

Minutes
Anza Borrego Desert IRWM – Stakeholders Subcommittee Meeting
9 am, December 14, 2010
Borrego Water District Office, Borrego Springs

Attendance: Staff: Rich Williamson, General Manager/President, ABDIRWM
 Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager
 Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary

Public: Judy Meier, *Borrego Sun* Marshal Brecht
 Bill Mills Carl McKenney, Canebrake
 Myrna Wosk Clark Shimeall

1. Welcome and Self Introductions
 Those present introduced themselves.

2. BWD IRWM Planning Grant Application
 - a. BWD Not on Draft Funding Awards list; score close to funding awards level
 Bill Mills announced that our planning grant was not selected for funding. Our score was 36 points out of 50, and the funding cut-off was 40.
 - b. Comment period on initial awards ends December 23, 2010
 Mr. Mills explained that there is a comment period following the tentative funding selections, and comments are considered before making a final decision.
 - c. Final awards in February 2011
 The final planning grant awards will be announced in February.

3. IRWM Plan Adoption
 - a. Plan adoption by all project proponents
 Mr. Mills informed the Subcommittee that any agency seeking IRWM funding must adopt the Plan.
 - b. BWD adoption at Annual Town Hall meeting (March or April)
 It is anticipated that BWD will adopt the Plan at its annual Town Hall meeting.

4. Implementation Grants (Construction or Project grants)
 - a. Round 2 application announcement in June, 2011
 In response to an inquiry from Marshal Brecht, Mr. Mills confirmed that we can still apply for an implementation grant even if we don't receive a planning grant.
 - b. Canebrake
 Carl McKenney reported that as of today, Canebrake was still participating in IRWM. Myrna Wosk disagreed, noting that the Canebrake Water District Board had not voted on the issue. Ms. Wosk stated she was a Board member, but was speaking today on her own behalf, not for the Board.

The Subcommittee discussed the Minutes of October 26. Jerry Rolwing referred to Item 4.c, where it was reported he would e-mail the Subcommittee regarding access to the implementation workshop webcast. In fact, he only agreed to e-mail those requesting notification, of which there was one. The Minutes were modified to state, "Mr. Rolwing will e-mail those requesting access to the . . . workshop"

Judy Meier pointed out a typographical error in the first paragraph of Item 4.c ("found" instead of "round").

Ms. Wosk objected to the sentence at the end of Item 6.d, "To date, Canebrake has not withdrawn." She opined that they could not withdraw, since they have not yet joined. The sentence was deleted, and the heading of the item with changed to "Canebrake," rather than "Canebrake withdrawal."

Rich Williamson asked whether the Canebrake Board would like a presentation on the IRWMP. He felt it was important for them to understand the importance of the program to qualify them for State funds, and BWD is urging their participation for Canebrake's sake, not BWD's. Mr. McKenney announced that their next meeting would be the second Friday in January.

5. Review of Comments to DWR on BWD Planning Grant Application

Mr. Mills summarized a draft letter from Mr. Williamson and him to the Department of Water Resources in response to their comments on our planning grant application. DWR concluded that the IRWM Work Plan did not fully address the criteria and lacked supporting documentation. Mr. Mills pointed out that the deliverables are included in the IRWM Plan itself, and pointed to the Plan Completion Schedule (Item 6 on today's Agenda).

More information on how Disadvantaged Communities would be involved in the future IRWM process was requested by DWR. Mr. Mills noted that our application describes their current involvement, and no change is anticipated. Mr. Rolwing suggested removing the "CWD" designation for Canebrake from our response, and just referring to "Canebrake" (in response to Ms. Wosk's concerns).

Mr. Williamson explained that DWR was concerned that completion of the USGS study, part of the IRWMP technical analysis, was not scheduled until after approval of the IRWMP. He pointed out that because of internal procedures at USGS, the final report will not be released until autumn but the data will be available and presented at the Town Hall meeting in the spring when the BWD Board will consider adoption of the IRWMP. Mr. Mills added that other contributing studies are scheduled for completion concurrently with the IRWMP, but extensive draft review by the Policy Committee and the Stakeholders Subcommittee will precede final adoption. Mr. Williamson added that USGS data would also be available prior to adoption of the IRWMP, and Peter Martin could confirm this. Mr. Mills pointed out that 70 percent of the Plan itself was included in the planning grant application. Mr. Williamson suggested referring to past Minutes as evidence of ongoing review by the Committee and Subcommittee.

In response to DWR's concern that the grant application would implement only three of the eight program preferences, Mr. Mills referred to Section 1.10 and Table 6-2 of the application, demonstrating that all candidate projects meet statewide priorities. He went on to address specific preferences and how our projects would address them, including integration of water management programs, resolution of water-related conflicts, flood control and prevention and contribution to the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. In the last category, Mr. Williamson recommended changing the term "Colorado River Aqueduct" to "Colorado River System."

Mr. Rolwing suggested strengthening the letter's concluding paragraph by stating, "We *anticipate* [rather than hope] that you will adjust our score" A tentative adjusted score was proposed: work plan, 1 additional point; DAC, 2 additional points; schedule, 1 additional point; and program preferences, 6 additional points.

6. Plan Completion Schedule

Mr. Mills summarized the Plan completion schedule, noting that completion dates for each section are one week before a stakeholders' meeting, and the Town Hall meeting

is assumed to take place on April 6. Some tasks, notably stakeholder involvement and coordination, will continue beyond the description contained in the Plan. Mr. Mills pointed out that most sections will be written by January 18, and many are partially written already and were included in the grant application. The draft final Plan is scheduled for completion on February 15, and the final Plan on March 15.

Ms. Wosk inquired about identification of the stakeholders and whether Canebrake County Water District was included. Mr. Rolwing explained that they were, because they were notified of the opportunity and have been kept informed. Mr. Williamson added that Canebrake is a de facto stakeholder because they are a water agency within our region. Representatives can elect to attend meetings or not, and the Canebrake Board will eventually make a decision as to whether to adopt the Plan and be eligible for funding. He emphasized that the Canebrake Board can adopt the Plan to keep its options for future State funding open, but can opt out at any time.

7. Next meeting date January 25, 2011 at 9 am at BWD

Mr. Williamson thanked the attendees for participating and agreed to send the stakeholders copies of the letter to DWR. It was also agreed to send a copy to State Senator Joel Anderson and ask for his support.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 25 at 9:00 a.m. at the Borrego Water District.