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consensus, the discussion should nevertheless be reported to the A/C. Member Wilson requested that a further discussion of this issue be placed on a future agenda. Member Lawrence announced that she wanted to present an update from her nominating organization, and Ms. Wylie suggested making such reports a standing item on each agenda.

B. Optional Email Addresses for A/C Members: Mr. Poole explained that a recent court ruling provides that personal Emails and cell phone messages relating to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) are subject to the Public Records Act. BWD has provided BWD Email addresses to its Board members so they can keep their business communications separate. He agreed to do the same for the A/C upon request. Member Dodd requested an A/C Email address, and Mr. Poole agreed to work with him. Member Lawrence asked how A/C or nominating organization requests for research should be handled, and Mr. Poole asked that they be initially submitted to him.

Item #3: Review, Discussion and Possible Adoption of A/C By-Laws

Ms. Wylie invited the A/C's attention to the draft GSP A/C By-Laws in the agenda package and on the screen. Member Dodd questioned the use of the term "Party's" in Article 1, Section D ("... each Party's responsibilities for Plan implementation" The A/C agreed to amend the sentence to read in part, "... each GSA Party's responsibilities" Member Lawrence expressed concern that the section addressed enforcement, but not compliance. Leanne Crow explained that the phrase, "The GSP shall include, but not be limited to, . . ." preceding the reference to enforcement implies that compliance may be included in the GSP. Member Wilson requested a definition of "PDS" in Article 2, Section B. The By-Laws will be amended to read, "Planning and Development Services (PDS)." Member Dodd inquired as to the necessity of Section 2, Articles A and B, regarding the qualifications for A/C members. Ms. Wylie explained that it was for reference in case of a vacancy on the A/C. Member Wilson asked why the GSP's effects on the community were not addressed, and Ms. Crow replied that this was addressed in the consultant's scope of work. Article 2, Section D(4) provided that, "A vacancy shall be recognized for any AC Member who . . . regularly fails to abide by the discussion covenants of the AC" After discussion, it was agreed to add a provision that a member's retention would be discussion by the A/C followed by a recommendation to the Core Team. The A/C agreed that Article 4, Section A would be amended to provide that meetings would be chaired by the facilitator, and if she cannot serve, the A/C will decide on another chair. After discussion, the A/C agreed that in Article 5, Section C, paragraphs (5) ("I do not agree with the decision and feel the need to **block** the decision being accepted as consensus") and (6) ("I feel that we have no clear sense of unity in the group. We need to **do more work** before consensus can be achieved") should be in reverse order, and in old paragraph (6)/new paragraph (5), the first sentence should be deleted.

A member of the audience suggested that at the beginning of each meeting, staff could review the attachments in the agenda package. His was not complete. Mr. Poole agreed to distribute the entire package 72 hours in advance of the meetings. Member Wilson suggested a reference to the County website on the agenda. President Hart suggested including these items in the By-Laws, and Ms. Wylie volunteered to prepare an outline of meeting protocol.

The Committee broke for lunch at 11:30 a.m. and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.

Item #4:

GSP Update, Overview and Informational Presentation

A. Group discussion of Goals for GSP: Jim Bennett, County Groundwater Geologist, stated that SGMA provides a means to bring basins throughout the State into sustainability. He explained that the prime GSP consultant is Dudek, Inc., working with subconsultants GeoSyntec, Environmental

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Navigation, Wiedlin & Associates, Raftelis Financial, Hidden Valley Pump, O'Day and Babcock. The total contract is \$1.2 million. A Dudek representative will attend the May A/C meeting. Member Wilson asked whether technical questions from the A/C should go to the County, and Mr. Poole asked that they be directed to him initially. Director Brecht reported that BWD had contributed \$3 million to the GSP effort (\$1 million from ratepayers and \$2 from State and federal sources). Mr. Bennett explained that the GSP preparation is estimated to be a two-year process. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is not applicable to GSP preparation and adoption, but is applicable to any project that would implement actions pursuant to the GSP. Member Falk asked for examples of projects which might require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Mr. Bennett cited water conservation and efficiency projects, changes to the County General Plan or zoning, or agricultural fallowing. He went on to report that part of the GSP will be to evaluate the General Plan and zoning. Borrego Springs has a community plan which sets forth a vision for the community, and the A/C will play a key role in how the community will look in 2040 when sustainability is achieved.

Mr. Bennett presented a map of the Borrego Valley Basin, explaining that last year it was divided by the California Department of Water Resources into two areas, the Borrego Springs Subbasin and the Ocotillo Wells Subbasin. The overdraft is in the Borrego Springs Subbasin, and that will be the focus of the GSP. Member Berkley inquired about the location of the boundary between the two subbasins, and was told it was at the San Felipe Wash, or Texas Dip. Mr. Bennett next discussed the outline of the GSP, including existing data compilation, existing data assessment; evaluation/development of a monitoring program; development of a data management system; water level and water quality collection; a water budget; development of projects, management actions and best management practices; support projects and management actions; and the preparing the GSP itself. He pointed out that development of projects, management actions and best management practices would be a big part of today's brainstorming session. All items in the GSP outline are part of Dudek's consulting contract.

Member Lawrence requested that the A/C not limit their discussions related to potential projects and management actions to current budgetary constraints. Ms. Crow assured her that projects would be discussed by the A/C and Core Team before being presented to the consultant. A member of the audience asked who would have access to the data management system, and Ms. Crow replied that once completed it would be on the County SGMA website. Diane Johnson asked whether other County agencies were participating in the GSP, and Mr. Bennett replied that they were (Environmental Health; Public Works; Agriculture, Weights and Measures; Parks and Recreation; General Services; and Air Pollution Control District).

Mr. Bennett went on to present graphs depicting baseline groundwater production (as of January 1, 2015) and estimated sustainable yield. Member Seley expressed concern because he had begun reducing water use in his agricultural business before 2015 and did not want to be penalized. Mr. Bennett was aware of the issue, shared the concern and said this was something that would have to be considered when developing the baseline groundwater production. Mr. Bennett further explained that there are three areas necessary in estimating sustainable yield/water budget: storage, recharge and demand. Director Brecht pointed out that potential water quality issues will impact water rates, and Mr. Bennett agreed that water quality would be taken into consideration as part of the GSP. The discussion then turned to projects and management actions; which ones would be viable and mutually beneficial for all sectors (municipal, recreation and agriculture). Examples presented included water conservation/efficiency, land use/planning, and water credits/entitlements. Mr. Bennett suggested questions to be asked in reviewing each example. Member Falk pointed out that Borrego Springs has a

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community plan but no enforcement. Mr. Bennett noted that there are two issues here, who has enforcement authority and how should it be enforced.

Member Lawrence pointed out the importance of how the Borrego community is defined. For example, tourism should be included.

Member McGrory asked how agricultural water use was quantified. Mr. Bennett explained that it was based on the amount of land and type of crop. President Hart asked when there would be authority under SGMA to meter and monitor wells, and Ms. Crow replied that the authority exists now. This is a good issue for the A/C. An audience member asked about restrictions on monitoring, and Mr. Bennett noted there is flexibility, depending on the GSA, which needs to work with the A/C. Another question dealt with where the flush from the park goes, and Mr. Poole explained that it depends on the location of the flushing. It either goes to the sewer or a septic tank.

Member Berkley pointed out there are systems to reuse gray water for irrigation. President Hart suggested incentives for golf courses to upgrade their irrigation systems. Member Lawrence reported that De Anza Golf Course had applied for a grant to reduce water use but it was denied. She suggested looking into how this could be approached differently. Member McGrory suggested a cost-benefit analysis. Member Berkley reported that Rams Hill Golf Course was designed so that nearly every hole is a receptive basin. The runoff goes into a lake or into a valley and then to the aquifer. This could be considered in future development. Ms. Wylie noted that the State is currently modifying its landscape ordinance and considering storm water runoff and retention.

Mr. Bennett noted that agricultural fallowing and efficiency has been a topic for several years, and will be a key concern in the GSP. Incentives for fallowing need to be addressed. Ray Schindler asked whether fallowing would occur naturally because farmers would not receive enough water to continue. Mr. Bennett replied that planning needs to include incremental changes over time, taking the economy into consideration. The main goal of the GSA is to see a viable Borrego Valley. Member Berkley introduced a concept used extensively in China using hydroponics in enclosed buildings with solar energy. Rams Hill is already using some of these techniques, and Borrego Springs is a good place for it. Member Wilson inquired about funding for fallowing. Member Berkley pointed out that the technique is profitable, and proponents would likely approach farmers with a proposal.

Mr. Bennett presented the question, how do you envision land use for Borrego Springs in the year 2040? The County General Plan did not anticipate SGMA, and the projected build-out is unviable given the future reduction in available groundwater. This is an important component of the GSP, requiring input from the community. Ms. Wylie recommended that the A/C members review the Borrego Springs Community Plan prior to the next meeting. Member Falk reported that the Borrego Springs Community Sponsor Group received a lot of public input on the proposed "Rudyville" development, which if approved would increase density in Borrego Springs. The citizens asked how additional homes can be approved when the community is experiencing a water crisis.

Member Berkley inquired about the feasibility of sewer reclamation and how many homes in Borrego Springs are connected to sewer. Mr. Poole replied that there are approximately 800 homes connected, not enough for practical reclamation. In addition, many of the connected homes are vacant half the year or more. However, BWD is currently studying tertiary treatment.

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Member Lawrence stated for the record that in 2040, from the perspective of the Stewardship Council, their vision is for a thriving village which serves as a hospitality hub for a world-class nature destination, and a comprehensive plan will be developed by the GSP process.

Mr. Bennett explained that the County began using the concept of fallowing actively irrigated land in 2004 to mitigate water use by new development. BWD currently has a 4 to 1 mitigation ratio. The County has not changed its current 1 to 1 mitigation ratio, and is looking to develop changes as part of the GSP process with input from the community. A concept discussed was that by 2040 there will be durable water entitlements for water uses in Borrego Springs. Dudek has commenced an audit of the County's and BWD's water credit program. Ms. Wylie reviewed her notes from Mr. Bennett's presentation and will work with Wendy Quinn to incorporate them into the Minutes. They are attached and incorporated by this reference.

Item #5:

General Comment from A/C Members

Referring to a presentation proposed by Member Lawrence, President Hart announced that any written material presented by A/C members must be distributed with the agenda package. Director Brecht requested that the item be included in the next agenda. Member Dodd pointed out that as the ratepayer representative, he does not have a formal nominating organization but has been working with Mr. Poole and welcomed interested parties to meet with him following today's A/C meeting. Mr. Schindler suggested using his ratepayer group, and Mr. Poole welcomed his participation.

Item #6:

General Public Comment

Tom Beltran referred to Member Berkley's comments about capturing recharge and cited issues relative to the Salton Sea Reclamation Act and the Clean Water Act and flows through the San Felipe wash into the basin. He felt SGMA could be preempted by federal law, and court action relative to the Salton Sea was possible, which would delay the GSP. Ms. Wylie asked Mr. Poole to serve as a point of contact for members of the public wishing to submit written comments. Dennis Jensen asked whether there would be a place for agriculture in the Borrego Valley at buildout, other than to supply water credits.

Item #7:

Next Steps and Closing Remarks

Ms. Wylie will work with Mr. Poole to schedule a date for the next A/C meeting. The agenda will include By-Laws, organizational questions, Member Lawrence's presentation regarding the Stewardship Council, a presentation by Dudek, and more conversations on the GSP. Ms. Wylie agreed to prepare something regarding meeting protocol. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.