

4. IRWMP Priority Projects Identification Process

a. Draft Work Plan

Mr. Mills explained that we need to begin identifying projects that can be submitted to the State for funding. They must be prioritized, and all areas in our region should be included. He thanked the Canebrake Water District for submitting a description of their proposed project, and distributed a handout showing alternative projects for BWD.

b. AB 303 Grant submittal for "nested" monitoring well in Borrego Valley

BWD has been recommended for funding by USGS for a nested monitoring well and will submit an application.

5. Funding (Prop 84)

a. Planning grants – submittal of planning grant in July

Mr. Mills announced that Proposition 84 planning grants may be applied for in July, offering 75 percent funding with 25 percent local match. The local match can be in-kind services.

b. Colorado River Hydrologic Region

Mr. Mills explained there are 11 regions in California for Proposition 84 purposes. We are in the Colorado River Region, along with Imperial and Coachella, and have been allocated \$36 million (\$20 million for planning). The maximum award is \$1 million per study.

6. Subcommittee Participation Process

a. Meeting Schedule

It was agreed that the meetings would be held on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Bob Calhoun asked how the meetings were announced, and Mr. Mills replied that there was a newspaper ad and e-mails to those who attended last month. Mr. Calhoun suggested a notification two weeks before the meeting and a reminder two or three days before.

b. Subcommittee Break-out session if attendance allows, otherwise as a group

i. Role, purpose and objectives of each subcommittee

ii. Actions in near term and long term

iii. Are presentations for outlying water systems and tribes needed?

It was agreed that the group was too small for separate subcommittee meetings today.

Discussion followed regarding how to encourage participation. Rich Williamson suggested included something to generate interest, such as mention of a particular project, emphasis on funding opportunities and the importance of the IRWMP's role in the community. Mr. Rolwing added that the meeting notice is on the BWD website, and agenda items could be included. Mr. Mills suggested that someone could visit Jacumba and Majestic Pines Community Services Districts to encourage their involvement. Don McKelvey suggested meeting via conference call, and Mr. Mills

suggested meeting at the offices of different members. Mr. Rolwing will investigate. Mr. Mills emphasized the need to document our communication with potential participants. He recommended that when advertising the next meeting, we explain that the purpose is to develop a list of projects and priorities for funding applications, and expand the advertising to include local newspapers in other member areas. Mr. Rolwing offered to prepare a short summary of the last minutes to include in the ad, and to e-mail the minutes to prior participants and post them on the website. Mr. Mills suggested a letter to the editors in various areas regarding the importance of the IRWMP, and Mr. Williamson offered to prepare it.

Mr. Calhoun explained Canebrake's needs: two wells, a tank and replacement of all distribution pipelines. They are currently losing 30,000 gallons of water per month, and they only have 80 water meters. The aquifer is being depleted, and the electrical costs are escalating. Mr. Mills emphasized the importance of prioritizing their needs, including water supply, distribution, finance, water quality and safety. Mr. Calhoun welcomed the group to visit Canebrake and inspect their facilities.

Don McKelvey inquired about the locations of the various IRWMP members. Mr. Rolwing pointed them out on the regional map and noted there is a copy on the BWD website.

Discussion followed over priorities for BWD. Mr. Mills pointed out that all efforts basically lead to reducing the aquifer overdraft. Dick Walker felt Borrego's top priorities should be replenishing the aquifer and fallowing farmland. Mr. Williamson suggested grant funds might be used to purchase land and fallow it.

A chart of alternative projects and actions was distributed, and Mr. Mills hoped to obtain similar matrices from all participating districts. Mr. Williamson noted that the State funding criteria would be available soon, and our information will need to be consistent. Mr. Calhoun agreed to prepare a chart for Canebrake's projects by the next IRWMP meeting, and Mr. Rolwing offered assistance if needed. Mr. Williamson suggested a new well be a top priority. Mr. Rolwing will continue efforts to involve Jacumba and Majestic Pines, and all prioritized projects will be considered at the next meeting.

7. Reassemble and report on break-out sessions

The break-out sessions were not held due to the small attendance.

8. Next Subcommittee meeting on March 23, 9 am, Borrego Water District

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m. The next meeting of the IRWMP Committee will be held on March 23, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Borrego Water District.