

**Borrego Water District**  
**MINUTES**  
**Groundwater Management Standing Committee**  
**Wednesday, October 14, 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**

Director Smiley noted that the "pepper farm" had been planted with oats, not wheat, as reflected in Agenda Item 1. Jerry Rolwing explained that in Agenda Item 4 re Viking Ranch, the farmland was not across from Montesoro. That property is where the future subdivision is planned. The Minutes should read, ". . . Lance Lundberg, who . . . purchased farmland *to mitigate subdivision* across from Montesoro." The Minutes were approved as amended.

**CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Director Smiley inquired about a recent conference that Rich Williamson attended. Mr. Williamson reported that it was conducted by the EPA and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. He spoke regarding BWD's water mitigation credit policy, and those in attendance were receptive and interested. The conference included exhibits of water saving devices such as low flow shower heads and drought tolerant buffalo grass.

Discussion followed regarding San Diego County's model landscaping ordinance and BWD's partnership role. Mr. Rolwing reported there is a meeting in San Diego next week, but it conflicts with the BWD Board meeting. He will follow it on the Internet.

1. Discussion of Pepper Farm and Dragon Fruit Farm allocations. Director Smiley referred to the Board's action at its last meeting regarding the pepper farm. They tabled approval of credits until the District receives a letter from DPLU saying the land is eligible to be farmed. Mr. Williamson reported that the Board approved three credits per acre for the dragon fruit farm. He will work with Allison Burns on the Certificate of Preliminary Determination of Water Credits.

2. Viking Ranch – Discuss Status of Water Credit opportunities. Director Smiley reported that the Negotiating Committee discussed the Viking Ranch water credit opportunities, but details should be reserved for closed session since the matter involves real estate. Jim Engelke explained that Lance Lundberg is considering a phased project; develop the property gradually and fallow as needed. Director Smiley emphasized the need to explain to the County why their mitigation policy is counter productive, necessitating the continued irrigation of crops when the owner wants to fallow now but is not ready to develop.

Rebecca Falk asked how much the District had collected in in-lieu fees. Mr. Rolwing thought it was approximately \$200,000 but agreed to confirm. Ms. Falk suggested perhaps the funds could be used for the first phase of Mr. Lundberg's fallowing. Director Mendenhall pointed out that the District is not in the market to buy more credits at this time.

Director Mendenhall reported that the Borrego Springs Fire Department is starting to sign some will-serve letters, based on assistance from the County and Cal Fire.

It was agreed that the District will continue to work with Mr. Engelke toward resolution of the Viking Ranch situation. Mr. Williamson suggested a joint letter to the County urging approval to fallow. Mr. Engelke will ask Mr. Lundberg to contact Mr. Williamson.

3. Status of Financing/Grant Requests. Mr. Williamson reported that the I-Bank has requested Board resolutions in support of the District's loan application, and they will be on the next Agenda. Ms. Burns is drafting the resolutions, which deal with the existence of an enterprise fund. Mr. Williamson hoped to have the funds by January.

Mr. Williamson reported that CEQA documents for the Wilcox reservoir are in process, and he had met with representatives of the State Park.

Mr. Williamson also met with Bill Mills regarding the USDA funding, which may be used for the Clark Lake project. He will also be meeting with property owners in the area.

Mr. Rolwing reported that Proposition 84 funding is available from the Department of Public Health for repair of contamination problems caused by humans. An application based on the nitrate content of farmland may be appropriate, although since we are not in violation of any requirements it could be difficult.

Mr. Williamson reported that the scope of work for the EPA grant had been submitted for the southeast water line and possibly another along San Felipe Creek.

The Bureau of Reclamation has prepared a new concept document, partnering BWD with Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Water District and the San Diego County Water Authority. The group is looking at the declining aquifer and storage capacity options. Director Smiley noted that a new bond issue will address State funding for both above-ground and groundwater storage.

Mr. Rolwing reported that the Corps of Engineers recently visited De Anza regarding the potential flood control project. They are considering installation of gauging stations and hope to have preliminary findings in January.

4. Update on Groundwater Management Study. This item was not discussed.

5. Status of Sustainable Water Supply Projects. Mr. Williamson reported that grading plans for the Wilcox and Indianhead reservoirs are complete, and retention of a structural and mechanical design firm has been approved.

6. Discussion: Future directions and goals. Mr. Rolwing inquired about procedures for selling mitigation credits acquired by the District. Mr. Williamson recommended putting the matter on the next Board Agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next regular Groundwater Management Committee Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, November 11, 2009 at 9:15 a.m.