

**CORRECTED MINUTES
Borrego SGMA Advisory Committee
Meeting #4**

Thursday, June 29, 2017
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Location: Borrego Water District, Board Room
806 Palm Canyon Drive, Borrego Springs, CA 92004

Attendance:	Committee members: <u>Present:</u>	Jim Seley, Jim Wilson, Suzanne Lawrence, Jack McGrory, Ryan Hall, Rebecca Falk, Gina Moran, Dave Duncan
	Core Team members:	Beth Hart, BWD Jim Bennett, County of San Diego Geoff Poole, BWD Leanne Crow, County of San Diego Lyle Brecht, BWD
	Staff:	Meagan Wylie, Center Wendy Quinn, BWD for Collaborative Policy Trey Driscoll, Dudek, GSP Consultant
	Public:	Michael Sadler, <i>Borrego Sun</i> Judy Haldeman Diane Johnson

Item #1: Welcome, Introductions and Opening Remarks

Review Agenda and Meeting Objectives: Meagan Wylie welcomed the attendees and reviewed the meeting ground rules, agenda and Brown Act provisions. Those present introduced themselves.

Approval of May 15, 2017 A/C Meeting Minutes: Upon motion by Member Falk, seconded by Member Duncan and unanimously carried by those present, the Minutes of the May 15, 2017 A/C Meeting were approved as written. Member Falk requested that the Agenda on the County website be titled “Agenda Package” to facilitate location of the Minutes.

Review status of Action Items from May 15th Meeting: Ms. Wylie reviewed the action items. All were complete or in progress. Mr. Poole will complete distribution of the A/C contact list to A/C members, Core Team and support staff.

Receive updates on A/C membership changes: Mr. Poole welcomed new A/C members Dave Duncan, representing Borrego Water District (BWD) ratepayers, and Gina Moran, representing the Anza Borrego Desert State Park (State Park).

Item #2: Review, Discussion and Possible Adoption of A/C By-Laws

Member Seley expressed concern regarding Article 5, Section C, providing that if the A/C is unable to reach consensus on a matter, it will be returned to the Core Team without a recommendation. He felt the Core Team should be informed of the A/C’s vote and the reason for the lack of consensus. Mr. Bennett explained that the goal is to build solutions through agreement among the team members and avoid “win/lose” situations. After discussion, all agreed it would be sufficient to ensure that the votes and discussions were accurately reported in the Minutes. Ms. Crow noted that Article 4, Section C provides for the recording of Minutes. Upon motion by Member Wilson, seconded by Member Seley and unanimously carried by those present, the A/C By-Laws were approved.

Item #3: Discussion: Proposition 1 Grant Funding Opportunity – Flow Metering

Mr. Bennett reported that State Proposition 1 is a \$1 million water bond for sustainable groundwater management projects that will soon be releasing funds to grant applicants. It includes funding for

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severely disadvantaged communities (SDACs) as well as critically overdrafted basins, and the Borrego Valley qualifies under both criteria. One eligible project is installation of flow meters on wells, and Mr. Bennett requested comments on this option from the A/C. Individual property owners would need to sign up as evidence of their willingness to participate. This is a voluntary program at this stage, although the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) provides the option of mandatory metering in the future should the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) choose. The grant would cover the cost of the meter and installation, but not monitoring; that would be borne by the GSA.

Mr. Driscoll presented slides outlining information on the metering program, SGMA, types of meters, installation, reporting and funding. SGMA requires reports from pumps extracting over two acre-feet per year. The voluntary metering program is designed to be implemented prior to adoption of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP). As a SDAC, Borrego may qualify for a 100 percent grant. Participants need to sign an agreement allowing the meter installation, maintenance and monitoring. Mr. Driscoll explained the different types of meters, installation process and how they are read. Monthly reading is recommended. Records may be kept by the pumper or the GSA.

The next steps would be to submit a list of interested pumpers and their signed agreements to the Department of Water Resources (DWR), determine the status of meters on existing wells and submit the grant application. Member Lawrence supported the proposal and felt there was a good chance of funding. The purpose of the grant for Category 1 is to deeply explore relevant issues around our SDAC status and how those issues interface with the plan process.

Mr. Bennett explained that the voluntary flow metering is only one element of the Proposition 1 grant application. BWD and the County of San Diego (County) are working together on the proposal, and will have a more comprehensive package to present to the A/C at its next meeting. The flow metering was presented today as the first step due to its time sensitive nature. Ms. Crow will e-mail the necessary documents, as well as a flyer publicizing the opportunity, to the Core Team and A/C. The matter will be on the next A/C Agenda. The deadline for the first filing period is October, but before then the list of pumpers wishing to participate and their signed agreements need to be compiled so they should enroll by August. BWD President Hart assured Member Seley that he would be provided the details for his constituents as soon as they were available. Mr. Driscoll noted that the grant funds could also be used to refurbish and recalibrate an existing meter, and Ms. Crow agreed to include that information in her flyer. She further noted that pumpers could install or refurbish meters now and be reimbursed if and when the grant funds become available. Ms. Wylie asked that additional questions from the A/C be directed to Mr. Poole.

Member Falk asked that in a future A/C meeting, the possibility of requiring metering for all wells be discussed. Member Duncan suggested it would be helpful to have an inventory of all pumpers in the Borrego Valley Basin, and Mr. Driscoll reported he had already started on it. Ms. Wylie reminded the A/C members to publicize the flow meter opportunity among their constituents.

Item #4:

The Committee broke for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Item #5:

Groundwater Sustainability Plan: Discuss Proposed Management Areas

Mr. Driscoll presented slides and explained the proposed Management Areas. A Management Area is an area within a basin for which the GSP may identify different thresholds, objectives, management actions

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and characteristics. Three are proposed within the Borrego Valley Basin: North, Central, and South. Mr. Driscoll explained that thresholds are sustainability indicators used to define undesirable results; for example, dewatering the upper aquifer. He summarized characteristics of the three Management Areas. The North is mainly agricultural and may be high in nitrates. The Central is mainly residential and recreational, and the water quality is suitable for drinking. The South is mainly recreational, and many of the wells contain arsenic. The contaminants are not a cause for alarm at this point but should be monitored. When the contaminants are a cause for alarm and what the existence of contaminants may mean as to water use was discussed. More monitoring will provide a better basis for answering questions.

Item #6:

Receive A/C Input on Roger Mann Study

Ms. Wylie referred to Mr. Driscoll's presentation at the May meeting concerning the GSP. It included a list of possible projects to reduce water use, compiled by Roger Mann. Member Falk felt the dollar amounts listed for purchase of agricultural land were too high, and questioned who would pay the cost. BWD Director Brecht agree that the cost estimates were unrealistic, and added that time estimates and risk assessments should be included. Member Lawrence pointed out that the list was part of a 24-page report, and the A/C should really review the entire report and revisit the discussion next month. Mr. Poole pointed out that the A/C could add new projects to the list as well as commenting on existing ones. Member Moran pointed out since objectives differ among the Management Areas, the location of the proposed projects should be identified. Member Wilson noted that some projects would affect the economy. Member Duncan observed that from most ratepayers' viewpoint, the quickest way to reduce water use would be to reduce or eliminate agriculture. Member McGrory felt this was unrealistic and would cost people jobs. He pointed out that most farmers are already conserving water. As an owner of three farms, he asked Mr. Poole what BWD believes his water use is.

Ms. Wylie suggested the Core Team meet prior to the next A/C meeting and identify exactly what they are asking of the A/C relative to the Roger Mann project list, then let the members know via e-mail. Ms. Crow recommended identifying the Management Area for each project, what it is expected to achieve and the secondary impacts. The Core Team will work with Mr. Driscoll. Member Duncan recommended an economic impact analysis, perhaps with Proposition 1 funding. BWD Director Brecht reported that BWD had approved a socio economic study in concept and is considering a proposal for a ratepayer affordability study. The A/C will identify questions they would like answered by the BWD socio economic study. Member Lawrence noted the importance of identifying core assumptions, and Member Falk suggested that Ms. Wylie include them in her action item list. Member Wilson recommended developing a list of aspects against which to measure the GSA's actions, and Member Moran suggested including those in the list of questions to be answered in the socio economic study. BWD President Hart asked that the questions and suggestions be forwarded to Mr. Poole.

Item #7:

2018 Statewide Water Bond Update

Mr. Poole reported that bond writer Dr. Jerry Merrill was working on a statewide water bond measure for the 2018 ballot. He conducted a short poll and the response was positive. BWD President Hart added that the bond includes a \$25 million line item for BWD. Mr. Poole explained that the payback would be by all taxpayers, statewide. He agreed to distribute a list of the projects listed in the bond measure to the A/C.

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Item #8:

Receive Updates from A/C Members on Constituent Group Discussions

Member Lawrence reported that the Stewardship Council held a subcommittee meeting to begin to map out a comprehensive sustainable destination strategy. Member Falk reported that she had been reporting to the Sponsor Group each month and referring her constituents to the County website. Member Seley reported that he and his constituents discussed water saving measures and metering.

Item #9:

General Comment from A/C Members and Receive A/C Suggestions for Future Meeting Topics

Member Falk requested that the next Agenda include discussion and possible action regarding a potential prohibition of new projects requiring additional water use pending determination of existing allocations.

Item #10:

General Public Comment

Diane Johnson noted that the A/C process is moving slowly, and she wondered how it could be speeded up. BWD President Hart explained that the Core Team is working behind the scene, and many items require additional information.

Item #11:

Next Steps, A/C Meeting Date(s) and Closing Remarks

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for July 27. Mr. Poole will confirm. Ms. Johnson suggested compiling a database of information the A/C could access. Mr. Driscoll replied that he was working on it and would investigate distribution to the A/C. BWD President Hart suggested putting the A/C information on the County website on the BWD website as well, and Ms. Wylie agreed to investigate. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Action Items from Borrego AC Meeting #4
06-29-17

	Responsible Party	Action Item	Status
1.	All AC Members	Prepare and bring any proposed language revisions/edits to Meeting Minutes (or any future formal document) into subsequent meeting for efficiency of group discussion	
2.	County Team Trey Driscoll	Post June 29 th PowerPoint presentation slides by Trey Driscoll, Dudek, Inc. to the Project Webpage. As needed, work with Trey to ensure notes/annotations accompany the various slides for further explanation of detail.	
3.	Geoff Poole	Circulate PDF of June 29 th PPT slides to AC members	
4.	Geoff Poole	Update AC Contact List and re-circulate to AC, Core Team, and staff support	
5.	Geoff Poole	Confirm July 27th meeting date with all AC and CT members, and confirm recurring meeting date of Fourth Thursday of the month (i.e. August 24 th)	
6.	County Team	Revise language on County SGMA website where meeting materials are posted to "Agenda Packet"	
7.	Geoff Poole	Work with BWD IT staff to post all AC meeting materials onto BWD website. Break out materials from the Agenda Packet so specific documents are easier to locate and download.	
8.	BWD Team & Core Team	BWD Team to prepare draft agreement for property access re: Volunteer Metering Program. Full Core Team to review and revise.	
9.	Core Team	Prepare draft flyer re: Volunteer Metering Opportunity for review and later circulation by AC members. Include information on procedures and deadlines; note that the funds may be used to refurbish and recalibrate an existing meter.	
10.	Core Team	Consider how to conduct outreach re: Volunteer Metering Opportunity, for discussion at next AC meeting	
11.	Core Team	Develop more comprehensive outline of PSP funding application for review/discussion at next AC meeting	
12.	All AC Members	Contact Geoff Poole with any questions re: Prop 1 flow metering grant	
13.	Meagan Wylie	Finalize and PDF Adopted AC By-Laws and work with Geoff to circulate to AC Members	
14.	Meagan Wylie	Work with Core Team on organization tool/spreadsheet for capturing AC issues identified at each meeting and status of the related discussion	
15.	Core Team	Generate high-level schedule/timeline of potential issues/topics for AC to address over the next 1.5 years of GSP development	
16.	Core Team	Work with Trey Driscoll to list Roger Mann projects in their appropriate Management Areas and identify what would be achieved by the project.	
17.	Core Team	In advance of the next AC meeting, identify what exactly they are asking the AC for input on relative to the Roger Mann study and e-mail it to them for consideration.	

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18.	All AC Members	Generate list of concerns/questions related to the socioeconomic impacts/potential implications of proposed management actions.	
19.	All AC Members	Develop a list of factors against which to measure potential management actions (e.g. employment, schools, dust abatement, etc.); send them to Geoff for distribution to the Core Team and discussion at subsequent AC meeting	
20.	Geoff Poole	Review water usage for Jack McGrory's three farms and share data with Jack for comparison/testing of accuracy purposes	
21.	All AC Members	(05-15-17) Review Water Credit Program Policy, document found on BWD website here: http://borregowd.org/POLICIES_AND_STUDIES.php (scroll 3/4 down the page, under header Water Credit Policy)	
22.	All AC Members	(05-15-17) Recommended Action: Review the Borrego Springs Community Plan as an important piece of background information: <i>Community Plan</i> <i>Update:</i> http://www.borregovillageassociation.org/documents/BorregoSprings_Community%20Plan_2009-07-01%20(1).pdf <i>County of San Diego site:</i> http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/pds/gpupdate/comm/borrego.html	

Ongoing Action Items

1. **All AC Members** to prepare and bring any proposed language revisions/edits to Meeting Minutes (or any future formal document) into subsequent meeting for efficiency of group discussion.
2. **All AC Members** to contact Geoff Poole if they would like to request his attendance/participation at constituent group meetings
3. **All AC Members** to contact Geoff Poole if they would like a unique email address set up specifically for Advisory Committee correspondences
4. **Geoff Poole** to collect all written public comment, compile, and include in "Meeting Packets" that are posted 72 hours in advance of meeting dates
5. **Wendy Quinn** to incorporate Action Items list into Meeting Minutes