

MEETING SUMMARY – JANUARY 9, 2014

BORREGO WATER COALITION

1. Meeting Synopsis

The Borrego Water Coalition (BWC) met on January 9, 2014. The group reviewed the outcomes of efforts to identify potential state funding for a management plan. The group provided feedback on a first draft strategy matrix used to compare potential strategies based on the criteria set forth in the first draft Basin Management Objectives document. The group adopted a caucus structure to advance development and refinement of the strategies and associated estimates. The group reviewed and made final revisions to the public meeting materials and agenda. The Coalition will meet next on February 6, 2014.

2. Status of Dec. 5 Action Items, Adoption of Dec. Summary, and Other General Business

- All December action items were completed, with the exception of the BWD reference webpage.
 - **ACTION ITEMS:** BWD to update their website with summaries and with flood control and other maps. BWC to link their website to this reference page.
- BWC members adopted the December meeting summary.

3. Update on State Funding Conversation

- The BWC members that met with Senator Anderson did not get support for the idea of obtaining state funding for purchase of farmland.
- The group discussed pursuing private funding through perhaps a private foundation (e.g., 501(c)3), with a case statement and technical information. There needs to be community support behind the ideas.
- The members discussed the possibility of Anza Borrego Foundation serving as the vehicle for assembling private donations.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Anza Borrego Foundation to discuss the possibility of its involvement in private use land acquisition.

4. Review of Initial Draft of Strategy Matrix

- The strategy matrix was reviewed. A number of caucus groups (i.e., groups that share similar interests – agriculture, recreation, rate-payers, community, and ecosystems) were formed, comprised of members with expertise on different topics, to refine the strategies.
- These caucus groups are the liaisons with their constituencies. They will obtain input from experts they may know, and shall bring their input to the full Coalition.

- A lead person volunteered for each caucus group. Leads shall share their developments with other subgroups.
- The task is to bring recommendations or revisions to BMO to the Objectives Work Group (OWG) before the next Coalition meeting. Subgroups will send their initial feedbacks to facilitator by Friday, Jan. 24th, who will then send the feedback to the OWG for review, revision of the strategy matrix, and discussion during the February meeting.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Facilitator** to distribute caucusing email with leads for each caucus and with their phone and email addresses.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Caucuses** to meet with their constituencies and submit comments to facilitator by COB January 24, and **Objectives Work Group** to meet 1/27 or 28 to review and work on comments in preparation for February 6 Coalition meeting.
- The members discussed different ideas about how to obtain an economic study – professional analysis of the economic issues and estimates associated with different strategies.
 - **ACTION ITEM: DWR** to check whether DWR has an economist who can provide support in developing the pricing incentives strategy.
 - **ACTION ITEM: UCI** to determine whether it can help develop the pricing incentives strategy and cost curve for water quality.
- BWC would like to use the USGS MODFLOW model to estimate the effects of different strategies.
 - **ACTION ITEM: BWD** to ask USGS whether they will have any capacity to run MODFLOW to estimate the effects of different strategies.

5. Standing Items

- The group reviewed DWR’s Monitoring Requirements for the BWD’s GWMP Update Process.
- BWD discussed the importance of ground water monitoring of the water level and quality. BWD needs volunteers for more private wells to sample. BWD will provide more information.
 - **ACTION ITEM: BWD** to circulate water quality well monitoring volunteer request explaining purpose, testing protocol, and potential benefits and drawbacks.
- Update on County’s Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Pilot Program: the program does not apply to Borrego.
 - **ACTION ITEM: BWD** to distribute PACE program memo.
- BWD with members and the facilitator will revise the language describing the contribution of the BWC to the BWD GWMP update process, as explained in the BMO document.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Members and facilitator** to revise BWD GWMP document language regarding the role of the Coalition in making recommendations.

6. Review of Final Public Meeting Materials

The members finalized the draft public meeting agenda, provided feedback on draft responses to likely public meeting questions, and discussed additional needs and strategies.

- **ACTION ITEM:** Chamber and BWD to send reminders of public meeting to their email lists
- **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to distribute flyer for posting
- **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to revise public meeting materials and redistribute
- **ACTION ITEM:** Members to revise Informational Handout to note “In a balanced basin” for description of Objective #1.

7. Attendees

Agriculture	Bill Bauer, Borrego Farms Dennis Jensen, Oasis Ranch Management Company Jim Seley, Seley Ranches Mike Seley, Seley Ranches (alternate)
Borrego Water District	Beth Hart, President of Board Lyle Brecht, Board Member Marshal Brecht, Board Member (alternate) Jerry Rolwing, General Manager
Commercial Business	Linda Haddock, Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
Recreation	Bill Berkley, Ram Hill Golf Course Jim Moxham, Borrego Springs Resort (alternate) Jim Wermers, De Anza Country Club
Schools	Martha Deichler, Borrego Unified School District
Watershed & Desert Ecosystem	Kathy Dice, Anza Borrego Desert State Park Ralph Singer, Anza Borrego Foundation (alternate)
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