

Corrected Minutes
Anza Borrego Desert IRWM - Subcommittee Meeting
9 am, May 25, 2010
Borrego Water District Office, Borrego Springs

Attendance: Staff: Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager
 Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary
Public: Carl McKenney, Canebrake Ralph Singer, ABF
 Judy Meier, *Borrego Sun* Conrad Kramer, ABF
 Mike Spieckerman, Lyle Brecht
 Roadrunner Tree Farm Bill Mills
 Karl Kraft, RCAC

1. Welcome and Self Introductions
 Bill Mills welcomed the attendees, and those present introduced themselves.

2. Review minutes from Policy Committee meeting
 Mr. Mills explained that the Policy Committee is comprised of the Borrego Water District, the County of San Diego, and the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County. He outlined the purpose of the Integrated Regional Water Management Program, to fund regional projects primarily under Proposition 84.
 Lyle Brecht asked whether a plan or list of projects was anticipated, and Mr. Mills replied that both are being developed. The planning process will be approved by the stakeholders, the Policy Committee and ultimately by the State.
 In response to inquiries from Ralph Singer and Conrad Kramer of the Anza Borrego Foundation, Mr. Mills explained that California and Texas are the only states that don't control groundwater. Ultimately, water will have to be imported into the Borrego Valley, probably through exchange of desalinated water or storage capacity for Colorado River water.
 Mr. Mills invited the attendees' attention to the Minutes of the IRWM Subcommittee meeting of April 27, and recommended it be renamed as the IRWM Stakeholders Subcommittee. He went on to summarize the notes from the Policy/Steering Committee conference call on May 17. Highlights included discussion of the FY 11 appropriation earmark for the Clark Lake investigation and the potential Bureau of Reclamation basin study
 Lyle Brecht inquired about the differences between the USGS, BOR and Clark Lake studies. Mr. Mills explained that the USGS is studying the physical characteristics of the Borrego basin using a computer model, while the BOR study would look at importation options. The Clark Lake study is specific to that area and is being conducted by independent contractors in accordance with State law. Lyle Brecht requested an opportunity for the Stakeholders Subcommittee to review the BOR grant application, and Jerry Rolwing replied that it is due June 18, prior to our next meeting. Mr. Mills pointed out that public outreach is a key element of the proposal, and there will be milestones for input and a website. The grant application will be available for the Subcommittee's review at its next meeting. Mr. Mills welcomed letters of support for the IRWM's grant application.
 Karl Kraft of the Rural Community Assistance Corporation reported that the RCAC is looking at bridge loan proposals and would invite their financial staff member to speak at the next meeting. The RCAC's role is to assist disadvantaged communities

(population under 10,000). Once grant funding is essentially secured, RCAC can provide interim financing which is then repaid when the government funds become available.

Jerry Rolwing reported he had contacted the four Indian tribes in our area, Campo, Manzanita, Cuyapaipe and Los Coyotes. Cuyapaipe and Los Coyotes have responded. Mr. Kraft offered RCAC's assistance in working with the tribes.

Mr. Mills summarized Table 2 in the Agenda packet, the Draft Work Plan Outline and Budget. He noted that the fund application guidelines should be finalized in June. Mr. Rolwing reported he attended the Imperial Valley IRWMP kick-off meeting recently. The question arose as to whether Salton City and Desert Shores should be in the Anza Borrego Desert region, since they are served by the Coachella Water District.

3. Outreach Communication Process

a. Solicit additional committee members

Mr. Mills welcomed additional participants and suggestions for invitations.

b. Tribes

Discussed previously.

4. Discussion Items

a. Potential Work Plan Projects – Additions from State Park?

Mr. Rolwing will follow up on State Park work plan projects.

b. Table 1 – Prioritized Projects and Benefits

Mr. Mills invited the group's attention to Agenda attachment Table 1, Prioritized Projects and Benefits, noting they were organized according to statewide benefits. Three categories remained to be prioritized. In response to Lyle Brecht's inquiry, Mr. Mills explained the prioritization process, taking into consideration cost, severity of problem and likelihood of success. Lyle Brecht encouraged staff to write down the prioritization criteria. Lyle Brecht requested a copy of the Groundwater Management Plan update, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to provide it. Referring to Table 1, Mr. Rolwing suggested renaming the "Water Resources" benefit column as "Water Supply."

Discussion followed regarding the priorities in the categories of Drought Preparedness – Water Conservation (recharge basins No.1, tamarisk removal No. 2, mulching No. 3); Drought Preparedness – Small Systems (Canebrake No. 1, non-municipal well testing No. 2); and Water Quality – Public Education (school districts No. 1, outreach No. 2).

c. Table 2 – Work Plan Outline and Budget

Mr. Mills invited the Subcommittee's attention to Agenda packet Table 2, which had been updated since the last meeting. It included 17 tasks and notes. Administrative costs are reimbursable. Mr. Mills outlined the tasks, which are detailed in the Agenda. Mr. Rolwing is working with the State Park and the County on Geographical Information System (GIS) data. Extensive discussion followed regarding the USGS model, input to which has been compiled from multiple sources.

Mr. Mills recommended that the primary topics for the next meeting center on Items 9 and 10 (identification of IRWM issues and conflicts for the region, and establishing plan goals and objectives). He noted that important goals include reliability, quality and sustainability. He will bring recommendations to the next meeting and submit them to the group for review in advance.

Discussion followed regarding the difference between the Policy Committee and the Stakeholders Subcommittee. Mr. Mills explained that the Policy

Committee is not in a position to assess priorities, and agreed to provide an explanation of the prioritization process for the next meeting, as well as goals and issues. Mr. Rolwing will prepare a report on GIS data and potential IRWMP participants.

Further discussion ensued regarding Canebrake Water District. Carl McKenney explained that Canebrake needs a second well and upgraded infrastructure. They had filed a grant application, but had difficulty with the matching funds and have very few permanent, full-time residents. It was noted that BWD can donate some of its in-kind services to Canebrake.

5. Next Subcommittee meeting on June 22, 9 am, Borrego Water District

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting of the IRWM Subcommittee will be held on June 22, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Borrego Water District.