

**Borrego Water District  
MINUTES  
Conservation  
Standing Committee  
Wednesday, May 6, 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:            Don McKelvey            Connie Smith, Borrego Springs Unified School District

**CALL TO ORDER  
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jerry Rolwing corrected the April 1, 2009 Minutes, first paragraph, to read in part, "The turf removal has resulted in a water savings of 69 percent for participating customers." The Conservation Standing Committee Minutes of April 1, 2009 were approved as corrected.

**CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1.    IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- BMP for Commercial Customers

Don McKelvey explained that he would like to continue to work on issues involving the use of gray water for irrigation, but needed to wait until the County and City of San Diego amend their regulations. His efforts to implement Best Management Practices for commercial customers had not been as successful as he had hoped, but he planned to continue gathering information and meeting individually with businesses to discuss water conservation strategies. Mr. Rolwing thought the biggest potential savings would be in landscaping.

- Plans for future workshops (gardeners and/or general public)

This item was not discussed.

- Alerts for water bill inserts

Director Shimeall circulated some sample water bill inserts. Mr. Rolwing suggested distributing reusable water bottles or insulated carriers with the District logo, and offered to investigate. He further suggested that after the conservation incentives have been in place for a full year, the program should be evaluated and any actual savings publicized. Director Shimeall suggested a billing insert regarding various water-saving devices. Mr. Rolwing added that he had information for children so they could perform "water audits" at home.

- Conservation in schools in May

Mr. Rolwing referred to handouts on Arizona's Water Education for Teachers (WET) project. He felt the Tucson project may be more applicable to the desert than those offered in

California. Information on other educational material was also included, and Connie Smith agreed to review it.

Mr. Rolwing reported that the local schools would be holding another contest, posters in the elementary school, essays in the middle school and PowerPoint presentations in the high school. The Water District will provide a total of \$500 in prize money, to be allocated among the winners as the School District wishes. It was agreed to hold the contest May 11 through 20 and present the awards at the May 27 Board meeting. After discussion, it was agreed to give the middle and high school students the choice of doing posters or essays (or PowerPoint in high school), but students would compete only against others at their school.

Rich Williamson offered his services and Mr. Rolwing's if any of the classes would like a presentation on water.

- Budget for FYE 2010

Mr. Williamson distributed a proposed water conservation program capital budget for FYE 2010. Through the end of March, about 40 percent of the 2009 budget had been spent, and he expected to end the fiscal year at approximately 50 percent. He proposed a reduction next year from a total of \$324,000 to \$245,000, and recommended continuing the conservation program. The proposed budget will be reviewed by the Budget Committee, then the full Board. After discussion, the following recommendations were agreed to: combine Customer Awareness and Publications for a total of \$15,000; leave staff support at \$123,000; increase the Sample Conservation Landscape Garden to \$4,500; combine Turf Replacement and Irrigation Improvements for a total of \$75,000; increase Toilet Replacements and Washing Machines to \$10,000 each; and leave Irrigation Improvement Audits at \$7,500.

- Criteria for initiating water use audits

The Committee agreed to fund water use audits for any customer requesting one.

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

- Status of Conservation Incentive participants

A list of rebates to date was included in the Agenda Packet. Mr. Williamson noted the program would be continually evaluated.

- Toilet rebates, Irrigation audits, Turf removals

Mr. Rolwing presented three projects for Committee approval. A 3,700 turf removal project for the Bradens was recommended for approval. Villas Borrego turf removal and irrigation improvement subsidy were recommended for tentative approval pending verification and a bill from the irrigation contractor. A 3,227 turf removal project for Ms. Suttle was recommended for tentative approval pending removal of dead grass and sprinkler head capping.

Director Andersen asked whether the District was verifying the installation of anti-siphon valves in irrigation improvements. Mr. Williamson replied that Tom Fredericks always includes them, and Mr. Williamson recommended that they be required as a condition of the District's subsidy.

- Funding of Pre-Program Improvement Applications

Mr. Williamson noted that next month the Committee will need to address the three rebate applicants who are on a waiting list because they made their improvements prior to the beginning of the conservation incentive program.

3. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

- Water Production and Use Review for Previous Month (Effects of Conservation Efforts (BWD Staff))

The water production and use report was included in the Agenda Packet.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next regular Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 3, 2009.