

Anza Borrego Desert Planning Region Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

Tuesday January 10, 2012
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Borrego Water District
806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Remote Access:

Webinar access - <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/699651074>
Conference line – call-in number 1-888-870-8306, passcode 9256274132

DRAFT NOTES

Action items are shown in italics

Attendees:

Jerry Rolwing, BWD
Beth Hart, BWD
John Peterson, Anza-
Borrego Foundation

Attending by Phone:

Lyle Brecht, BWD
Brian Moniz, DWR
Jennifer Wong, DWR
Tim Ross, DWR
Bob Pierotti, DWR
Dale Schafer, Center for
Collaborative Policy
Marty Leavitt, Resource
Conservation District of
Greater San Diego County
Will Micklin, Ewiiapaayp
Band of Kumeyaay Indians

Dennis Bostadt
Roselyn Prickett, RMC
Water and Environment
Tom West, RMC Water and
Environment
Ali Taghavi, RMC Water and
Environment
Crystal Mohr, RMC Water
and Environment

Agenda:

Welcome and Introductions

- The group made self introductions and Jerry Rolwing welcomed the group to the stakeholders meeting.
- Rosalyn Prickett noted that the agenda was revised, available during the meeting via webinar.

Review Outcomes of Last Meeting, December 13, 2011

- Jerry Rolwing provided an overview of the previous Anza Borrego Desert (ABD) stakeholders meeting, which took place on December 13, 2011. He noted that during this meeting, stakeholders reviewed and commented on the Draft Work

Plan for the ABD Planning Grant application, and were asked to submit comments by December 20, 2011.

- Tom West noted that received comments were incorporated into the Work Plan in track changes, and an edited version of the Work Plan was provided to stakeholders via email. Due to the competitive nature of the Round 2 Planning Grant applications, however, the Work Plan will need to be revised to provide further clarity. During this meeting, we will discuss proposed changes and request stakeholders to provide any additional comments or suggestions.
 - *Comment:* provide a date and version number so stakeholders can keep track of versions of the Work Plan.
 - *Comment:* double-check the numbers provided relating to geology and the age of rocks in the Region.
 - *Comment:* provide citations for all technical information.
 - *Comment:* information provided regarding the State Park should be fact-checked with the State Park.

DWR Report

- Jennifer Wong provided an overview of DWR updates. Ms. Wong noted that DWR will be holding several workshops on the Planning Grant applications. A Southern California workshop will be held on January 31, 2012 at California Towers in Riverside. The final Planning Grant applications are due via the Bond Management System on March 9, 2012.

Feasibility and Technical Support Assessment

- Dale Schafer and Ali Taghavi noted that their work that is being contracted with DWR to provide technical support to the Region is still being defined.
- Brian Moniz provided an overview of the proposed State of the Basin Program. He noted that DWR is moving forward with producing two reports: one will focus on the state of the Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin, and one will provide an overall view of the entire Region. The following is a summary of questions and answers relating to the State of the Basin Program:
 - *Question:* why is DWR choosing to move forward with producing two reports? Why not complete one report for the entire Region, and keep with the inclusive nature of IRWM planning?
 - *Answer:* DWR wants to produce the Borrego Valley-specific report by March 2012, and already has enough information to move forward with producing that document. The region-wide report will take more time to produce, and will therefore be done at a later date. DWR also wants to give proper attention to the Borrego Valley basin. DWR anticipates ultimately combining both documents into one report.
 - *Question:* is anything written down as far as a scope of work or the work process? How do we make sure that stakeholders are all on the same page?

- *Answer:* DWR will provide a text summary that can be used in the ABD Planning Grant application to describe the general approach by January 20, 2012.
- *Comment:* The documents will not be an end point, but rather will be designed to be used as tools and sets of facts that can be used for outreach and negotiation purposes.
- *Comment:* the process is important to ensure that all users own the problem and are in agreement with the process.
 - *Answer:* DWR intends to utilize CCP and RMC-Wrime to conduct outreach and other activities.

Status of Planning Grant Work Plan

- To increase the robustness of the Planning Grant application, the team will make several additions to the Work Plan. These specific changes have not yet been made, but will be discussed at a general level.
- Reduce Grant Request
 - The grant request will be reduced to increase the chance that it will be fully awarded. One way that this will be done is through consolidation of meetings.
- Clarify Funding Match
 - The funding match will be the USGS study, and the Work Plan and Budget will be edited to clearly demonstrate that this work is necessary to fortify and inform the IRWM Plan.
- Describe Current Governance Structure
 - The Work Plan will include a description of what has been done to-date to establish a governance structure, and will describe future anticipated work. Future work will include CCP's work, which will include formalizing the Region's governance structure through a charter or by other means.
 - *Question:* will the charter include a voting structure, including members and voting procedures?
 - *Answer:* yes. The charter will not just formalize decision-making procedures, but will also define operations and scheduling for meetings. The charter will also include a description of the stakeholder group and voting rules, and will have uniformity and consistency.
 - *Comment:* with regards to the Planning Grant Application; DWR reviewers need confidence that something is in place and there is a future structure. It would be ideal to have a formal document such as an MOU between RWMG agencies in place.
 - *RMC and CCP to forward example resolutions and MOUs to BWD.*
 - *Question:* is it necessary to have an MOU in place now?
 - *Answer:* It would be good to have a formal document that defines the RWMG agencies' commitment to the IRWM process, especially since they will ultimately need to approve the IRWM Plan. However, DWR will accept documentation of the governance process as long

as it clearly defines what has been done and what will be done towards establishing a legitimate governance structure.

- Incorporate Technical Updates
 - The Work Plan will be edited to ensure that all technical work that we are proposing will build upon work completed through the State of the Basin Program. The Work Plan will also discuss the urgency of getting the Region towards a managed basin.
- Reformat Scope of Work
 - Due to feedback from DWR from the last round of Planning Grant applications, it is recommended that all background information be moved to the front of the Work Plan so that the Work Plan itself (the tasks) will focus on the actual work that will be completed. This will mean that stakeholders will see a document that looks much different than it currently looks during the next round of review.
- Clarify Regional Demographics
 - Need to include demographic information into the Work Plan, particularly noting that the Region has a large amount of visitors to the Anza Borrego Desert State Park.
 - *Comment:* need to verify any statements made about the Park and its visitors with representatives from the State Park.
- Stakeholders were asked to provide any additional comments or suggestions. The following is a summary of that conversation:
 - *Comment:* The hydrograph in the Work Plan (Figure 3-7) that shows the Region's aquifers should be replaced with a more compelling graphic that shows groundwater declines.
 - *Jerry Rolwing to send RMC a copy of this graphic.*
 - *Comment:* Should we show that the rate of decline of the aquifer is increasing? Not only is groundwater decreasing, but at an increasing rate.
 - *Answer:* the USGS and the State of the Basin Program will help to clarify the rate of groundwater decline, and this number is not ready for inclusion in the Work Plan at this time.
 - *Comment:* Stakeholders will receive a compiled Planning Grant application one week prior to the next Stakeholder Committee meeting, which is scheduled for February 14, 2012.

Next Steps

- Work Plan Workgroup will convene on January 24, 2012 to provide input and discuss comments on the Work Plan.
- Next Stakeholders Committee meeting is scheduled for February 14, 2012 and stakeholders will receive draft Planning Grant documents by February 7, 2012.