

week irrigation limit to comply with the State mandate. She added that the mandate became effective in June, when many Borrego residents are gone and unable to reduce their irrigation.

Another attendee asked how absentee homeowners could comply with the ordinance requirement not to irrigate within 48 hours of measurable rain. President Hart explained that that was a State mandate and suggested asking a neighbor or gardener to turn off the irrigation. The attendee suggested defining “micro bubbler,” a term used in the ordinance.

The next question was whether a part-time owner could limit irrigation to two days a week, but not the days specified according to the odd/even house number system in the ordinance. President Hart referred to the proposed ordinance revision exempting unattended irrigation systems from adhering to specific days of the week.

Jerry Rolwing invited the group’s attention to his letter to the SWRCB, included in the Board package. He explained the Borrego Valley’s unique situation and efforts to conserve, and asked that an exemption from the Governor’s Executive Order be provided.

Bob Moore expressed concern regarding turf irrigation, particularly at Christmas Circle, noting that turf cannot be reseeded with only two days a week of irrigation. President Hart recommended changing proposed paragraph 1.A.f of the revised ordinance, “These provisions do not apply to . . . landscaping within active public parks,” by eliminating the final phrase, “. . . provided that such irrigation does not exceed two (2) days per week.”

The next speaker had fruit trees. He ate the fruit but did not sell it. President Hart pointed out that the ordinance’s reference to “consumption” does not specify that it be commercial. The homeowner was a seasonal resident who had been watering his fruit trees daily for six minutes a day. Ken Okey assured him that much less watering would be adequate. President Hart recommended asking the gardener to gradually wean the trees to a reduced irrigation schedule.

Ray Shindler pointed out that water conservation is important to the ratepayers, because purchasing water would be more expensive than conserving, so the more water we save the more money we save.

The draft revised ordinance was referred to the Conservation Committee for final editing and will be presented to the Board for consideration of adoption at its next regular meeting.

B. Discussion of Prop 218 rate increase and possible postponement until the Fall: Mr. Rolwing reported that notices of the May 25 Proposition 218 hearing on the proposed rate increases had been sent to ratepayers and property owners. Unfortunately, the parcel list for the property owners was not up to date, so the notice needs to be reissued and the hearing postponed to meet the statutory advance notice requirement. The Board agreed to reschedule the hearing until June 9.

Mr. McKee cited previous Minutes reflecting the Board’s intention to address commercial and irrigation rates during the next 218 process. President Hart assured him that they had done so, proposing new commercial and irrigation rates higher than residential Tier 1 but lower than Tier 2.

Harry Ehrlich suggested including a link to the hearing notice on the District’s website, and Director Brecht replied that it was the Board’s intention to do so. It will be available in English and Spanish.

Director Tatusko cited Raftelis’ assistance in the 218 process and their credentials. He went on to summarize the proposed tiered rates and meter charge adjustments, and expressed his support for the Raftelis study and the proposed rate changes.

C. Discussion and possible action on continuing Groundwater Sustainability Plan work: Director Brecht referred to the Strategic Planning Committee’s negotiations with the County toward a joint Groundwater Sustainability Agency role for BWD and the County. The

Committee had written a letter to the Community Sponsor Group regarding the proposed Rudyville development, and he and Director Tatusko attended the Sponsor Group meeting on behalf of the Committee in President Hart's absence. In the Due Diligence Committee meetings, he and Director Tatusko had also discussed the proposed GSA MOU with the County. Notes from those Committee meetings were included in the Board package. According to the documents provided by the County Planning Department, they are claiming that SGMA does not apply to the upzoning requested for Rudyville.

Director Brecht explained that the DWR had indicated it would take six months to approve BWD and the County as joint GSAs once the MOU is submitted; and even with approval as GSAs, they would have no authority until the GSP was approved. Director Brecht went on to outline the current MOU negotiations with the County. BWD's proposed MOU has been revised three times, and each time the County rejected it and came back with amendments which were unacceptable to BWD. He perceived three options: (1) Give in to whatever the County wants; (2) Stand our ground and force negotiations with the County's principals (the County staff members with whom BWD has been negotiating are not the decision-makers), and if unsuccessful, let SWRCB take over; or (3) Cease negotiating.

Mr. Rolwing pointed out that the District has the ability to tell developers they do not have sufficient water to serve them. Director Brecht noted that requests for water service are granted on a "first come, first served" basis.

Rick Alexander suggested that the District contact the County staff members responsible for submitting the Rudyville upzoning request to the Sponsor Group. He also recommended participating in the upcoming EIR process for the project, during which water supply will be a factor. Mr. Rolwing suggested bringing in a facilitator from DWR to assist in the MOU negotiations with the County, as was previously offered. Discussion followed, including the possibility of meeting with staff members for County Supervisor Bill Horn, State Senator Joel Anderson and State Assemblyman Brian Jones.

D. Review and possible acceptance of Harry Ehrlich proposal for General Manager recruitment: *MSC: Brecht/Tatusko accepting Harry Ehrlich's proposal for the General Manager recruitment.*

E. Discussion of potential agenda items for April 27th board meeting: Items for the next Agenda will include the urgency ordinance amendment, budget, the CIP process, SGMA and water quality, GSP funding for Dudek and a Proposition 218 update.

III. INFORMATION

A. Borrego Springs Water District Strategic Planning Committee statement about the Property Specific Requests (PSRs) General Plan Amendment (GPA) – presented by Lyle Brecht at Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group meeting on Thursday, April 7, 2016, 4:30 PM, Borrego Springs High School Community Room: Director Brecht's presentation was included in the Board package for information.

B. UCI community reception invitation: Director Tatusko plans to attend.

IV. CLOSED SESSION

A. PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT

Title: General Manager

California Government Code section 54957(b)(1)

The Board adjourned to closed session at 11:10 a.m., and the open session reconvened at 12:05 p.m. The Board gave instructions to the recruiter.

V. CLOSING PROCEDURE

There being no further business, the Board adjourned at 12:10 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for April 27, 2016 at the Borrego Water District.