

**Borrego Water District**  
**MINUTES**  
**Conservation**  
**Standing Committee**  
**Wednesday, September 3, 2008**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**806 Palm Canyon Drive**  
**Borrego Springs, CA 92004**

Attendance:    Directors:    Shimeall, Smiley  
Staff:            Richard Williamson, General Manager  
                         Greg Holloway, Compliance Manager/Safety Officer  
                         Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary  
Public:            James Chapman                    Kathleen Gugg  
                         Consuela Smith, BSUSD

**1.    IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- School conservation programs  
    "Water: H<sub>2</sub>O=Life" Exhibition July 19 – Nov. 30

Greg Holloway reported that the California water exhibit had been flooded the day he visited, but he was able to tour the "world" exhibit, which included water trivia, interactive displays and a film on weather patterns. He found it very informative, and suggested attendance by fifth graders and above. It takes about two hours.

- Conservation material for Christmas Circle bulletin board and Press Release for BWD participation in irrigation project

Rich Williamson reported that the District bulletin board is attached to the restroom building at Christmas Circle. Our section comprises half the board and will accommodate six 8-1/2" by 11" sheets. The first exhibit will include a description of the conservation incentive program, a comparison of current water use versus a year ago, and graphics depicting various types of water use. The display will be updated periodically. Connie Smith suggested displaying winning entries from the students' poster contest. Director Smiley suggested that after six months have elapsed since Christmas Circle modified its irrigation system, a comparison of current and prior water use be displayed. Discussion followed regarding paving the perimeter, and Mr. Williamson explained that there were cost issues. Alternatives include District assistance, sponsorships of individual pavers by citizens, and landscape modifications.

- Booth at Christmas Circle for Borrego Days

Mr. Holloway reported that he and Jerry Rolwing are working on a booth for Borrego Days. High school students may help as part of their community service requirements. Conservation information will be provided. Mr. Williamson suggested offering information from vendors, for example on irrigation products, and rebate application forms. He offered to assist in manning the booth. Mr. Holloway noted that the District is modifying the landscape around the office, and an update on that project could be included.

- Upkeep/schedule for BWD newspaper ad in the *Borrego Sun*

Mr. Williamson reported he had updated the District's newspaper ad to include more information on conservation, and planned to continue to modify it from time to time, including updates on the progress of the incentive program.

## **2. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MONITORING DUTIES**

- Status of Conservation Incentive participants

Director Shimeall reported there had been several inquiries regarding toilets and turf removal. Mr. Holloway believed that six toilet rebates had been granted.

- Discussion of Gugg and Chapman turf removal, prior to July 1, 2008

Kathleen Gugg explained that she had removed 660 square feet of turf on May 2007, and urged the Committee's consideration of a rebate, noting that it would be good public relations. She replaced the lawn with desert landscaping, and James Chapman, who had a similar request, used artificial turf. Mr. Chapman added that he removed 3,400 square feet of turf, part in November 2006 and the remainder a year later. Discussion followed regarding retroactive rebate approval and precedent setting. Mr. Williamson noted that we have \$50,000 earmarked for turf removal incentives and have spent \$5,000 so far. Director Shimeall suggested waiting until the end of the year, and if there are funds remaining, retroactive rebates could be approved. Mr. Williamson concurred, and will compile a waiting list on a "first come, first served" basis.

- Discussion of Palm Canyon Resort landscape removal financial assistance

Mr. Holloway had invited a representative from Palm Canyon Resort to attend, but they were not present. He noted that they had removed some trees and appeared to be following turf. The matter was tabled pending appearance and application.

Discussion followed regarding an application from Edward Hines for a toilet rebate, purchased August 27 for \$221. The Committee agreed he qualified, and a check will be issued.

## **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, October 1, 2008.