

Borrego Water District
SECOND CORRECTED MINUTES*
Groundwater Management Standing Committee
Wednesday, November 11, 2009, 9:15 a.m.
806 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Attendance: Directors: Mendenhall, Smiley
Staff: Richard Williamson, General Manager
 Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager
 Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary
Public: Jim Engelke, Lundberg
 Rebecca Falk

CALL TO ORDER
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Engelke referred to Current Agenda Item 2 in the October Minutes regarding the Viking Ranch, and asked how the removal of trees could be considered a real estate transaction. Rich Williamson explained that mitigation credits involve the granting of an easement. Discussion followed regarding whether such matters should be considered in closed session. It was the consensus that it is up to the parties involved. The Minutes of October 14, 2009 were approved as written.

CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS

1. Viking Ranch – Discuss Status of Water Credit opportunities. Mr. Engelke reiterated Lance Lundberg's desire to fallow his entire 125 acres. One-half would serve as County mitigation for his Yaqui Pass project, but he needs to determine what to do with the other half of the grove. He is hoping to reach an agreement with the District on this. Director Smiley pointed out that the District would grant him mitigation credits, but Mr. Engelke explained that Mr. Lundberg would prefer to sell them to the District and is willing to spread the sale over a period of ten years at \$5,000 per credit. Director Mendenhall suggested donating the credits to the District for a tax write-off. Director Smiley suggested another Negotiating Committee meeting with Mr. Lundberg, and it was agreed to schedule it during the first week in December.

2. Status of Financing/Grant Requests. Mr. Williamson announced that our \$5.4 million I-Bank loan application is tentatively scheduled to go before their Board on December 15. The money would fund the Wilcox and Indianhead Reservoirs, a booster station at Well 16 and two transmission mains.

Mr. Williamson reported he met with USDA and felt they had good potential as a funding source, particularly for Clark Lake.

Next week the Integrated Water Management Group (BWD, the County and the San Diego Resource Conservation District) will meet for the first time. Committee members were urged to attend. The group will assist in obtaining Proposition 84 funding.

Jerry Rolwing reported we had applied for Proposition 84 funds through the Department of Public Health Services to ensure that man-made contaminants don't pollute

Second Corrected Minutes: November 11, 2009

*Reflects correction made at December Board meeting

the wells. Funds could be used to purchase and fallow farmland adjacent to wells to prevent the addition of nitrates.

3. Update on Groundwater Management Study. Mr. Rolwing reported that agreements had been signed with the USGS and Department of Water Resources. DWR has detailed all water level data and lined it up with the well logs. The information will then be submitted to USGS for use in updating the model.

4. Status of Sustainable Water Supply Projects.

a. Clark Lake. Mr. Williamson reported he had entered into discussions with all interested property owners in the Clark Lake area regarding potential well sites. Allison Burns has prepared right-of-entry agreements

b. Southeast Importation. Mr. Williamson reported that about 50 percent of the design of the Southeast Importation Line has been completed.

5. Discussion: Future directions and goals. Mr. Williamson pointed out that the aquifer has been reduced by 500,000 to 600,000 acre feet, thereby creating that much storage capacity. He urged the Committee to begin exploring conjunctive use opportunities. Rebecca Falk inquired about water availability for Borrego residents. Mr. Williamson explained that the agency storing the water would be required to treat it and guarantee availability to BWD customers. Ms. Falk expressed concern regarding chemicals (herbicides and pesticides) from agriculture contaminating the aquifer. Mr. Williamson replied that the water quality has improved and it is not a major problem.

6. Commercial Water Credits – How do we ascertain commercial water credit requirements. Mr. Williamson explained that an individual wanting to establish a car storage facility is in need of mitigation credits. Discussion followed regarding how to calculate the credits needed, and it was agreed best to base it on fixture units.

7. Status of applications for water credits. Mr. Williamson reported that no additional applications had been received since the last meeting. The pepper and dragon fruit farms' transactions are being finalized.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. The next regular Groundwater Management Committee Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 9:15 a.m.