

Borrego Water District Board of Directors
Special Board Meeting
February 4, 2020 @ 5:30 pm
2580 Country Club Road – BS Library Community Room
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A.** Call to Order:
- B.** Pledge of Allegiance
- C.** Roll Call
- D.** Approval of Agenda
- E.** Comments from the Public & Requests for Future Agenda Items (may be limited to 3 min)
- F.** Comments from Directors
- G.** Correspondence Received from the Public:

II. ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Public Forum

- 1. Interview and Selection of Borrego Springs Sub Basin Watermaster Board Member -
Community Representative and Alternate

- A. President Dice moderates and asks initial BWD Board questions (see attached)
- B. Questions from WM Board Members
- C. Questions from Public
- D. Any further questions from BWD Board Members
- E. BWD Board deliberates and appoints.

III. CLOSING PROCEDURE: Adjourn

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2020 at Borrego Water District, 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004

AGENDA: February 4, 2020

All Documents for public review on file with the District's secretary located at 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs CA 92004

Any public record provided to a majority of the Board of Directors less than 72 hours prior to the meeting, regarding any item on the open session portion of this agenda, is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Board Secretary, located at 806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs CA 92004.

The Borrego Springs Water District complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Persons with special needs should call Geoff Poole – Board Secretary at (760) 767 – 5806 at least 48 hours in advance of the start of this meeting, in order to enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility.

If you challenge any action of the Board of Directors in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing, or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Directors (c/o the Board Secretary) at, or prior to, the public hearing.

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE TO WATERMASTER BOARD
PUBLIC FORUM - February 4th 2020 @ 5:30 PM – Borrego Springs Library**

INTRODUCTION

A Public Forum is scheduled for February 4, 2020 to consider candidates for the Borrego Springs Sub Basin WaterMaster Board (MWB) Community Representative. One outcome of the proposed Stipulated Judgment between Basin pumpers is the creation of a WMB including BWD, Agricultural Pumper, Recreational Pumper, County of SD (invited) and The Community. As of this date of publication (1-16-20), only BWD has officially elected its WMB representatives with Dave Duncan and Kathy Dice as the Alternate.

LIST OF NOMINEES

Nominees for The Community position were generated by the GroundWater Sustainability Plan Advisory Committee (AC) members Falk, Garmon (Appointed), Haldeman and Moran. The BS Union School District Board also provided a nominee. The initial slate of nominees was:

AC: Mark Jorgenson REP. Rebecca Falk and Bri Fordem (withdrew on 1-16)
BSUSD: Martha Deichler REP (No alternate proposed)

AGENDA FOR FEBRUARY 4th

The Borrego Water District is planning to make the appointment from the aforementioned slate at the Public Forum on February 4th after providing the candidates an opportunity to share their responses to the written questions below as well as Q and A from attendees including other WMBs. The nominees will present themselves for questions from the BWD Board, members of the interim Watermaster (WM) Board and the public as follows:

1. Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
2. President Dice moderates and asks initial BWD Board Questions
3. Questions from WM Board members
4. Questions from public
5. Any further questions from BWD board members
6. BWD deliberates and appoints
7. Adjourn

REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM NOMINEES

BWD requests a short bio from each Candidate that it can publish in its Board package for this meeting no later than 1-28-20.

The BWD Board, as part of its appointment process plans to ask you, at a minimum, the following questions:

WMB COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS

1. Why are you willing to serve?

At your pleasure, as well as motivation, this question offers you the opportunity to describe what expertise, and events in your past personal, professional and volunteer history that may illustrate your willingness and ability to work collaboratively with the other WM Board members and think critically, as well as speak up and be heard in discussions where the issues on the table may involve differing interpretations of the data by technical experts.

2. What struck you as one of the most potentially important future issues for the Borrego community when you read the stipulation documents, including the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP)?

At your pleasure, this question offers you the opportunity to discuss your understanding of what important issues may come up at the WM Board that may impact the future economic, social and environmental viability of the Borrego community.

3. The WM Board will operate under California's Open Meetings Act (Brown Act). The intent of the Act is to make certain that deliberations regarding WM Board decision-making are done in the open at public meetings. That is, coordination and collusion among Board members between meetings is prohibited. And, if such activity occurs, any resulting decisions by the Board are nullified. This, of course, does not prohibit a Board member from extensive interactions with and discussions of potential Board decisions with a Board member's constituents. The prohibition is for a WM Board Member to speak to 2 or more other MW Board members, either directly or indirectly. Are you willing to abide by California's Open Meeting Act (Brown Act) during your tenure on the WM Board?

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Re: Info for Feb 4th Forum on WM Community Rep and Alternate
From: Rebecca Falk
Date: Fri, January 24, 2020 7:26 pm
To: Geoff Poole

Short Bio:

I moved to Borrego Springs in 2005, leaving a career in academia to live in this town, off the beaten trail and surrounded by wilderness. I worked as a Real Estate Agent and then Broker in Borrego Springs, opening Desert Way Realty in 2013. I retired from real estate in 2018-2019.

I have been following issues related to our overdrafted aquifer since 2007 or so, and have attended and participated in many BWD meetings in an effort to stay informed and involved. Safeguarding water is important to me, as I consider water to be sacred and ours in trust to sustain life in the future

In 2013, I joined the Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group, an advisory group to the County on land use issues, and in January 2017 became the Chairperson for the Sponsor Group.

Also in 2017, I was voted by the Sponsor Group to represent it on the GSP Advisory Committee, and I attended and participated in meetings for the 2.5 years the GSP Advisory Committee met, and during that time I became more deeply familiar with water issues in our basin.

Apart from volunteering for the Park for a number of years before my business left me little free time, my community work has been focused on water and land use issues.

I consider my community service work on water to be important for Borrego Springs and also a part of efforts worldwide to make sure this generation leaves a livable planet for those of all species, plant and animal, human and non-human, to enjoy when we are gone. To that end, I am happy to share any experience or information I have with whomever is chosen as the community member of the Watermaster Board, and to whomever is chosen as the Alternate Member, and to offer my perspective at any time it might be useful.

Rebecca Falk, January 2020

Martha Deichler's Bio

I was born into a Navy family and I lived up and down the East and West coasts of the USA as well as in Asia and Europe. I finished my high school years in a Paris Lycee and then attended university in Munich, Germany, and later San Diego State.

I graduated with a Major in Cultural Anthropology, a French Minor and a Lifetime California Teaching Credential. I went on to obtain my Administrative Credential at Point Loma University.

I taught school for 27 years in Chula Vista as well as in Europe. During my years in the Chula Vista Elementary School District, I served as the Science Resource Teacher for 5 years. In this role, I wrote a State "Garden in Every School" Grant for 20 schools and oversaw the garden programs in these schools.

I also served as an elementary school principal in Chula Vista for 7 years. In 2006, after the San Diego fires destroyed my home in Jamul, I came to Borrego to serve as the principal of Borrego Springs Elementary School. After 5 years, I was asked by the BSUSD (Borrego Springs Unified School District) Board of Education to take over the position of School District Superintendent. I served in this position for 7 years.

I am now retired from the BSUSD and I work as the School Community Liaison for the school district. I have served in this position for the past 3 years. My current role is to act as a liaison for the multitude of community opportunities and resources that are available to our students and families, the majority of whom are low-income.

I serve on many foundations and committees in Borrego Springs if they interface with the needs of our students, families and the health of our community: Rotary, Civic, Boys and Girls Club, BASIC, Borrego Ministers' Association, Borrego Health, Borrego Art Institute, Jim Desmond's Ed and Transportation and the Stewardship Council. I also served for about 5 years on the Borrego Water Coalition in which the original open and respectful conversations between the major water users began in Borrego Springs.

Currently I am working closely with the Borrego Village Association and the ABF to introduce a high school class on CIH and CIG - Certified Interpretive Host and Guide. Our goal is to create and promote new areas of employment in Borrego Springs for our young people/adults as jobs are eliminated due to water reductions.

Outside of Borrego Springs, I serve on the CFAITC (California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom), a group that promotes student understanding of the origin of their food and fiber as well as the nutritional value of growing your own food in school gardens.

I have two daughters. My hobbies include hiking, kayaking, RV'ing, fishing and reading. I speak French and Spanish.

I came to Borrego because I love the desert and I have stayed because I love the people.

BIOGRAPHY OF MARK C. JORGENSEN

Mark has studied the desert bighorn sheep since age sixteen in Anza-Borrego and the West. Was hired at age twenty to study the bighorn of Anza-Borrego and hiked several thousand miles in the park learning their range, food habits, and population dynamics. Has been active in the removal of exotic species, including tamarisk trees, feral cattle, and horses. Mark gives talks throughout the West on bighorn sheep and conservation. Obtained a Bachelor's of Science in Park Management from California State University at Sacramento in 1973 and became a State Park Ranger in 1975. Worked as a State Park Ranger, Park Naturalist, Resource Ecologist, Environmental Scientist, & Superintendent.

Enjoys traveling and has had the opportunity to work in Mexico on bighorn projects. Assisted the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in setting up a 70,000 acre desert park & worked in Abu Dhabi of the United Arab Emirates on a new desert park. Initiated a Sister Park relationship in the Gobi Desert of Mongolia between Anza-Borrego and Ikh Nartiin Chuluu Nature Reserve and travelled there every summer for ten years to assist rangers in protection of the Mongolian steppes. In December of 2010 Mark was invited to make a presentation at a scientific symposium on wildfire in Israel. In January 2012 he spent a month birding in Ecuador and Uruguay with his brother Paul, tallying about 350 species. Mark has observed the issue of water use in the U.S., Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Israel, Jordan, United Arab Emirates and Egypt. He has constructed ten wildlife watering systems in Anza-Borrego and the mountains above Palm Springs.

Co-authored an award winning color picture book on Anza-Borrego and has edited several books on the park. Has appeared in numerous national magazines and on TV programs such as NBC/Dateline and California Gold. In 2008 was one of San Diego Magazine's "50 People to Watch" and was the winner of "Cox Conserves Heroes" in 2010. The Sierra Club awarded Mark its "Feat Award" in 2010 for desert conservation. In 2014 he authored the award-winning book, *Desert Bighorn Sheep, Wilderness Icon*, and has offered dozens of talks on the book throughout the West.

Has no thoughts of leaving Anza-Borrego and will spend retirement volunteering and working to return the desert lands back to their natural systems and helping people understand more about the fragile desert environment. Mark has led many organized tours to Mongolia and birding trips to southern Arizona and the local region for the Anza-Borrego Foundation. He has organized about 40 of the annual sheep counts since 1972 and continues to participate as a volunteer in the 4th of July sheep count.