members reviewed the draft Vision Statement. It was recommended that a more condensed Vision Statement would better serve the purpose.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** **BWC** to shorten the Vision Statement.
- The group next reviewed the BWC Refined Statement of Goals and agreed on the following changes.
 - Goal 1: Change wording to replace “what will be the consequences for not achieving these results” with “how results will be measured and assessed”.
 - Goal 2: Change from “reasonable business person test” to “reasonable economic feasibility test”.

7. Review of Memorandum of Understanding

- The facilitator reviewed which sections he felt are critical for clarification.
- The MOU is a public document and will be posted on the BWC website.
- The group chose option A for observers.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** **Facilitator** to distribute copy of the MOU with proposed addendums in track changes, including revised goals.
- The group clarified its shared understanding of Section 8(1) e, Media Protocol. The group recognized that the media and press are likely to interview members during the process, and that these individuals cannot control what the media or press do. Nonetheless, the group confirmed that the intent of the protocol as stated was accurate: members should not intentionally use the press or media as a vehicle for negotiation.

8. Review of BWC January Public Meeting Agenda

- Meeting date is changed to January 14th.
- The community room at high school is a neutral space and free.
- A USGS expert could be invited.
- The group needs to review draft public meeting talking points at its December meeting.
- The group may choose to invite outside guests (e.g., state senator’s representative)
- There will be clear opportunities for questions and answers.
- The meeting shall be advertised in local media including the local Hispanic paper.
- Need capability for online comments.

- **ACTION ITEM:** All members to send the facilitator key questions, information available/needed, and likely public meeting questions. (Same item as earlier.)
- **ACTION ITEM:** Public Meeting Work Group to draft talking points for January public meeting and continue developing the agenda.

9. Attendees

Agriculture	Ryan Hall – Borrego Farms Dennis Jensen – Oasis Ranch Management Company Mike Seley – Seley Ranches Duane Young – Cocopah Nurseries
Recreation	Bill Berkley – Rams Hill Golf Course Jack McGrory – La Casa del Zorro Resort and Spa Jim Moxham – Borrego Springs Resort Jim Wermers – De Anza Country Club
Borrego Water District	Lyle Brecht – BWD Board Member Marshall Brecht – BWD Board Member 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