

MEETING SUMMARY – MAY 1, 2014

BORREGO WATER COALITION

Thursday, May 1, 2014, 9 am to 3 pm

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1. Action Items

1. **Designated members** to submit suggested revised policy text per timeline and contributions outlined in section 8, page 8
2. **All members** to submit comments on Roger Mann’s reports and slides by close of business on Monday, May 12
3. **Designated members** to confirm public meeting location
4. **Agriculture Caucus** to review Action 3-2 re: credits & cap on groundwater use
5. **Dr. Roger Mann** to confirm sector baselines with Agriculture, Recreation, and Municipal, with support from Caucus Leads
6. **Dr. Roger Mann** to revise his final reports and slides per discussion on May 1
7. **District** to provide Dr. Mann revised water treatment cost estimates
8. **District** to provide Coalition members with estimated 10-year administrative costs
9. **Facilitator** to circulate Tim Ross’s final powerpoint slides
10. **Facilitator** to revise public meeting flyer and agenda and planning checklist dates
11. **Facilitator** to send Martha, Jim and Linda draft scope & budget for September through November services.
12. **Facilitator** to distribute and post final April 13 meeting summary

2. Introductions

A member opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. Dorian Fougères, Facilitator Center for Collaborative Policy, reviewed all numbered documents that we to be discussed at the meeting. Mr. Fougères also provided one additional hard-copy handout: Suggested Policy Recommendation Revisions. All action items from the previous meeting were completed.

3. Briefing on Groundwater Quality Monitoring Findings

Tim Ross, Department of Water Resources (DWR), presented on ground water quality for Borrego Valley. The following clarifying or primary points were made:

- Multiple sources of ground water analyses were used in the generation of figures, including USGS and DWR data.
- More than 300 water quality analyses identified.
- Concerning total dissolved solids (TDS), water quality is higher in the south/southwest region of the basin
- If nitrates in a well exceed health value, this water will need to be blended with other wells or chemically treated to reduce nitrates.
- Looking at constituents by depth is somewhat equivalent to looking at constituents through time, as water levels continue to drop in the basin.
- TDS is up in 600-700+ mg/L in northern part of the valley, and down around 200-400 mg/L in southern wells
- DWR staff is profiling 11 different wells for TDS and temperature
- Temperature rises steadily with depth in one particular well, Dr. Nel's well
- No large jumps in temperature when crossing over to lower aquifer

A question was raised: Can it be concluded that treatment costs to make the third level aquifer water potable may not be significant?

- Further study would be required to adequately answer
- District has already removed wells from production because for failing to meet water quality standards

Action Item: Tim Ross to produce write-up of his presentation on Groundwater Quality Information for Borrego Valley to distribute at June meeting

4. Standing Items and General Business

- Updates on GWMP process will be given next month
- Update from UCI: a colleague was gathering information for presentation next month

Action Item: Mr. Fougères to finalize April 3rd meeting summary and technical annotations

5. Final Preparation for May 8 Public Meeting

- Two planning calls of the public meeting workgroup were held in interim between meetings
- Group should consider what level of detail to strive for in the recommendations document to the District – policy recommendations only and/or recommendations on ground water management responsibilities
- **Agreement:** Reschedule public workshop for **June 12th 4:30-7:30 pm**
 - To be held at the Performing Arts Center or Library
 - Group would like to bring in a County person for the discussion
 - Current draft workshop agenda follows what was done in January. Presentations are limited to 40 minutes for major topics
 - Revised agenda should be policy driven, with active requests for feedback

Action Item: Mr. Fougères to revise public meeting materials (agenda, flyer, save the date) and confirm with members on appropriate venue.

Action Item: All members to assist in advance distribution of new workshop materials

6. Draft Policy Recommendations

- Mr. Fougères introduced the draft Policy Recommendations document and subsequently led the group in a review of the document by sections corresponding to those listed in the meeting agenda for the purpose of negotiating text for each section.
- Mr. Fougères will assign responsibility of crafting exact language for inclusion in each section to individuals or groups of Coalition members.
- General comments were made:
 - There should be clarity on which sections are specifically policy recommendations, and which sections are other types of recommendations
 - Explicatory text on *why* the coalition is producing policy recommendations and at this particular time should be included in the document's introduction
 - Members mentioned a possible third party editor for the document
 - Members requested Mr. Fougères remain Facilitator of this process through end of year, and will discuss contract extension externally

A. Review of Sections 1-6

- Section 1: The Purpose – revise text to include why these actions, why now?
- Section 2: Development of the Document – include public meeting dates here
- Section 4: Recommended Vision – refer to handout for suggested revisions
 - a. Should keep language on “water for the future” only. Geotourism as defined by National Geographic is not appropriate fit
- Section 6: Planning Assumptions and Principles
 - a. Implementation period is about 20 years, some analyses may be longer

B. Review of Section 7: Reduction Goals and Fair Share Responsibilities

- Implementation Period: concern was expressed regarding making a statement about coming into balance in 20 years, as this may not be achievable.
- Concern expressed that current language implies the sole responsibility of ranch owners to locate land buyers in order to take the land out of production.
- Trend lines on agriculture sales and efficiencies were used to 70% historical water use estimation by the agriculture sector.
- Concerns expressed that even if the community's water use is reduced, individual use will increase with population growth.
- Regarding reduction targets: it is currently structured according to sectors as there is no authority to have a binding contract per well or per person
- Part 3: Targets for the Facilitation of Voluntary Conversion of Agricultural Lands: Idea here is to split water credits from the gross rather than the net (note this is consistent to existing zoning).

C. Review of Sections 8 and 9: Objective 1 and 2 actions

- Action 1-1: Will include Roger Mann's economic analyses here

D. Review of Section 10: Land Conversion

- This is one place to discuss facilitation of land conversation and provide specification on what an institution would be required to do.
- Note addition of subsection G. Economic Sustainability Plan, as drafted in supplementary handout
- State Parks would consider purchase of land on a case-by-case basis.

E. Review of Section 11: Governance

F. Review of Section 12: Finance

- Some sustainable funding for administrative costs is necessary, and interim funding from County is ideal
- Provide clarification that County has the authority to collect fees, with precise value determined after meaningful consultation with farmers
- Metering is good option for fundamentally understanding what the community's actual water usage.

G. Review of Sections 13 and 14: Assurances and Performance Measurement

- Note: the State will look closely at this section to see if there is a high probability of meeting objectives outlined in the document.

H. Review of Section 15: Transition Plan and Successor Effort

- Confirm whether validation process would produce comparable result as stipulated agreement (the current working assumption is no, it would not).

7. Final Economic Analysis Findings

Dr. Roger Mann, economics consultant for DWR, presented on final economic analysis findings, noting the two parts to the scope of work: 1) review list of priority actions to reduce overdraft and 2) conduct a basic analysis on the value of leaving water in the aquifer.

Action Item: All members to provide any comments on presentation to Dr. Mann by COB May 12th at rmecon@sbcglobal.net

Several comments from members were made:

- Need consistency in remaining volume in aquifers to use for assumptions for planning platforms
 - Need to clarify in the presentation that a key consideration is the *economic* life of the aquifer
 - Would like to see values for bottom line in irrigated land retirement assumptions and results chart. Also, valuation of the specific date.
 - Clarify that 2.7 AFY is an average
- It was proposed to incorporate Dr. Mann's report into the draft document as a reference piece.
 - Additional work is required to standardize baseline assumptions throughout document companion pieces
 - Baselines should be utilized in both documents as they will be a reference point for the percentage reductions discussed previously
 - Dr. Mann suggested that as all numbers are estimates, they are included as an attachment and left out of the actual policy document. Further, if the Coalition agrees on a set of numbers for the baseline assumptions and annual reductions, he will adjust his report findings accordingly.

8. Near-term and Next Steps

- Reminder: the public meeting date is rescheduled to Thursday, June 12, 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Please mark your calendars, and also release the May 8 date.
- Mr. Fougères will circulate action items to the Coalition by noon 5/2

Timeline For Revised Policy Text Submission & Comments

- First drafts of all revised policy sections are due by **5 pm on Monday, May 12.**
- Mr. Fougères will then distribute all materials received by **noon on May 13.**
- Any comments are due to Mr. Fougères no later than **5 pm on Monday, May 19.**
- Mr. Fougères will then distribute all comments by **noon on May 20.**
- Second drafts are due no later than **5 pm on Wednesday, May 28.**
- Mr. Fougères will then distribute all revised policy materials on **Thursday, May 29,** with all meeting materials for the June 5 Coalition meeting.

Next Coalition meeting: June 5th, 9am – 3pm at the Borrego Water District Board Room

9. Attendance

Borrego Water District	Lyle Brecht, Board Member Marshal Brecht, Board Member Jerry Rolwing, General Manager
Agriculture	Bill Bauer, Borrego Farms David Bauer, Borrego Farms (alternate) Dennis Jensen, Oasis Ranch Jim Seley, Seley Ranch Mike Seley, Seley Ranch (alternate) Duane Young, Cocopah Nurseries
Recreation	Bill Berkley, Ram Hill Golf Course Casey Brown, La Casa del Zorro Resort and Spa (alternate) 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	Anne Bogardt, Anza Borrego Foundation (alternate) Kathy Dice, Anza-Borrego State Park Ralph Singer, Anza Borrego Foundation
Commerce & Business	Linda Haddock, Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce
Community & Tourism	Martha Deichler, Borrego Springs Unified School District Jim Wilson, Christmas Circle Community Park
DWR Southern Region Office	Tim Ross, Senior Engineering Geologist
Center for Collaborative Policy	Dorian Fougères, Senior Mediator Megan Wylie, Assistant Facilitator