Borrego Water District Board of Directors MINUTES Regular Meeting September 22, 2020 @ 9:00 a.m. 806 Palm Canyon Drive Borrego Springs, CA 92004

I. OPENING PROCEDURES

- A. <u>Call to Order:</u> President Dice called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
- B. <u>Pledge of Allegiance:</u> Those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
 C. Roll Call: Directors: Present: President Dice, Vice President Dice, Vic

Roll Call:	Directors:	Present:	President Dice, Vice President	
			Brecht, Secretary/Treasurer	
			Duncan, Delahay, Johnson	
	Staff:	Geoff Pool	e, General Manager	
		David Dale, District Engineer		
		Jessica Cla	Jessica Clabaugh, Finance Officer	
		Alan Asche, Operations Manager		
		Diana Del Bono, Administration Manager Roy Martinez, WTF Operator III		
		Esmeralda	Garcia, Administrative Assistant	
		Wendy Quinn, Recording Secretary		
	Public:	Ray Lenno	x, State Park Tammy Baker	
		Rebecca Falk		

D. <u>Approval of Agenda:</u> *MSC: Brecht/Johnson approving the Agenda as written. The roll call vote was unanimous.*

E. <u>Approval of Minutes:</u>

1. August 11, 2020 Special Board Meeting. MSC: Brecht/Johnson approving the Minutes of the Special Board Meeting of August 11, 2020 as written. The roll call vote was unanimous.

2. August 25, 2020 Regular Board Meeting.

MSC: Brecht/Johnson approving the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 25, 2020 as corrected (Item II.E should refer to <u>Trey</u> Driscoll, not Todd). The roll call vote was unanimous.

F. <u>Comments from the Public and Requests for Future Agenda Items:</u> None

G. <u>Comments from Directors:</u> None

H. <u>Correspondence Received from the Public:</u>

1. Martha Palacio – Request for Relief of High Water Bill. Esmeralda Garcia reported that Martha Palacio, who is on a payment plan for overdue water bills, was requesting relief from a high bill due to a water leak. District policy provides for one forgiveness in a five-year period, which she had already used. *MSC: Brecht/Duncan granting the requested adjustment due to COVID and reviewing the once-in-five-years forgiveness policy. The roll call vote was unanimous.*

II. ITEMS FOR BOARD CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

A. Letter from BWD to San Diego County Water Authority re: Regional Conveyance System: Director Brecht referred to the District's letter in August to the SDCWA Board, aiming to dispel the rumor that BWD supported the RCS through Borrego Springs. Subsequently, the Risk Management/Pandemic Committee was requested to write another letter, working with Dudek. The draft letter was included in the Board package, and addresses additional concerns regarding potential water quality and cost issues.

Director Duncan noted that the draft letter assumes the SDCWA is looking for conjunctive use, although they have said it is not part of their study. President Dice suggested adding, "If your choice of a route includes conjunctive use, here are our concerns." Geoff Poole noted that he had served on the SDCWA Board and on its subcommittee looking at alternative routes for the RCS. They felt storage in Borrego would be nice, but that was not the only advantage of that route. This northern route would serve a larger area through their Twin Oaks treatment plant.

MSC: Brecht/Johnson authorizing transmission of a letter to SDCWA, clarifying BWD's concerns; and requesting President Dice and Director Johnson to finalize the draft and bring it back to the next meeting. The roll call vote was unanimous.

B. Letter to Riverside Board of Supervisors re: Hemp Farming in Anza/Terwilliger: Mr. Poole reported that the Riverside Board of Supervisors had deferred its decision on hemp farming until October 15. A draft letter to the Riverside Board was provided in the BWD Board package, and included input from Gary Worobec of Take Back Anza. Director Johnson suggested referencing SGMA. *MSC: Brecht/Duncan referring the draft letter to President Dice and Director Johnson to be finalized and transmitted to the Riverside Board of Supervisors with a copy to San Diego Supervisor Jim Desmond.*

Interim Borrego Springs Subbasin Watermaster Board:

1. Meter Reading Agreement. Mr. Poole invited the Board's attention to the Meter Reading Agreement between BWD and the WMB in the Board package. *MSC: Brecht/Duncan approving the Meter Reading Agreement. The roll call vote was unanimous.*

2. Right of Entry Form. *MSC: Brecht/Duncan approving the Entry Permit for meter reading. The roll call vote was unanimous.*

3. Items for September 24, 2020 Agenda. Director Duncan reported that the next WMB Agenda will include discussion of the Meter Reading Agreement and Right of Entry Form, the function and membership of the Technical Advisory Committee, and establishment of a bank account.

III. STANDING AND AD-HOC BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. <u>STANDING:</u>

1. Operations and Infrastructure. No report.

B. <u>AD-HOC:</u>

C.

- a. Stipulated Judgment Implementation. No report.
- b. Risk Management/Pandemic. No report
- c. Grant Funding. No report.
- d. Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Authority. No

report.

- e. Organizational Staffing. No report.
- f. Prop 218 and BWD Developers' Policy. No report.

IV. MONTHLY FINANCIAL & OPERATIONS REPORTS

A. <u>Financial Reports: August 2020:</u>

1. Water and Sewer Revenue Update. Jessica Clabaugh presented data on account balances, cash flow, income and projections. Air quality cost reports were moved from operational expenses to professional services. Legal services were high, notably in the groundwater management area, and salaries were high due to cashed out vacation time. Work on the Bending Elbow pipeline continues. A small leak on Circle J was repaired. Downstream is continuing to video the sewer system. Ms. Clabaugh reviewed the balance sheet for the sewer system, including the wastewater treatment plant, Town Center Sewer and related infrastructure.

B. <u>Water and Wastewater Operations Report: August 2020:</u> The Water and Wastewater Operations Report was included in the Board package.

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C. <u>Water Production/Use Records: August 2020:</u> The Water Production/Use Records were included in the Board package.

V. STAFF REPORTS

A. <u>Administration:</u> Diana Del Bono reported there were some technical issues with the bank involving the scanner, but they have been resolved. Ms. Garcia is working on the new billing system. Phone calls are coming in regarding the recent certified letter announcing the Stipulated Judgment. Staff has a clarifying statement and is referring people to the website. A newsletter on the subject was included with the last bills. The emergency procedures update is nearing completion, as is the year-end paperwork. Director Johnson asked Ms. Del Bono to e-mail the statement on the Stipulated Judgment to the Board members.

B. <u>Wastewater Operations:</u> Roy Martinez reported that wastewater operations were going smoothly. Downstream is inspecting the lines on Palm Canyon Drive, and a report should be available for the next meeting.

C. <u>Water Operations:</u> Alan Asche reported there were no emergency repairs during the past month. Meter replacement is continuing, and some paving repairs are underway on Club Circle and Lazy S. A new breaker was installed in Well 8. Mr. Asche plans to institute an annual pump inspection program. The De Anza project is nearly complete. Control Systems, Inc. has been selected for the new SCADA system, and work is underway. Staff is getting ready for the upcoming WMB meter reading. The monthly sampling reports were good. The lead and copper test, required every three years, has been completed. The results have not yet been received, but any negative results are generally transmitted right away.

D. <u>General Manager</u>: David Dale reported that the Bending Elbow project is 75 percent complete, and the De Anza pipeline is nearly finished. He is working with the Fire Department on fire flow issues. Mr. Poole explained that there are nearly nine miles of pipelines without the needed fire flow, and they can't all be repaired at once. The Fire Chief is aware of it and knows how to deal with the issue using pumper trucks and high flow hydrants. BWD is working on affordable, long-term solutions. Director Johnson suggested looking into grants, and Mr. Poole said that Mr. Dale had investigated some low-interest loans from USDA. Information on Woodard & Curran, grant consultants, will be included on the next Agenda.

1. BWD letter sent to San Diego County regarding nuisance and improperly abandoned well. Mr. Poole invited the Board's attention to correspondence in the Board package between BWD and the County.

VI. CLOSED SESSION

A. <u>Conference with Legal Counsel – Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to</u> <u>Government Code paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 (Two (2) potential cases):</u>

B. <u>Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation (*BWD v. All Persons Who* <u>Claim a right to Extract Groundwater, et al.</u> (San Diego Superior Court case no. 37-2020-00005776)):</u>

C. <u>Replacement Well Number Two Site – Conference with Real Property</u> <u>Negotiators (Gov. Code Section 54956.8); Property APN: APN 198-270-13-00, 36.53 acres;</u> <u>BWD Negotiator: Geoff Poole; Negotiating Parties: Geoff Poole, General Manager and Owner:</u> <u>Borrego Springs Unified School District: Price and Terms of Payment:</u>

D. <u>Performance Evaluation of General Manager: GM Performance Review –</u> Conference for Public Employee Performance Evaluation – Title: General Manager Employee Performance Review – pursuant to subdivision (d)(4) of Government Code Section 54957:

The Board adjourned to closed session at 10:40 a.m., and thereafter, the open session reconvened. There was no reportable action.

VII. CLOSING PROCEDURE

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2020, to be available on line. See Board Agenda at BorregoWD.org for details, available at least 72 hours before the meeting. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.