

**Borrego Water District  
MINUTES  
Conservation  
Standing Committee  
Wednesday, November 5, 2008  
9:00 a.m.  
806 Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004**

Attendance:    Directors:    Shimeall, Smiley  
Staff:            Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager  
                         Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary  
Public:            Jim Engelke                            Rudy Monica  
                         Beth Hart                                Dennis Nourse  
                         Don McKelvey

**CALL TO ORDER  
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1.     IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- BWD Yard Landscaping Plan – Thomas Fredericks

Jerry Rolwing announced that this item would be continued to the next Committee meeting.

- Committee Approval of Irrigation/Turf Removal Projects

Mr. Rolwing reported on three turf removal applications: Westover (replacing turf with concrete, square footage unknown); Wickel and Mitchell. He noted that the application should be revised to ask for the square footage. The Committee approved the applications in concept up to 2,500 square feet each. Mr. Rolwing reported that Mr. Isley, whose turf removal has already been approved, will begin work on November 10. To date, turf removal rebates total \$4,140. Beth Hart inquired about Margaret Lacey-Schneider's turf removal. Mr. Rolwing had sent her an application but had not yet received it. He will contact her.

Dennis Nourse explained that he had completed an application for an irrigation efficiency audit and was awaiting a visit from Tom Fredericks. He is contemplating removal of a number of trees, including palo verde, mesquite, olive and lemon, and converting to a drip irrigation system. He was wondering if the tree removal would qualify for a rebate. Ms. Hart questioned whether the addition of tree removal rebates to the program would require compliance with Proposition 218, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to check with the District's legal counsel. Director Smiley thought tree removal should be included, especially those using high amounts of water. Jim Engelke reported he was working with another homeowner on the possibility of using tree removal as mitigation. Rudy Monica asked whether an individual could apply for both a rebate and mitigation credit, and the Committee agreed that it would be one or the other, not both. Ms. Hart suggested combining small projects for mitigation. Mr. Rolwing felt that would not be feasible because of easement issues, and Director Smiley added that the County would probably not accept it. Mr. Engelke disagreed, and asked that further discussion be continued to the next Committee meeting, as Rich

Williamson is meeting with the County on mitigation issues today. Mr. Rolwing confirmed receipt of Mr. Nourse's irrigation audit and tree removal rebate requests.

Mr. Nourse reported that the De Anza members were confused about the mitigation credit process associated with modifications to the golf course (turf removal and irrigation improvements). Mr. Rolwing explained that the confusion has arisen from the lack of agreement between BWD and the County. Hopefully progress will be made at today's meeting. Mr. Nourse noted that the next members' meeting is November 10, and they hoped to have a decision from the District by December 15. Mr. Rolwing requested a layout of the landscape plans, and suggested that Mr. Nourse arrange a meeting with Mr. Williamson.

Mr. Engelke inquired about turf following at Club Circle, and discussion followed regarding whether this was annual reseeding or permanent removal. Mr. Rolwing explained that until the CSD joins BWD, we have no jurisdiction. Thereafter, they could be a candidate for mitigation.

- BMP for Commercial Customers

Mr. Rolwing distributed information on commercial best management practices. He had just received it, and suggested the Committee members review it and discuss it at the next meeting. Suggestions include irrigation efficiency and replacement of appliances with low-water-use models. Ms. Hart noted that Proposition 218 procedures may be required when the BMPs are adopted, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to check with legal counsel. Don McKelvey offered to check on BMP information available through the Department of Transportation.

## 2. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MONITORING DUTIES

- Status of Conservation Incentive participants

Mr. Rolwing distributed an outline of conservation incentives approved to date, noting that one more toilet rebate application and one washer rebate application came in yesterday. Director Smiley noted we have granted 13 rebates for toilets, 2 for washers and 1 for irrigation improvement. Ms. Hart asked whether Tom Fredericks was the only landscaper authorized to perform District irrigation efficiency audits. Mr. Rolwing explained that he is at this time, but he hoped to conduct a seminar and get others qualified. Ms. Hart suggested contacting Juan's Tree Service to provide competition.

## 3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- One Unit of Water Display

Mr. Rolwing invited the Committee's attention to photographs of the "one unit of water" display from Borrego Days, displayed on the bulleting board.

- Septic Tanks that Water your Lawn

Information on "Septic Tanks that Water your Lawn" was included in the Agenda packet for information. Director Shimeall suggested including it in future water bills. Mr. Engelke pointed out that a typical single family would not generate enough waste to use the septic tank for irrigation, but they could be of value to condo common areas. Mr. McKelvey noted that some communities have regulations against them.

- How Much Water does it take to Make a Hamburger???

This was another informational item included in the Agenda packet.

## 4. CLOSING

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m. The next regular Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2008.