

Borrego Water District
MINUTES
Conservation Standing Committee
Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m.
806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Attendance:

Directors: Andersen, Shimeall

Staff: Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager
Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary

Public: Scott Messersmith Tom Fredericks
Connie Smith Kirit Patel, Stanlunds Resort

CALL TO ORDER
INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of August 18, 2009 were approved as written.

CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. IMPLEMENTATION OF CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

- Consideration of hiring Scott Messersmith for irrigation audits

Jerry Rolwing reported that Scott Messersmith had submitted the necessary documents in support of his application to perform irrigation audits, proving he is licensed and insured. There have been many recent requests for audits, and it was contemplated they would alternate between Mr. Messersmith and Tom Fredericks. Mr. Rolwing will schedule a meeting with the two landscapers soon to review the program and assign tasks. The Committee concurred with the proposal.

- Review Luckman incentive that was not pre-approved

Mr. Rolwing reported that contractor Mike Wilson had requested irrigation retrofit assistance but had not had an irrigation audit. Mr. Rolwing inspected the project and found the work to be done well, but the property on Country Club appeared to be a nursery. The area is not zoned for a nursery, and the Committee agreed not to approve the request.

- Upcoming Irrigation seminar/plans for future workshops (gardeners and/or general public)

Mr. Rolwing announced the next irrigation seminar, October 31 at 9:00 a.m. at the District office. He estimated 30 attendees and hoped to have another seminar in the spring. Connie Smith suggested a field trip in the spring to properties which have had irrigation retrofits and are saving water.

- Budget for FYE 2010

Mr. Rolwing referred to the budget information in the Agenda packet and offered to answer questions. He noted that Lucy Larson had suggested giving rebates in water bill credits rather than cash, but the Committee agreed the paperwork would be prohibitive.

2. CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MONITORING DUTIES

- Review of irrigation audits

Mr. Rolwing reported that Mr. Fredericks had turned in several irrigation audits. Twelve are outstanding. Vigorous enforcement of the back-flow or anti-siphon requirement is planned.

- Status of Conservation Incentive participants

Mr. Rolwing summarized applications for turf removal (Van Dusen) and replacement of three leaking irrigation valves (Decker). Although Mr. Decker did not have an audit, the Committee agreed to approve the 20 percent participation at \$45 subject to Mr. Rolwing's confirmation of an anti-siphon valve. The Van Dusen turf removal of 2,400 square feet was approved subject to inspection.

Mr. Rolwing reported that Dennis Daust had an irrigation audit performed but had not yet requested retrofit assistance.

Retrofit assistance requests from Don Zimmerman, Christine Murphy, Hans Meneke and Ole Hammerness were approved pending inspection and proof of payment.

- Toilet rebates, Irrigation audits, Turf removals

Kirit Patel of Stanlunds Resort explained that he had 23 toilets that were 25 years old, and he wants to convert them to 1.28-gallon models. Mr. Rolwing will review the budget to determine how the District can assist. Mr. Patel also hoped to remove some turf. Mr. Fredericks showed an aerial view of the property. Mr. Rolwing noted the total turf is 12,691 square feet, and pointed out the rebate maximum is 2,500. Mr. Patel was not ready to address complete turf removal at this time. Mr. Rolwing will work with him toward a possible phased removal, 2,500 now with rebate and more later. Mr. Fredericks explained plans for an irrigation retrofit, including replacement of plastic valves with polypropylene and improved rain bird drippers.

- Funding of Pre-Program Improvement Applications

This item was not discussed.

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

Mr. Rolwing will track water savings for property owners who have had irrigation retrofits.

3. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Proposed demonstration garden with ABDNHA for November agenda

Mr. Rolwing reported that Betsy Knaak from the Anza Borrego Desert Natural History Association had suggested a demonstration garden on property near Christmas Circle. She will make a presentation at the November meeting.

- Other items

Mr. Rolwing announced that instead of handing out water cups at Borrego Days (100 for \$500), he had decided on wrist bands (1,000 for \$370). They will say, "Water is Borrego's treasure." Other material, including children's activities, will be distributed as well. High school students will man the booth to earn community service credits.

The District's website has been updated.

Mr. Rolwing reported that the County is preparing a landscaping ordinance for new construction, and Rich Williamson is keeping apprised. More information should be available at the November meeting. Directors Shimeall and Andersen requested copies, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to provide them.

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