

MEETING SUMMARY – APRIL 3, 2014

BORREGO WATER COALITION

Thursday, April 3, 2014, 10 am to 2 pm

1. Introduction

The meeting started with the members' introductions. The Facilitator reviewed all numbered documents that were to be discussed at the meeting as well as the meeting agenda.

2. Preliminary Economic Analysis

Dr. Roger Mann, the economics consultant, presented on the scope of his work, his initial analysis and full list of potential actions, his straw proposal for the top 20 items, and the need for hydrologic data.

The Coalition members reviewed a list of potential actions provided and prioritized the listed items in three categories (top, medium, bottom). Dr. Mann will further analyze these top 20 potential actions in his economic analysis.

Coalition members questioned the amount of water evaporating, the amount of water infiltrating into soil, and the amount of water leaving the basin through the southwestern portion of the basin. Evaluation of these criteria requires additional hydrological studies which are not available at this time and may be a part of future studies.

3. Standing Items and General Business

- UCI updated the group that there is now a graduate student assigned to the study of second-order economic effects. Unfortunately, the NSF grant that they were relying on for funding of their economic study of the BWC program was declined. They are looking for other sources of funding to hopefully proceed with the project.
- Maps from the County were mailed and should be received by BWC.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Chamber of Commerce to check that County land use maps were received.

4. Member Announcements

- The California Department of Water Resources has compiled Borrego water quality information. Dr. Timothy Ross, DWR, presented graphs showing water quality diagrams throughout the basin from different wells and surface water. There will be more analysis performed and this subject will be put on the agenda for the May meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to put on the agenda the DWR update on ground water quality for May 3 meeting.

5. May 8 Public Meeting Preparation

- With another public meeting coming up on May 8, the group should start preparation for the meeting.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Public Meeting Work Group to discuss preparations for May 8 public meeting.

6. Caucus Planning Parameter Templates and Draft Recommendations Document

- Facilitator discussed the Draft Policy Recommendations document that he had prepared for the group. He directed the group specifically to items relating to Planning Assumptions and Principles, Reduction Goals, Baseline, Fair Share, Governance, Financing, Performance Measurement, Coalition Transition Plan, and Potential Successor Effort. The final analysis of the economics consultant will be included in this document as well. The final version of this document recommended by the Coalition will go to the Borrego Water District's board for consideration for inclusion in the District's updated Groundwater Management Plan.
- The members reviewed the Planning Parameter proposals from each caucus. The Facilitator thanked the members and caucuses for their efforts in providing information for preparation of this template. The numbers show what each caucus feels is a realistic goal of water consumption reduction for its sector.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Facilitator to provide revised draft of recommendations document.

7. Near-Term and Next Steps for the Coalition

- Grants from the County may be possible. Request for proposals are usually due by July 1st. However, an adopted plan is needed before BWC could apply for any grants.
- The Facilitator introduced options for the formalization of the Coalition and facilitation of the voluntary conversion of agricultural land:
 - Option 1:
501(c)3 for Coalition
ABF for parkland and non-parkland
 - Option 2:
501(c)3 for Coalition and non-parkland
ABF for Parkland
 - Option 3:
Voluntary Coalition with no form or structure
ABF for parkland and non-parkland
 - Option 4:
Voluntary Coalition
ABF for parkland
501(c)3 for non-parkland

- The possibility of the Coalition to be registered as an LLC was discussed. Members questioned the ability of an LLC to qualify for public funds and grants. They believe in order for the Coalition to be eligible for grants, it needs to be a non-profit organization.
- Members also noted that an LLC would have to pay taxes for any moneys it received, including donations.

8. Closing Remarks

A member thanked everyone for attending and participating, and the meeting was adjourned at 2 PM.

9. Attendees

Borrego Water District	Lyle Brecht, Board Member Marshal Brecht, Board Member (alternate) Beth Hart, President of Board Jerry Rolwing, General Manager
Agriculture	Bill Bauer, Borrego Farms Dennis Jensen, Oasis Ranch Jim Seley, Seley Ranch Mike Seley, Seley Ranch (alternate)
Recreation	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
Watershed & Desert Ecosystem	Ralph Singer, Anza Borrego Foundation
Commerce & Business	Linda Haddock, Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
Community & Tourism	Anne Bogardt, Anza Borrego Foundation (alternate) Jim Wilson, Christmas Circle Community Park
DWR Southern Region Office	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