

Minutes
Anza Borrego Desert IRWM – Stakeholders Subcommittee Meeting
9 am, June 22, 2010
Borrego Water District Office, Borrego Springs

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

Public: Carl McKenney, Canebrake Bob Calhoun, Canebrake
 Judy Meier, *Borrego Sun* Marshal Brecht
 Lyle Brecht Clark Shimeall
 Bill Mills Abby King
 Karl Kraft, RCAC Brad Ray, Seley Ranches
 Cindy Elliott, RCAC (via teleconference)

1. Welcome and Self Introductions

Jerry Rolwing welcomed the attendees, and those present introduced themselves.

2. Review minutes from Policy Committee meeting

Bill Mills reported that the Policy Committee met yesterday. The grant application guidelines are still under review by the State and are expected to be finalized in late July or early August. Thereafter, applicants will have eight weeks to submit their funding requests. Mr. Rolwing reported that a general Memorandum of Understanding had been developed for signature by local organizations wishing to express support for our grant application.

Mr. Mills noted that he had submitted an application to the State to make use of their offer to provide a facilitator who may be able to involve the Indian tribes in the IRWM process. The State urged us to do this and will pay for it.

Lyle Brecht referred to the IRWM Subcommittee minutes from the May 25 meeting. He questioned the statement that the Clark Lake study was being conducted by BWD in house. Mr. Rolwing explained that BWD staff was doing preliminary work, but if our funding earmark is approved, subcontractors will be retained for drilling, testing and analysis. Mr. Mills added that CEQA requirements would be satisfied. After discussion, it was agreed to amend the May minutes (Item 2) to reflect that the Clark Lake study would be done by independent contractors in accordance with State law.

Lyle Brecht inquired about the IRWM project prioritization process and requested more detailed information on the projects and how they were prioritized. Mr. Mills pointed out that the Subcommittee discussed the projects in detail and reached consensus on their ranking. Bob Calhoun added that there would be additional public review and the priorities are subject to change. Project benefits were a major factor in the assessment, and the State criteria were followed. Mr. Mills invited the group's attention to Table 1, distributed today, "Prioritized Projects and Benefits," for additional detail.

3. Outreach Communication Process

a. Solicit additional committee members

Mr. Rolwing thanked Abby King for attending the meeting on behalf of the Community Sponsor Group. Karl Kraft noted that the Rural Community Assistance Corporation was continuing to participate.

b. Tribes

Mr. Kraft suggested contacting Mike Connolly, who represents a consortium of the four tribes in the area, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to do so.

4. Discussion Items from 5-25-10 meeting.

a. Potential Work Plan Projects

Mr. Mills noted that the State Park has wells at some of its campgrounds which need to be refurbished or replaced.

b. Table 1 – Prioritized Projects and Benefits

Mr. Mills agreed to compile additional documentation on the prioritization process for Lyle Brecht's review, and to compile details on the proposed projects.

c. Table 2 – Work Plan Outline and Budget

i. *Suggested that the IRWM process established as a separate webpage from the BWD webpage (Task 2).* Mr. Mills and Mr. Rolwing saw no need to separate the IRWM webpage from BWD's. Lyle Brecht suggested adding "Anza Borrego Desert" to the IRWM designation.

ii. *Task 4 (GIS data base) – Inventory of available systems should be completed by next meeting.* Mr. Rolwing reported that the State Park and the County were willing to share their GIS data with the IRWM Subcommittee. Lyle Brecht suggested including the USGS data. Mr. Rolwing noted that the study is not yet complete, but agreed to discuss the possibility with USGS representatives.

Mr. Kraft announced that Cindy Elliott, RCAC Loan Officer, was available at this time for a conference call to discuss RCAC financing opportunities. Ms. Elliott explained that nonprofit organizations, public agencies and tribal governments are eligible for loans. The affected area must have a population of 50,000 or less (sometimes 10,000 or less for permanent or long-term financing). Eligible projects include those involving water, solid waste, and storm water. Both planning and implementation may be covered. The maximum amount for planning is usually \$50,000. The loans are unsecured, but a promissory note and assignment of revenues are required. The term is generally not to exceed one year, at an interest rate of five or five and a quarter percent. Usually the applicant has confirmation of eligibility for a USDA or other government grant and seeks interim funding from RCAC.

Mr. Calhoun pointed out that Canebrake Water District had been denied RCAC funding because their average income level was too high. He questioned that determination and wondered what it was based on. Ms. Elliott explained that State and County census data were used, but that RCAC could perform an income survey to narrow the population.

Ms. Elliott went on to explain that once an agency obtains grant funding approval, interim money may still be needed for preliminary engineering and legal tasks prior to receipt of the actual grant funds. RCAC can offer up to \$350,000 at five and a half percent interest plus a one percent loan fee (included in all their financing). They also offer construction loans (bridge loan or revolving line of credit) for terms up to three years, as well as long-term loans up to 30 years with a USDA guarantee for eligible but low priority projects.

Further information is available at 209-576-0430 or www.rcac.org.

iii. *Task 9 (Issues and Conflicts in Region) and Task 10 (Plan Goals and Objectives) should be expanded.* Mr. Mills summarized a draft of Task 9,

which included four categories: Anza Borrego State Park, Tribal Lands, Borrego Valley Groundwater Basin and the Borrego Water District, and Communities Outside the Borrego Valley Area. Discussion followed regarding involvement of various regional entities, and Mr. Rolwing agreed to contact Kathy Dice and encourage continued State Park participation. Lyle Brecht and Clark Shimeall inquired about the 2002 Groundwater Management Plan and the 2009 Integrated Water Resource Management Plan. Mr. Rolwing explained that the IWRMP was developed by Mr. Mills in response to direction from the State. Lyle Brecht pointed out that the GWMP rejected the idea of importing water, while the IWRMP included importation cost estimates but no analysis of their effect on the ratepayers. Mr. Mills explained that costs and grant funding opportunities are not yet known, but with the right financing it appears feasible, most likely through a conjunctive use arrangement. Mr. Rolwing noted that if BWD's application for a Bureau of Reclamation Basin Study is approved, more information will be available. Lyle Brecht urged that a cost analysis be conducted to provide an estimate of the increases necessary for the ratepayers.

Discussion continued regarding Task 10. Mr. Mills summarized a strategy summary table, listing six objectives and strategies to achieve each. After reviewing the list in detail, the Subcommittee agreed to prioritize the strategies as follows: (1) Reduce Water Demand and Increase Water Supply (two objectives, tied for first priority); (2) Practice Resource Stewardship; (3) Improve Operational Efficiency and Transfers; (4) Improve Water Quality; and (5) Improve Flood Management.

iv. *Plan Adoption (Task 17) should be completed by December 2010.*

v. *Notes to table should be expanded.* Mr. Mills agreed to expand the notes to the table and prepare a work plan budget for consideration at the July meeting.

5. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. The next meeting of the IRWM Stakeholders Subcommittee will be held on July 27, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. at the Borrego Water District. There will be no meeting in August.