

**Borrego Water District**  
**MINUTES**  
**Groundwater Management Standing Committee**  
**Wednesday, June 9, 2010, 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 Clark Shimeall  
Marshal Brecht Kathy Johnson  
Ray Delahay

**CALL TO ORDER**  
**INTRODUCTION OF PARTICIPANTS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Director Smiley recommended that the last sentence of the third paragraph on page 2 of the May Minutes be clarified. Rich Williamson suggested it be rewritten to read in part, ". . . reduction of unaccounted for water through monitoring and repairs of the District's infrastructure." The Minutes of the GWM Standing Committee meeting of May 12, 2010 were approved as corrected.

**CURRENT AGENDA ITEMS**

1. Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study status report. Mr. Williamson announced that BWD has been selected for the next phase of its application for a BOR Basin Study, preparation of a study plan. The plan is due to the Bureau next Thursday. Our partners are Imperial Irrigation District, Coachella Water District and maybe the San Diego Water Authority. The BOR is optimistic about our chances.

Director Mendenhall inquired as to the thrust of the study. Mr. Williamson explained that we hope to better manage the water in the Lower Colorado River Basin, give IID and CWD more options in their water importation and tentatively provide storage in the Borrego Basin.

Marshal Brecht asked about participation by IID and CWD, and Mr. Williamson replied that they have committed to participate in and support the project, but the percentage of funding remains to be negotiated.

2. IRWMP Status. Jerry Rolwing reported that we have had good response from the State Park, AAWARE and the Golf Course Association regarding participation in the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Two of the four Indian tribes in the region have responded to our inquiry, and Mr. Rolwing will follow up. The criteria for the planning grants are expected this month or next month, with applications due in August. If successful, costs since 2008 could be recouped from the grant funds. A Regional Plan will be developed, including Canebroke Water District and the State Park. Mr. Rolwing welcomed interested citizens to attend the IRWMP meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

3. Financing/Grants request status. Mr. Williamson reported he hoped to receive approval for the \$1.5 million BOR Basin Study. The local match would be \$750,000, and BWD already has nearly \$500,000 expended. Contributions from IID and CWD will be solicited.

The I-Bank is concerned regarding BWD's pending loan application because of Montesoros's status as one of our largest customers. Moreover, I-Bank now wants to charge interest on the entire amount of the loan at the outset, instead of only the amount encumbered. Consequently, Mr. Williamson suggested that we phase the projects to avoid paying interest on unused funds. Initially, we could request \$1.2 million for the transmission lines, estimated to be a one-year project. Then for the next phase there would be the option to return to the I-Bank, seek USDA funding or sell bonds.

Mr. Williamson reported he had met with State Park representatives regarding the proposed Wilcox Reservoir, and they were reconsidering the plan to spend a half a million dollars to bury the tank and construct berms. Over six acres would be disturbed, which would likely create a greater impact than simply painting the tank with camouflage.

The EPA STAG grant application is due by June 21 and if successful, would provide a \$200,000 earmark. Another earmark for \$500,000 would determine sustainable water withdrawal capability from Clark Lake, but a decision may not be made for a year or so. If found to be viable, an importation system would cost \$8 to \$12 million. Ultimate importation via IID and CWD is estimated at \$60 million. Federal assistance is anticipated.

Mr. Williamson reported that a rate study is included in next year's budget and will include extensive public and committee participation. An important goal is to share relevant costs with owners of undeveloped land.

4. Status of applications for water credits. Mr. Williamson reported that negotiations with Viking Ranch are continuing in closed session.

He further reported he had met with Jim Bennett at the County regarding mitigation credits arising from Palm Canyon Resort's landscape conversion. So far the County has not accepted the credits because some irrigation is still required to establish the new desert planting. Director Smiley pointed out that the County is concerned about inability to quantify or verify the water use to their satisfaction. Discussion followed regarding the possibility of designating BWD as a Special Act District, which would include police powers. This would provide the potential for BWD to assume all administration of the mitigation program and simply write the County a letter confirming that all conditions have been satisfied.

Mr. Rolwing reported that the District had issued 50.5 Type 3 mitigation credits to Sunshine Farms.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m. The next regular Groundwater Management Committee Meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, July 14, 2010 at 9:15 a.m.