

Minutes
Anza Borrego Desert IRWM - Subcommittee Meeting
9 am, March 23, 2010
Borrego Water District Office, Borrego Springs

Attendance: Staff: Richard Williamson, General Manager
 Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager
 Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary

Public: Dick Walker Don McKelvey
 Bob Calhoun, Canebrake Clark Shimeall
 Carl McKenney, Canebrake Bill Mills
 Rick Seymour, Canebrake Judy Meier, *Borrego Sun*
 Anna Aljabiry, DWR/HQ

1. Welcome and Self Introductions
 Rich Williamson welcomed the attendees, and those present introduced themselves.

2. Outreach Communication Process – *review and suggest improvements*
 - a. Tribes and others
 Jerry Rolwing reported that he had contacted the General Manager of Jacumba Community Services District, and he does not wish to participate in the Integrated Regional Water Management Program. Mr. Rolwing had not yet been able to reach the General Manager of Majestic Pines Community Services District. We will continue to keep both districts informed of IRWM activities. The Indian tribes have not yet been contacted, but Anna Aljabiry indicated IRWMP representatives would likely have to visit them, rather than inviting them to a meeting at BWD.

3. Minutes and Notes from February 23, 2010 Meeting – *review*
 Bill Mills summarized the February Minutes, including explanation of the program, funding and governance. Development of a draft work plan was discussed and will be revisited later today. The group addressed meeting schedules, participation of other agencies and individual projects in need of funding.

4. Draft Guidelines for Planning Grants – *discuss applicability within our planning region*
 Mr. Rolwing announced that guidelines for grants under Propositions 84 and 1E were on the BWD website. Scoring criteria and local match information are included. Mr. Rolwing had also obtained two examples of successful applications and planned to post those on the website as well.
 Ms. Aljabiry explained that grant applications do not necessarily have to be long, although many are. The important thing is to address the required criteria. Mr. Mills addressed two examples which had been distributed, showing grant requests, local funding match and total project cost. In response to Mr. Rolwing, Ms. Aljabiry confirmed that purchase of citrus property to fallow could qualify for funding. Bob Calhoun asked about funding in the event Canebrake Water District purchases a home for

its General Manager. Mr. Aljabiry explained that any land purchase would have to be conservation related. Mr. Rolwing offered to provide a block grant contact for Canebrake. In response to Rich Williamson, she further explained that if labor costs are used for the local match, benefits may be included but not utilities. She added that for the current round of planning grants, costs expended since September 2008 could be claimed. However, we will have to wait for the next round of implementation grants (2011), because the IRWM Plan needs to be finalized. Mr. Calhoun asked when grant recipients could expect to begin receiving funds for the current round, and Ms. Aljabiry predicted January 2011.

Mr. Mills inquired about claiming costs associated with IRWM meetings. Ms. Aljabiry suggested that a draft Plan be reviewed at the next meeting, and she will help identify the eligible items. She added that should Canebrake or any member agency other than BWD be awarded a grant, they would be considered a "project proponent." The contract would be between DWR and BWD, and payments would come to BWD for transmittal to Canebrake.

Mr. Williamson asked about the grant award decision-making process. Ms. Aljabiry replied that the initial review is by three staff members, done independently of one another. Then they meet, compare scores and reach agreement, followed by management review and ultimately the Director's signature.

5. Priority Projects Identification Process – *issues to resolve and needed projects*

- a. Draft Work Plan - Canebrake
- b. Draft Work Plan – Borrego Valley
- c. Draft Work Plan – Others

Mr. Mills distributed a list of Potential Work Plan Projects to be prioritized. Categories were Environmental, Aquifer Investigation, Water Supply Augmentation, Water Conservation, Water Education and Small Water Systems. Mr. Calhoun asked that Canebrake Creek be added to the Wetlands/Habitat Restoration/Enhancement Projects (under Environmental). The creek is overgrown with cane, which impedes the flow and presents a flood hazard. Mr. Rolwing recommended that the Environmental Programs be prioritized (1) Soil Erosion from Fallowing; (2) Wetlands, etc; (3) Tamarisk Removal and (4) Soil Stabilization of the Borrego Sink.

Under Aquifer Investigation Programs, Mr. Rolwing requested the addition of a hydrogeologic investigation for Canebrake. Mr. Williamson asked whether funds expended by BWD on the USGS groundwater study could be used for local match, and Ms. Aljabiry agreed to investigate.

Discussion followed regarding the fact that most projects include both planning and implementation, although BWD will be eligible only for the planning portion this year. Mr. Williamson noted that BWD will likely have excess matching dollars which have already been spent, and these could be credited to the Canebrake project.

It was agreed to add the USGS Groundwater Study and the Canebrake Hydrology Study to the Aquifer Investigation Programs and prioritize them as (1) USGS Groundwater Study; (2) Canebrake Hydrology Study; (3) Water Quality Depth Dependent Data and (4) Water Quality in the Agricultural Area.

After discussion of the Water Supply Augmentation Programs, it was agreed to add the Canebrake Augmentation Project (including the wells, storage and pipeline) and prioritize them as (1) Canebrake Augmentation Project and Groundwater Resources Investigation in the Northern area of Clark Lake (tied); (2) Imperial Irrigation District Project and Potential Water Banking; (3) Allegretti Farms Groundwater Basin and (4) Dr. Nel Property.

In the Water Conservation Programs category, Tamarisk Removal was moved from Environmental Programs and prioritized as (3). First and second priorities were Recharge Basins and Mulching for Water Conservation, respectively.

Clark Shimeall inquired about the difference between the two Water Education Programs, Outreach on Water Pollution Prevention and Conservation, and School Districts Wellness Program. Mr. Rolwing explained that the two overlapped, but the Wellness Program would focus more on well and watershed protection. Ms. Aljabiry noted that grant applications must contain an outreach element. Mr. Williamson recommended including the tentative class to be taught by BWD staff at the College of Borrego.

Discussion followed regarding the Small Water Systems. Three of the projects had been combined into the Canebrake Augmentation Project and moved to Water Supply Augmentation Programs, leaving only Water Quality Testing in the Small Water Systems category. Mr. Rolwing explained that he envisioned this program as a voluntary testing opportunity for individual well owners. Mr. Mills suggested renaming the category "Water Quality," and Mr. Williamson suggested "Private Wells and Small Systems." Ms. Aljabiry pointed out that water quality projects have a high priority.

Mr. Mills summarized the tasks for the next meeting: (1) Develop a set of projects in matrix form showing various benefits and obtain public input; and (2) Prepare a matrix of initial cost estimates for projects to be submitted in July. He hoped to have these documents at least a week before the next meeting.

6. Next Subcommittee meeting on April 27, 9 am, Borrego Water District

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting of the IRWMP Subcommittee will be held on April 27, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Borrego Water District.