

**Borrego Water District  
MINUTES  
Conservation  
Standing Committee  
Wednesday, June 3, 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            Kathleen Gugg  
                         Jim Engelke                Connie Smith, Borrego Springs Unified School District

**CALL TO ORDER  
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rich Williamson requested that his budget report, reflected on page 2 of the May 6 Minutes, be clarified to read, ". . . the following line items recommendations were agreed to . . . ." Jerry Rolwing corrected the spelling of a turf removal applicant's name (Ms. Settle, not Ms. Suttle).

**CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1.     IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- BMP for Commercial Customers

Conversations with the Palm Canyon Resort regarding possible turf removal are continuing.

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

Mr. Rolwing volunteered to work with Tom Fredericks to plan a workshop for do-it-yourself gardeners during the summer.

- Alerts for water bill inserts

Mr. Rolwing reported that the inserts in the last water bills were both in English and Spanish. Mr. Williamson planned something on tiered rates for the next bills.

- Budget for FYE 2010

The budget proposal for the new fiscal year was reviewed at the last Committee meeting.

- Criteria for initiating water use audits

The Committee had agreed at its last meeting to fund water use audits for anyone requesting one. After discussion, it was agreed to prioritize the requests, serving the highest water users first.

- WET – Water Education for Teachers

Connie Smith noted that the WET class in Bakersfield is only one day, not worth the travel time. Mr. Williamson added that the Tucson program had been cancelled, and the one

offered by the University of Arizona is also only one day. Mr. Rolwing offered to investigate the programs in San Luis Obispo and Coachella Valley.

- Review posters and power points for school Water Saving contest

The Committee reviewed the students' posters, which were on display in the Board Room. Mr. Rolwing presented the PowerPoint entries. The PowerPoints were awarded first place to Antonio Vilches, second to Jamie Blakely and third to Natalie Spieckerman and Mallorie Wade. Elementary poster winners were first place to Lisa Salcido, second to Karen Garcia and third to Alejandro Claudio. Middle school poster winners were first place to Cecelia and Kyle, second to Celia T. and third to Elias Roberto.

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

- Status of Conservation Incentive participants

Mr. Rolwing invited the Committee's attention to the current spread sheet, showing rebates paid to date. Discussion followed regarding how to publicize the rebates more widely. Mr. Williamson suggested larger and more frequent newspaper ads and a section in the application form asking how the applicant learned of the rebate program. Kathleen Gugg suggested that the ads be in color. Mr. Rolwing suggested referring to it as a "stimulus package for local residents."

- Toilet rebates, Irrigation audits, Turf removals

Mr. Rolwing reported that five irrigation audits had been completed and ten are pending. Sally Rosen removed 1,040 square feet of turf and Mr. Fredericks submitted an estimate for the irrigation improvements.

Jim Engelke asked whether Villas Borrego were proceeding with turf removal. Mr. Rolwing replied that they know they have conditional approval and will make the decision in the fall.

Mr. Rolwing offered to prepare a comparison for the next Committee meeting, water bills before and after implementation of conservation measures.

The Desert Shadows community has applied for a turf removal rebate but has not yet removed the turf.

Ms. Greteman has turned her irrigation off, and Mr. Fredericks is preparing an estimate for irrigation improvements.

Mr. Murphy is removing 560 square feet of turf on Santa Fe Trail.

The Committee conditionally approved all requests, subject to completion and verification.

- Funding of Pre-Program Improvement Applications

Mr. Rolwing referred to St. Richards Church's application for 3,000 square feet of turf removal. The date of the turf removal is uncertain. Jean Gallagher applied for 1,090 square feet of turf removal and a low flow washer purchased in 2007. Mr. Chapman replaced 3,400 square feet of turf with artificial turf, also prior to implementation of the rebate program. Mr. Gugg reiterated her request for 660 square feet of pre-program turf removal. The Committee approved all applications, subject to verification.

Mr. Engelke inquired about the possibility of the Water District assuming responsibility for Christmas Circle. Mr. Williamson replied that the existing nonprofit corporation wants to continue operating the park and may receive assistance from the Burnand Foundation. Mr. Engelke recommended bringing to Supervisor Horn's attention the possibility that the Water District could operate the park, and reminded the Committee that there is County park money available, earmarked for Borrego Springs.

Mr. Rolwing suggested a letter to homeowners' associations and other irrigation customers offering the District's assistance in turf removal and/or irrigation improvements.

3. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

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

The water production and use report was distributed with the Agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The next regular Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 1, 2009.