

**Borrego Water District  
MINUTES  
Conservation  
Standing Committee  
Wednesday, July 1, 2009  
9:00 a.m.  
806 Palm Canyon Drive  
Borrego Springs, CA 92004**

Attendance:    Director:    Shimeall  
Staff:         Richard Williamson, General Manager  
                     Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager  
                     Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary  
Public:         Don McKelvey         Rudy Monica  
                     Jim Engelke             Pat Oberg, WaterWise Technologies

**CALL TO ORDER  
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of June 3, 2009 were approved as written.

**CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1.     IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

- WaterWise Technologies Presentation

Pat Oberg of WaterWise Technologies made a presentation regarding waterless urinals. Oil in the trap, which rises above the waste, prevents odors. Both water and energy are conserved. Various models are available starting at \$279.

- BMP for Commercial Customers

Rich Williamson reported that Best Management Practices for commercial customers were discussed at the last Board meeting. He suggested compiling an inventory of available BMPs and then applying for grants. Jim Engelke recommended expanding the sewer system, and Mr. Williamson reported that the Sewer Committee is investigating. Mr. Engelke further suggested that the waterless urinals be introduced to local hotels, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to obtain more information.

Discussion followed regarding schools and churches, and whether to approach them now or wait until fall. Mr. Williamson suggested offering credits for water reduction, and agreed to talk to Connie Smith regarding restroom improvements at the schools and also to park personnel. Mr. McKelvey noted that grant money may be available to assist.

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

Jerry Rolwing reported he was waiting for fall to schedule additional workshops. Meanwhile, he is collecting proposals from potential presenters. Mr. Engelke suggested contacting Dixie Schweitzer, the County's landscape architect. Mr. Williamson noted that the County had contacted him regarding a landscape ordinance, and he would follow up.

- Budget for FYE 2010

Mr. Williamson announced that the FYE 2010 budget was adopted last week. Continued funding for the Conservation Incentive Program was included in the capital budget, and he expected a number of rebate applications with the onset of tiered rates. Mr. Rolwing summarized last year's CIP budget. Mr. Williamson suggested that larger users, such as condominium associations and hotels, may be better off applying for water credits rather than turf removal rebates.

- WET – Water Education for Teachers

Mr. Rolwing promised to check again regarding the WET programs in San Luis Obispo and Cucamonga. Director Shimeall recommended starting investigation into next year's programs.

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

- Discussion of possible rebates for tree removal

Mr. Rolwing reported that he had received a number of requests for tree removal rebates, which were not included in the Proposition 218 process. Discussion followed regarding the types of trees that might be considered.

Mr. Rolwing asked, when irrigation retrofit assistance is requested, should the District confirm that the contractor is licensed? Mr. McKelvey felt this was not the District's responsibility, and Director Shimeall suggested the District make a recommendation, not a mandate.

Mr. Engelke announced that the Community Sponsor Group had suggested planting shade trees between Christmas Circle and the high school. They are considering approaching local businesses to ask them to pay the cost of a tree in front of their establishment, giving the choice of three species (mesquite, jacaranda or palo verde). Director Shimeall objected to the choice of jacaranda, based on the debris created. Mr. Rolwing concurred, noting they do not do well in this area. Mr. Engelke pointed out that some like the flowers and color. He went on to point out that some property on the route was vacant, and asked if the District would consider irrigating the trees if the owner elected to plant them. Mr. Rolwing felt this should go to the full Board, and suggested we add the irrigation cost to the water meter price, once it is sold. Mr. Engelke suggested that in the alternative, the property owner could be required to install an irrigation meter. Mr. McKelvey pointed out that the fire department might be requested to assist. Mr. Williamson supported the concept, but observed that we have to address the "gift of public funds" issue. Somehow, the property owner would have to pay for the irrigation. Mr. Rolwing agreed to calculate the cost. Mr. Williamson suggested requesting the property owner to grant the District an easement in the vicinity of the trees, pursuant to the District's park authority.

- Status of Conservation Incentive participants

Mr. McKelvey reported he was working with the Palm Canyon Resort on an irrigation audit and irrigation retrofit assistance. Mr. Rolwing agreed to inspect the plans. Mr. Williamson observed that the project would fall under the "special" category for turf removal, and maybe they would consider low flow toilets, waterless urinals and low flow washers in the laundromat. Mr. McKelvey agreed to discuss the suggestions with the Resort and refer them to Mr. Rolwing.

- Toilet rebates, Irrigation audits, Turf removals

Mr. Rolwing requested approval for a turf removal rebate for Seth Brown, 2,080 square feet at De Anza, plus an irrigation retrofit credit. He recommended approval of the

turf removal rebate and approval of the retrofit in concept upon submission of final plans. The Committee concurred.

Mr. Rolwing further reported that Jim and Beki Braden had requested a rebate for turf removal, which has been completed. Piping is being redone. The Committee concurred.

Margaret Lacey-Schneider removed turf last year and now wants to remove the back yard. Director Shimeall felt only one rebate was allowed per resident. Mr. Williamson concurred, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to confirm.

Discussion followed regarding Desert Shadows Homeowners' Association, which removed turf but continued irrigating. Investigation is continuing.

Christine Murphy removed 560 square feet of turf, and the Committee approved a rebate, pending confirmation.

Ben Nourse improved his irrigation system following an audit. The District's share would be \$589.80, and the Committee approved it.

John Hughie applied for turf removal credit and redone irrigation system, \$1,788 total. The Committee approved, subject to confirmation.

- Funding of Pre-Program Improvement Applications

This item was not discussed.

### **3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

None.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next regular Conservation Committee Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 2, 2009.