

# MEETING SUMMARY – OCTOBER 3, 2013

## BORREGO WATER COALITION

### 1. Status of Action Items from September, Adoption of September Summary, and Other General Business

- All items were complete with the exception of #1, #5, and #6.
  - Regarding #1, the County will host a symposium in Borrego Springs on October 25, when it will discuss floodplain requirements.
  - Regarding #5, the group later discussed when to hold its public meeting.
  - Regarding #6, the Borrego Water District will discuss the update of its groundwater management plan at its October 23 board meeting, which begins at 9 am at the District office.
- It was suggested to streamline the meeting summaries and make them more similar to the July meeting summary.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to draft concise September 17 meeting summary for review by full group on November 7.
- A member shared two news releases from the California Department of Food and Agriculture regarding a state board discussion on California agricultural research needs, and an ecosystem services database that identifies farmland's multiple benefits.

### 2. Discussion of Revised Draft Vision

- The group reviewed the material developed by the Vision Work Group, including the context and purpose of the vision. Members suggested and agreed upon revisions to clarify the vision, and agreed to review a final version at their next meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to revise Vision statement and recirculate for adoption on November 7.

### 3. Discussion of Basin Management Objectives and Groundwater Management Strategies

- The group reviewed a list of draft definitions for planning terminology. The purpose was to establish shared meaning about terms and associated activities, making it easier to communicate with each other and the public.
  - The group adopted definitions for "basin management objective" and "groundwater management strategy."
- The group then reviewed a summary of the basin management objectives contained within 14 groundwater management plans. This began with an overall list of the strengths and weaknesses of all plans (e.g., some policies are poorly defined, which makes it hard to implement them). It also showed how often a given objective was included in the 14 plans.

- The group noted the importance of assessing objectives and strategies based on clear criteria and objective scientific, technical and economic information.
- It was asked whether the Department of Water Resources had a similar document that summarized what the Department felt were the characteristics of stronger and weaker plans.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** **Facilitator** to follow-up with DWR re: request for summary of the characteristics of stronger and weaker groundwater management plans.
- It was also asked what economist DWR hired to evaluate grant proposals.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** **DWR** to notify group of which economist they used for evaluating grant proposals.
- The group walked through each of the objectives, including a short verbal summary of what each objective included. Some objectives were already underway (such as blending groundwater to improve water quality), while others were perhaps less relevant.
  - The group spoke about what its overarching objectives might be. After discussion, the group agreed to see if the following two objectives might offer the best structure for its planning:
    - Bring basin supply and demand into balance
    - Protect water quality
  - The remaining items from the summary table could be included as strategies underneath these overarching objectives. The group would review such a structure at its November meeting to see if this made sense, or if it should be restructured somehow.
  - **AGREEMENT:** Members established an Objectives Work Group.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** **Objectives Work Group** to draft descriptions for each basin management objective and corresponding strategies.

#### 4. Review of Draft 2013-14 Work Plan

- The facilitator reviewed the draft work plan for the group's activities.
- The group discussed the goals identified in the work plan, which were based on the group's Memorandum of Understanding.
  - **AGREEMENT:** Members adopted the goals in the draft 2013-14 work plan, including the fourth goal, "To consider whether to develop a formal deliberative body."

#### 5. Review of Draft UCI Partnership Letter

- Members reviewed the draft letter. The group agreed that the letter met its need to clarify the Borrego Water Coalition-University of California at Irvine relationship.
  - **AGREEMENT:** Members adopted the BWC-UCI partnership letter as the official description of the relationship between the two entities.

- The group recommended that one person continue to serve as the point of contact for this work, and at the same time to establish a work group to ensure balanced representation of interests.
  - **AGREEMENT:** Members established a BWC-UCI Work Group.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** BWC to notify UCI that the Coalition had approved the BWC-UCI partnership letter, and that Ms. Emily Brooks could attend meetings on behalf of UCI.

## 6. Discussion of Suggested Governance Clarifications

- Due to time constraints the group did not address this agenda item.

## 7. Review of BWC November Public Meeting Agenda

- The group reviewed the checklist for public meeting preparation and materials, and the draft public outreach meeting.
- The group recommended moving its first public outreach meeting back to either December 2013 or January 2014. The group felt it did not have adequate time to prepare and review draft materials for that meeting, given the Borrego Days events.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to send out a scheduling survey for a public meeting in December or January.
- The group noted the importance of drafting and reviewing talking points for the public meeting. The Public Meeting Work Group would need to continue to lead this effort.
  - **ACTION ITEM:** Public Meeting Work Group to draft talking points for public meeting materials, for review by full group.

## 8. Attendees

Agriculture	Bill Bauer – Borrego Farms Dennis Jensen - Oasis Ranch Management Company Jim Seley – Seley Ranches Mike Seley – Seley Ranches
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 Dan Wright – Road Runner RV Resort
Borrego Water District	Lyle Brecht – BWD Board Member Beth Hart – BWD Board Member Jerry Rolwing – BWD General Manager
Schools	Martha Deichler – Borrego Spring Unified School District

Commercial Business

Public Space

CA Dept of Water Resources

Center for Collaborative Policy

Linda Haddock – Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce

Jim Wilson – Christmas Circle Park

Brian Moniz, Senior Engineer

Dorian Fougères, Senior Mediator