

Minutes
Anza Borrego Desert IRWM – Stakeholders Subcommittee Meeting
9 am, July 27, 2010
Borrego Water District Office, Borrego Springs

<u>Attendance:</u>	<u>Staff:</u>	Rich Williamson, General Manager	
		Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager	
		Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary	
	<u>Public:</u>	Carl McKenney, Canebrake	Andrew Trovette, BLM
		Judy Meier, <i>Borrego Sun</i>	Marshal Brecht
		Lyle Brecht	Clark Shimeall
		Bill Mills	Conrad Kramer, ABF
		Norb Ruhmke, OW St. Park	LLouise Jee, ABD St. Park
		Anthony Barry, County Flood Control	Anna Aljabiry, DWR (via teleconference)
		Brian Moniz, DWR (via Teleconference)	Lauma Jurkevics, DWR (via teleconference)

1. Welcome and Self Introductions
The attendees introduced themselves. Jerry Rolwing requested that the June 22 Minutes be clarified to specify that Mike Connolly represents Laguna Resources (Item 3.b).
2. Review minutes from Policy Committee meeting
Bill Mills noted that BWD had submitted a request for State assistance in contacting Indian tribes in the area. Anna Aljabiry explained that several requests had been submitted concurrently, and she did not expect appointment of a facilitator until late August.
3. Outreach Communication Process contact with possible additional members
Mr. Rolwing welcomed the new participants, and Rich Williamson encouraged submission of projects for funding applications. Lauma Jurkevics suggested that in preparing the IRWMP, the Subcommittee review the Regional Water Quality Control Board's basin plan and the watershed management initiative chapter. Ms. Aljabiry confirmed that the grant application guidelines should be released today or tomorrow. Thereafter, applicants will have eight weeks to submit their requests. Awards are expected in November, and costs incurred since September 2008 may be considered for local match.
4. Review of Sections in Grant application and Plan
 - a. Section 1.0 Governance.
Mr. Mills summarized the draft ABD IRWM grant application, beginning with an explanation of the governance (Policy Committee and Stakeholders Subcommittee). Lyle Brecht questioned the designation of the Policy Committee as the basic decision making committee, and asked whether they could override the Stakeholders' recommendations. He offered to draft suggested alternative language for consideration by the Subcommittee and Ms. Aljabiry at the next meeting.

b. Section 2.0 Description of Region.

Mr. Mills continued his summary with an outline of the Anza Borrego Desert Region, noting that some blanks remain to be completed in the draft. Lyle Brecht suggested changing the title of section 2.2, "Drinking Water Systems," since the water supply covers more than just drinking water. He further questioned the notation that "No net increase" in water use within Borrego Springs is expected in 20 years. Mr. Rolwing cited the water mitigation requirement, and Mr. Mills added that with anticipated agricultural fallowing and increased residential development, the demand for drinking water would escalate, but there would be no net increase due to the decline in irrigation usage. Lyle Brecht suggested a written justification for the "No net increase" prediction.

Referring to page 9 of the draft application, Lyle Brecht questioned whether the 2009 Integrated Water Resources Management Plan was an update of the 2002 Groundwater Management Plan. Mr. Mills suggested simply deleting the last phrase in the third paragraph, "as an update to the GWMP," and Mr. Williamson proposed as an alternative replacing the word "update" with "amendment."

Clark Shimeall inquired about the diversions referenced on page 7, which could impact surface and subsurface flow within the State Park. Mr. Mills explained there are some privately owned dams upstream, and LLouise Jee of the Anza Borrego Desert State Park offered to provide their locations to Mr. Williamson.

Anthony Barry of San Diego County Flood Control pointed out that the Corps of Engineers' study of flood control issues in the De Anza area, referenced in paragraph 2.12.4, is still under negotiation with the County and may or may not be conducted.

c. Section 3.0 Goals, Objectives and Targets

Mr. Mills requested comments on the four goals proposed by the Policy Committee: Improve water supply reliability, protect and improve water quality, ensure sustainability through environmental stewardship, and promote integration and regional planning. Objectives and targets were included for each. Lyle Brecht suggested including an explanation of how these goals were selected, and Messrs. Williamson and Mills agreed to draft some introductory language.

Mr. Williamson suggested rewording Goal No. 3 to read, "Promote environmental stewardship through implementation of a sustainable water supply." Lyle Brecht recommended a section on definition of terms, and Conrad Kramer of the Anza Borrego Foundation concurred. Mr. Barry suggested including more information on the September 2004 storm, as evidence of our potential flood hazard. Mr. Rolwing will provide his e-mail address to Mr. Barry, who will forward the material.

Discussion followed regarding whether to use the term "sustainability" rather than "reliability" in Goal No. 1. Mr. Williamson reiterated the need for a glossary, and Ms. Jee recommended the inclusion of acronyms as well as terminology.

Mr. Williamson requested a recess at 10:35 a.m., and the Subcommittee reconvened at 10:45 a.m.

Ms. Jurkevics questioned whether the water quality referenced in Goal No. 2 was drinking water, groundwater or surface water. Mr. Williamson replied that all were included, and Ms. Jurkevics recommended that this be clarified.

Mr. Mills went on to list proposed objectives, which goals they were associated with, and targets for accomplishment. Discussion followed regarding the reduction of water demand, and whether it should be referred to as water usage, rather

than demand. It was agreed that this was another issue that could be clarified in the definitions. Mr. Williamson requested that the last target for increasing water supply be amended to read ". . . satisfy the demand of BWD customers . . ." (rather than "residential demand"). Lyle Brecht inquired about limits on projected demands, and Mr. Williamson explained they would be consistent with the Community Plan population projections. Some flexibility will be retained.

Mr. Barry pointed out that the objective of improving flood control would also further Goal No. 2 (protect and improve water quality), so that should be added to the associated goals. He further referred to section 3.2.6, fourth paragraph, explaining that the Army Corps of Engineers did not specifically recommend incorporation of a flood warning system; this may occur later, but their initial recommendation was simply to do a study.

Discussion followed regarding the objective to practice resource stewardship. In response to an inquiry from Ms. Jee, Mr. Mills confirmed that both tamarisk and mustard would be included in the control of invasive species. Brian Moniz recommended that local landscape suppliers be encouraged to stock low water use plants. Mr. Williamson suggested adding a target to reduce the overdraft by 2014.

Ms. Aljabiry brought up the possible participation by Indian tribes in the IRWMP, and issues relative to their sovereign nation status and reluctance to approach the other agencies involved.

Ms. Aljabiry recommended that the grant application place more emphasis on BWD's status, and probably Canebrake's, as a disadvantaged community.

5. Review Regional Management Strategies Table

Mr. Mills invited the Subcommittee's attention to the Regional Management Strategies Table, listing the strategies reviewed at the last meeting and expanding the definitions of each. Mr. Williamson suggested adding strategies for managing golf courses and recreational uses.

6. Review Outline of Application and Plan

Mr. Mills referred to the draft Table of Contents for the ABD IRWM outline. Items 1.0 through 3.0 were included in the grant application and plan reviewed previously; 4.0 through 12.0 remain to be drafted. Mr. Rolwing pointed out that the actual plan doesn't need to be completed by the end of September; only the grant application. Ms. Aljabiry noted that the plan should be completed by January or February in order to qualify for an implementation grant.

7. Review Objectives and Regional Management Strategies selection and prioritization from prior meeting

This item was discussed previously.

8. Other (None)

9. Next Subcommittee meeting on September 28, 9 am, at Borrego Water District. No meeting in August.

Mr. Rolwing pointed out that September 28 is the deadline for the planning grant application, so it was agreed to move the next meeting to September 14. Ms. Aljabiry announced a planning workshop on September 1, 9:00 to 12:00, in Riverside. Mr. Mills agreed to make the changes to the draft application discussed today and continue with the

draft. Mr. Rolwing will distribute it for comments prior to the next meeting. Mr. Williamson requested a preamble setting forth the IRWMP's story and identifying the problem we are addressing through the goals, objectives and targets. Mr. Rolwing agreed to e-mail the Subcommittee members a link to the new grant application guidelines. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting of the IRWM Stakeholders Subcommittee will be held on September 14, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Borrego Water District.