

Borrego Water District
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Directors of June 11, 2008
9:15 AM
806 Palm Canyon Drive
Borrego Springs, CA 92004

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

A. Call to Order: President Mendenhall called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance: Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Roll Call: Directors: Present: President Mendenhall, Vice-President King,
Secretary/Treasurer Andersen, Shimeall, Smiley

Staff: Richard Williamson, General Manager
Allison Burns, Stradling, Yocca, Carlson & Rauth
Jerry Rolwing, Operations Manager
Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary

Public:

Jim Engelke	Ron Del Guercio
Judy Meier, <i>Borrego Sun</i>	Greg Stumpf
Lane Sharman, BWX	Victor White
Bob McKee	Jennifer White
Beth Hart	David Naranjo, BS Middle School
Jorge Vivas, BSMS	Christian Moore, BSMS
Mason Chell, BSMS	Eloisa Rodriguez, BSMS
Mallorie Wade, BSMS	Vladimir Valdez, BSMS
Amanda Hebets, BSHS	Martha Deichler, BS Elementary School
Lucy Larson	Dennis Dickinson

D. Approval of Agenda: Director Shimeall requested that Item II.F (Conservation Program update) be moved to the front of the Agenda. Hearing no objection, the request was approved.

E. Comments from the Public and Requests for Future Agenda Items: Jennifer White stated that she owned a home adjacent to the proposed Country Club Estates at Tilting T and Borrego Valley Road. The San Diego County Planning Commission recently recommended approval of the development, and Ms. White was opposed to any new mobile home or RV parks in Borrego Springs. She was concerned that she was the only one from Borrego Springs who attended the Planning Commission meeting when the project was considered. Victor White noted that although the Commission recommended approval, they expressed concern regarding the water situation here.

Lane Sharman referred to a water entitlement policy being considered for farmers, and suggested the District might purchase a percentage of those entitlements.

F. Comments from Directors and Requests for Future Agenda Items: Director Smiley commended Bob McKee for reducing his monthly water usage from 150 units to 30 over the last several years, prior to adoption of the Conservation Management Plan.

G. Correspondence:

Letter of request from Jim Wilson, President, Board of Directors of Christmas Circle Community Park, asking for \$1,330 credit for removing 1,330 square feet of grass, per BWD Conservation Management Plan

Rich Williamson suggested that this item be combined with Item II.A (Consideration of the Board to credit Margaret Lacy Schneider \$2,500 for removing 38,500 square feet of lawn, per BWD Conservation Management Plan).

II. CURRENT BUSINESS MATTERS

F. Conservation Program update: Martha Deichler, Borrego Springs Elementary School Principal, reported that the school had studied conservation with the help of the computer lab, music teacher and librarian. The students use drip irrigation in their school garden. Ms. Deichler introduced the winners of the conservation poster contest, Denise Asena (first place, grades K-3), Karen Garcia (second place, grades K-3), Jesus Ornelas (first place, grades 4-5) and Julia Wade (second place, grades 4-5). The students displayed their posters, which depicted water saving tips including turning off water while washing cars, watering plants and brushing teeth; and using less water in the bathtub.

David Naranjo, representing the Middle School and High School, introduced the winners of the Middle School essay contest, Mason Chell (second place, grade 6), Eloisa Rodriguez (first place, grade 6), Christian Moore (second place, grade 7), Mallorie Wade (first place, grade 7), Vladimir Valdez (second place, grade 8) and Jorge Vivas (first place, grade 8). The students read their essays, which advocated conservation practices such as short showers, less watering, low water use appliances, reusing indoor water for outside irrigation or house plants, improved golf course management and use of bottled water.

High School Senior Amanda Hebets narrated her prize-winning PowerPoint presentation, explaining ways to achieve the goals of sustainability, energy conservation and habitat preservation. Recommendations included repairing leaks, washing the car with a bucket instead of a hose, using water-saving appliances, running only full loads in washer and dishwasher, taking short showers, sweeping walks and driveways instead of hosing them, and capturing tap water while waiting for it to heat.

Jerry Rolwing presented cash awards to all winners.

A. Consideration of the Board to credit Margaret Lacy Schneider \$2,500 for removing 38,500 square feet of lawn, per BWD Conservation Management Plan: Mr. Williamson referred to the May 19, 2008 letter to President Mendenhall from Jim Wilson, President of the Christmas Circle Community Park Board of Directors. The letter reported the intent to remove 1,330 square feet of grass at the park, which Mr. Williamson reported has now been complete and was actually 1,640 square feet. Modifications to the sprinkler system are planned, for an estimated cost of \$6,000. Mr. Wilson is requesting that the District consider a contribution of \$6,000 to the park, which would include both the turf removal rebate and the sprinkler system improvements. Mr. Williamson suggested a proposal that in exchange for the District's financial assistance, we could use a portion of the park to advertise and promote water conservation. President Mendenhall noted that \$15,000 had been earmarked for water conservation efforts. Allison Burns explained that this was not agendaized as an action item, so any action would have to be deferred to the next meeting. Discussion followed regarding whether a Board vote was necessary, since the funds had been budgeted for conservation incentives, or whether the Conservation Committee could make the decision. Ms. Burns said that the Board could delegate the authority to the Committee. Director Smiley requested more information on the proposed irrigation changes, and Mr. Williamson agreed to investigate. Mr. Williamson suggested that after approval of the new budget, the Board consider delegating conservation incentive approval to the Conservation Committee.

Mr. Williamson referred to a letter from Margaret Lacey Schneider requesting reimbursement for removal of 38,500 square feet of lawn. The maximum reimbursement under the incentive program would be \$2,500. Discussion followed regarding the rebate approval and verification process, and Mr. Williamson suggested the matter be referred back to the Conservation Committee. President Mendenhall requested that future conservation incentive items be placed on the Board agenda only after the Committee has made a recommendation.

President Mendenhall declared a recess at 10:30 a.m., and the Board reconvened at 10:35 a.m.

B. Water Resource Management Plan update – Bill Mills: Bill Mills explained that as part of the Water Resource Management Plan, an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan in which BWD would partner with neighboring water agencies is needed. This will support future grant applications. Logical partners would be Imperial Irrigation District and probably a flood control district. Mr. Mills had met with IID staff and planned to continue to do so. The Water Resource Management Plan will also incorporate the Groundwater Management Plan and reports by Lin Burzell and Henderson/Netto, and will serve to define resources and demands and assess the life of the aquifer. Mr. Williamson reported that BWD staff had reviewed and commented on two drafts of the Water Resource Management Plan, which will eventually be presented to the Board and public.

Mr. Mills cited the statewide water supply issue and reported that legislation is pending which would require water agencies to reduce usage by 20 percent by 2020. Future options for BWD include participation in a desalination project and importation through IID facilities. More than one source will probably be required, and grant funding for studies is being sought.

Mr. Mills went on the report on the status of the model update, which was recommended by the expert panel as the best method to determine the life of the aquifer. The Henderson/Netto model, purchased by the District in 2002-03, did not undergo peer review, and its validity was questioned by the Department of Water Resources. The USGS has also reviewed it and has submitted a proposal to update it, which is currently under review. The efforts will be coordinated with DWR and BWD. Mr. Williamson recommended that Mr. Mills serve as project manager.

C. Discuss reducing turf on golf courses for mitigation purposes:

D. Discussion of the proposed Mitigation Entitlement Certificate Program:

Mr. Williamson reported he met recently with representatives of De Anza Country Club. They are working with a landscape architect to reduce golf course irrigation by one third, and inquired whether any conservation credit would be available from the District. He discussed offering mitigation credits, which would be memorialized by a certificate and available for sale to developers. The certificates could be subdivided, and all transactions would be logged by the District. Director Smiley referred to the Schedule of Water Consumption in the draft Mitigation Entitlement Policy (Agenda page 11), and recommended using the University of California schedule instead of the County's.

The District has continued its efforts to work with the County toward a uniform mitigation policy, but due to the protracted political nature of the negotiations, Mr. Williamson suggested moving forward with an entitlement program separately from the County. Director King pointed out that the County would not accept a unilateral District policy, and Mr. Williamson replied that at this time, it would only be valid for the District's mitigation requirement. Ms. Burns reported that County staff member Jim Bennett indicated the District would have his response to our fallowing policy by the end of the week. Director King expressed concern regarding the County requirement that fallowed farmland be developed within five years, or the mitigation credit is lost. The District has opposed this policy.

President Mendenhall inquired about the pending Farmland Protection Program. Mr. Williamson agreed that it would counteract the District's water management and land use goals, and recommended a letter to the County explaining our perspective. Jim Engelke explained that only "prime" farmland would be covered by the policy, and only two parcels in the Borrego Valley are included, neither planted with citrus.

Further discussion of the mitigation program and related issues was continued to the next groundwater management Board meeting.

E. Discussion of future actions relative to Groundwater Management/Sustainable Water Supply: This item was covered during Mr. Mills' report. Mr. Williamson added he would be meeting with USGS, DWR, IID and perhaps the County in July.

G. Consideration of employee recognition (Bonus) for insurance refund: Mr. Williamson requested that this item be continued to the next Board meeting and considered as part of the budget discussions.

III. GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

No further discussion.

IV. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Williamson reported he had received comments from Community Services District counsel regarding the latest draft of the MOU. The corrections were minor, and have been made and approved by the CSD Board President. Ms. Burns is working with CSD counsel to prepare the exhibits.

V. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. to a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors immediately following this meeting.