

MEETING SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 6, 2014

BORREGO WATER COALITION

Thursday, February 6, 2014, 10 am to 2 pm

1. Introduction

The meeting started with member introductions. The facilitator reviewed all numbered documents that were to be discussed at the meeting as well as the meeting agenda. The members reviewed the upcoming meetings and clarified that the March 27th town hall meeting will not be a Coalition meeting. The facilitator went over the ground rules.

2. Public Meeting Debrief

- The public meeting materials are not posted on the BWC web site yet. The facilitator will work with the Chamber to post all the materials on the web site.
- In reviewing the draft of the public meeting annotation, clarification is needed on page 3, to indicate that there are some wells in Ocotillo that the children cannot use because of excessive fluoride.
- Member comments are needed by Tuesday February 11th.
 - **ACTION ITEM: All members by COB Tuesday 2/11** to send in comments on public meeting summary.
- Press was positive; the public meeting has been considered a community event. The articles have flagged some public concerns that BWC will continue working on. BWC received some comment letters from the attendees.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Facilitator and Chamber** to post 1/14 materials and thank you to participants.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Facilitator** to send email to public commenters noting comments were reviewed by Coalition.
- Next Coalition public meeting shall be at Borrego High School on May 8th, from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. (Borrego town hall meeting is March 27.)
- Members acknowledged that in certain situations, they may have to respond to questions in a personal capacity. In such occasions, it is necessary to specify that their opinion is a personal one and not necessarily attributed to the coalition.
- BWC appreciated the facilitator's excellent work.

3. Review of Draft #2 of Strategy Matrix

- Facilitator encouraged the caucuses to send information to him in a timely manner. Caucus leaders presented reports to the coalition members. The leaders of the four caucuses reported on the progress of their efforts.
 - Agriculture Caucus: The caucus is exploring water saving technologies which could also be useful to other users such as golf courses. BWD informed the Coalition of a past water seminar event in Borrego and suggested that the Coalition may want to set up a similar seminar/workshop for public education.

- Recreation Caucus: The caucus has been looking at the cost savings of planting Bermuda grass instead of Rye in golf courses and turf area reduction. They have found more sophisticated irrigation systems to be overly expensive without public support. They are also looking into microbial technologies to control evaporation rates.
- Community Caucus: This caucus has been working on developing a water conservation community culture. Methods include serving water upon request in restaurants, homeowners using recirculating pumps for hot water, and planting less water-consuming landscapes. In the parks, there are signs on every faucet to conserve water.
- Ecosystems Caucus: Anza Borrego Foundation (ABF) has formed a land sub-committee which is exploring its possibility of acquiring land that may not be converted into parkland. ABF is willing to work with the Coalition. Tom Hall is a part of this sub-committee, he is an attorney and could assist in developing a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization if necessary.
- The members discussed water rates in Borrego being about 20% lower than the City of San Diego, and 40% lower than the City of Escondido. Facilitator suggested that the coalition consider the water rates as a strategy or component because it was also one of the concerns at the public meeting as well.
- Some members and the facilitator have had a telephone conversation with Jim Bennett and Joe Farace from the San Diego County (the County). The County was very responsive to this request for information. They discussed issues such as maintaining rights, permitting of new wells, restrictions in land uses, and incentives for fallowing. The County provided a copy of policy for fallowing land and a draft map of land use and zoning for the valley. The County could assist in technical GIS resources for land measurement, land use and current zoning, permit requirements, policies, and other question the members may have. The County has informed the members that any proposed new policies or changes would likely more than a year to be developed and implemented.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** All members by COB Tuesday 2/11 to send any additional questions for the County to the facilitator.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to share relevant items from caucus reports with County.
- On the issue of the legal cost, the Coalition decided to ask the County for assistance through their in-house legal counsel, if possible.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator and member to contact County regarding legal advising services
- The “Tactics” document was reviewed by the members, and it was decided who will address each item.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator will update the “Tactics” document to indicate the responsible group or person for each item.

4. Standing Items

- Organize the BWC website to make meeting documents more accessible.
- UCI will know the status of the NSF grant by the end of March. UCI may be able to work with DWR's economics consultant and may have an opportunity to complement that analysis. UCI may be helpful with social costs and socio-economic studies.
- BWC will follow up with UCI to finalize their scope of work, who will share with UCI colleagues for comment as part of that process.
- Information from USGS is still not available. This information has been delayed for a year. USGS is planning to come to the town hall meeting. The Coalition members decided to collectively send a letter to USGS respectfully urging USGS to share the report draft with the District.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Coalition** to send letter to USGS asking to expedite draft report's availability (Facilitator will distribute draft on 2/11, member comments due 2/14)
 - **ACTION ITEM: District** to ask USGS representative to attend March town hall
- The members adopted January meeting's technical annotations.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Facilitator** to finalize January Coalition and public meeting summaries.
- BWD's consultant is working on drafting a groundwater management plan. It will take some time. The revised language about the Coalition's role in the GWMP update process is in effect. It will need to be updated in the BMO document, which cites the GWMP process.
 - **ACTION ITEM: District** to update its language describing its GWMP update process.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Objectives Work Group** to update BMO document to reflect Mr. Hall's comments and revised language re: District's GWMP update process.
- Facilitator proposed and the members agreed to restructure the Coordinating Committee. Some of the caucus members shall be added to the Coordinating Committee to ensure that each caucus has a representative on the committee. Consolidation does not change the representative nature of the multiple work groups, but rather streamlines it.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Facilitator** to distribute revised contact list and Coordinating Committee members.
- Members reviewed and commented on the County map of the Borrego groundwater basin.
 - **ACTION ITEM: Facilitator** to distribute County's groundwater limitations map and share Coalition map comments with the County

5. Planning Timeline and Needed Economic Analyses

- Kathy Dice will be the BWC representative speaking at the town hall meeting on March 27th, at the Performing Arts Center, from 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM. She will present highlights of the Coalition's January meeting, and its updates since then. Other members are encouraged to attend the meeting.

- By March, the group should start working on a shared reduction formula (including objective criteria for what constitutes a “fair deal”), planning time baseline and horizon, financing, clarification of authority and implementation roles, and monitoring and metrics of progress (including milestones).
- Anza-Borrogo Foundation may be a suitable organization for facilitating the conversion of fallowed land because of its ability to purchase land, but the Coalition may want to explore other options.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Two members to invite Mr. Tom Hall to attend the March 6 meeting from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM and talk with him beforehand to clarify Coalition questions.
- An economist has been hired by DWR to provide economic analysis for the GWMP. Mr. Roger Mann will provide a draft of his analysis in May, and will continue working on details until the end of June if needed (the Coalition’s final meeting, when they will make recommendations, is June 6).
- The facilitator reviewed the economic analysis work plan and scope of work with the group. The group reviewed the draft discussion document; the analysis will not only look at individual actions, but the interaction between strategies. Mr. Mann will also provide some feasibility analysis and estimate of costs.
- **ACTION ITEM:** All members by COB Friday, 2/21 to provide strategy-related information references (e.g., technical reports, commissioned studies, published papers) to Facilitator for compilation and provision to the economics consultant.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to schedule call with economics consultants and Coordinating Committee.

6. Review of Action Items and Next Steps, and Closing Remarks

- The members expressed a desire for facilitation support services beyond June 2014. They inquired if DWR could extend funding for the facilitator to further assist the Coalition beyond the June deadline.
 - **ACTION ITEM:** DWR to determine possibility of additional facilitation support services.
- With no prospects in sight for immediate grants or other available funding, the members expressed concern about the future of the Coalition beyond an agreement and recommendations in June. They asked whether DWR could provide additional funding for BWC to continue forward. DWR will explore this possibility.

7. Attendees

Borrogo Water District	Marshal Brecht, Board Member (alternate) Beth Hart, President of Board Jerry Rolwing, General Manager
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Agriculture	Bill Bauer, Borrego Farms Dennis Jensen, Oasis Ranch
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	<p>Jim Seley, Seley Ranch Mike Seley, Seley Ranch (alternate) Duane Young, Cocopah Nurseries</p>
Recreation	<p>Bill Berkley, Ram Hill Golf Course Jim Moxham, Borrego Springs Resort (alternate) Jim Wermers, De Anza Country Club Dan Wright, The Springs at Borrego and Road Runner Jack McGrory, La Casa del Zorro Resort and Spa</p>
Schools	<p>Martha Deichler, Borrego Unified School District</p>
Watershed & Desert Ecosystem	<p>Kathy Dice, Anza Borrego Desert State Park Ralph Singer, Anza Borrego Foundation</p>
Commerce & Business	<p>Linda Haddock, Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce</p>
Community & Tourism	<p>Jim Wilson, Christmas Circle Community Park</p>
CA. Dept. of Water Resources	<p>Tim Ross, Senior Engineering Geologist</p>
Center for Collaborative Policy	<p>Dorian Fougères, Senior Mediator Vida Tarassoly, Assistant Facilitator</p>
University of California, Irvine	<p>Emily Brooks, Doctoral Student Observer</p>