

**Borrego Water District  
MINUTES  
Conservation  
Standing Committee  
Wednesday, February 4, 2009  
9:00 a.m.  
806 Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004**

Attendance:    Directors:    Andersen, Shimeall  
Staff:            Richard Williamson, General Manager  
                         Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager  
                         Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary  
Public:           Rudy Monica                            Connie Smith, BS Unified School District  
                         Don McKelvey

**CALL TO ORDER  
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1.     IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- Committee Approval of Irrigation/Turf Removal Projects

Jerry Rolwing reported that Betty McKee had applied for a rebate for 700 square feet of turf removal. She has removed the sprinkler system, and approval will be considered once the dead grass is removed. She will also pursue a 20 percent rebate for irrigation improvements, which will be implemented pursuant to Tom Fredericks' recommendation. The Committee approved the rebates in concept, subject to complete turf removal and irrigation improvement verification.

Mr. Rolwing further reported that Jean Gallagher had installed a low-flow toilet and washer in November 2007 and plans to remove turf in the future. Discussion followed regarding the time constraints for rebate applications prior to implementation of the program, and the Committee agreed to put Ms. Gallagher on the waiting list, should funds remain at the close of the fiscal year.

Director Andersen inquired about the eligible washer listings on the Water Sense website, and Mr. Rolwing replied that they are not yet available. The District's criterion is 15 gallons or less per load.

Director Shimeall asked about training for landscapers so several will be qualified to do irrigation audits. Mr. Rolwing is planning a seminar, and will solicit bids for its presentation. He suggested that the bidders make presentations at the next Committee meeting.

Rudy Monica questioned the incentive for gardeners to attend a seminar. Mr. Rolwing explained that the District would maintain a list of recommended gardeners, and Rich Williamson added that customers who want to conserve water would favor those on the list. Discussion followed regarding timing and advertising. Mr. Rolwing suggested an insert in the bills, and Connie Smith added that flyers could be left on gardeners' trucks, plus a certificate could be offered for attendance at the seminar. Mr. Williamson recommended that we identify customers who will fall in Tier 2 and send them a special notice. The possibility

of scheduling two seminars, one for gardeners and one for the general public, will be considered.

Mr. Rolwing introduced an issue that has arisen during the irrigation audits, lack of anti-siphon valves. Mr. Williamson recommended turning off the meter until it is installed, noting that the lack is a cause of disease. The Committee agreed that installation would qualify for a 20 percent rebate.

- BMP for Commercial Customers

Mr. Rolwing distributed a draft list of commercial customers, noting that some, like the American Legion and Santa Fe Patio Homes, will probably be moved to other categories. Don McKelvey stated he would cross-check the list against the phone book and review the list of proposed Best Management Practices. He brought up an issue regarding a sand and gravel operation (dust control), and Mr. Rolwing confirmed there were none in the District.

Discussion followed regarding commercial standards for low flow toilets and washers, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to obtain information. He further noted that commercial irrigation systems need to be addressed.

Mr. Rolwing invited the Committee's attention to information in the Agenda packet from Coachella Valley Water District regarding irrigation recommendations, and suggested it be inserted in our bills. A Spanish version is also available.

Discussion followed regarding sending a representative to the Water Education for Teachers (WET) program in Arizona, and Mr. Williamson agreed to provide the details to Ms. Smith.

- EPA Water Sense Membership

Mr. Rolwing distributed information regarding the "Fix a Leak a Week" program and suggested a special mailing to customers. Mr. Williamson urged that it be distributed soon, while seasonal residents are still here. We need to emphasize that the rebates may not last forever. Mr. Rolwing suggested a larger newspaper ad, and Mr. Williamson concurred for a couple of months, plus the mailing. Director Shimeall suggested providing examples of water savings following an irrigation audit, and Mr. Rolwing suggested offering examples of water-intensive planting. Ms. Smith recommended a "Speak Up" column in the *Sun*, asking about water conservation, and maybe a notice on the cable TV bulletin board. She added that she hoped to have water conservation programs in the schools in May.

Mr. Rolwing will follow up on the cards distributed to hotels, offering optional daily sheet and towel changes.

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

- Status of Conservation Incentive participants

Mr. Rolwing reported that 12 irrigation audits have been conducted to date.

Mr. Williamson announced that at next week's Groundwater Management Committee meeting, the water mitigation policy would be discussed. The draft policy is on the District's website for comment, and the District is continuing to work with the County. He further reported that the District is seeking \$6 to 8 million in State financing for improvements including reservoirs, wells and a possible transmission line. A mailing may be distributed regarding this. The Clark Lake project may also be revived, potentially using federal stimulus funds.

Mr. Rolwing invited the Committee's attention to the Agenda attachment showing expenditures for the rebate program to date. Mr. Williamson reiterated the need to advertise more, indicating the rebate program may not last forever.

**3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

Mr. McKelvey reported he had been researching requirements regarding gray water use and wondered if the Committee should address the issue. Mr. Williamson agreed, and suggested starting with the County Department of Environmental Health.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next regular Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4, 2009.