

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING
Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting
Thursday, June 10, 2021, 4:30 p.m.

I. Opening Procedures

- A. Chairman Duncan called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM
- B. Chairman Duncan led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Samantha Adams (Executive Director) called roll and confirmed that all members of the Board were present. The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Directors Present	Chairman Dave Duncan – Borrego Water District (BWD)
	Vice Chairman Shannon Smith – Recreational Sector
	Jim Bennett – County of San Diego
	Mike Seley – Agricultural Sector
	Martha Deichler, Board Alternate – Community Representative
Watermaster Staff Present	James M. Markman, Legal Counsel
	Samantha Adams, Executive Director, West Yost
	Andrew Malone, Lead Technical Consultant, West Yost
	Lauren Sather, Staff Scientist, West Yost
Others Present	Steven Anderson, BBK, representing BWD
	Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member
	Leanne Crow, Board Alternate – County of San Diego
	Jim Dax
	Trey Driscoll, Dudek, representing BWD
	Diane Johnson (BWD Director)
	Bob Krasowski
	Cathy Milkey, T2 Borrego LLC
	Michele Staples, Jackson Tidus, representing AAWARE
	Leonardo Urrego-Vallowe, WBE, representing AAWARE

- D. Approval of Agenda.

Motion: Motioned by Director Diechler, seconded by Vice Chairman Smith, to approve the Agenda.
Motion carried unanimously (5-0-0).

II. Public Correspondence

- A. Correspondence Received. (none)
- B. Public Comments. Chairman Duncan called for public comments. No public comments were made.

III. Consent Calendar. The Consent Calendar for the June 10, 2021 meeting included:

- A. *Approval of Minutes for Regular Board Meeting on May 13, 2021.* Minutes from the May 13, 2021 Board meeting should be corrected as follows:
 - Modify item B of VII to: “Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 4:30 pm.”
- B. *Approval of May 2021 Financial Report.*

C. *Receive and file March 2021 Watermaster Staff invoices*

Motion: Motioned by Director Bennett, seconded by Director Seley to approve the Consent Calendar with noted corrections to meeting minutes. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

IV. Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action

A. *Consideration of Approval to Submit the Updated Alternative to a GSP Elements Guide to the CA Department of Water Resources (Adams).* ED Adams summarized the updated Alternative to a GSP Elements Guide, as presented in the agenda package. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. There were no public comments. The key points of discussion included:

- Director Smith will draft a cover letter to accompany the submission to DWR which stresses the value of the Borrego Springs Judgment as an Alternative to a GSP. He will circulate the draft for review and comment and provide to Staff to circulate for signature by all Board members.
- The timeline for DWR's review following submission of the alternative application is unknown.

Motion: Motioned by Vice Chairman Smith, seconded by Director Seley, directing staff to submit the attached Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) Alternative Elements Guide to the CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) together with the cover letter. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

B. *Technical Advisory Committee Report: Recommended Scope of Work and Budget for Water Year (WY) 2022 and WY 2023 (Malone).* Mr. Malone summarized the TAC report in a PowerPoint presentation that is available on Watermaster's website with the materials for the June 10 meeting. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Duncan opened the floor to Board member questions. A discussion ensued and Chairman Duncan tabled the item for motion and public comment following presentation and discussion of Agenda Items IVC and IVD. The key points of initial discussion and clarification included:

- Mr. Malone clarified that the services described in the TAC Budget would be performed by West Yost, with a small portion of the work to be subcontracted to Dudek at the recommendation of the TAC.
- Vice Chairman Smith noted that he would like to see costs come down, if at all possible, as he is concerned that the TAC is focusing on developing a perfect model and not sustainability. Mr. Malone explained the challenge of putting off this work to the future.
- Chairman Duncan expressed support for investing in testing the model with new pumping data because of the importance of pumping when estimating sustainable yield.

Following the discussion of Agenda Items IVC and IVD, Chairman Duncan called for public comment and motion. Public comment was made by Cathy Milkey. Vice Chairman Smith reiterated his concern about the current focus of the model but did begrudgingly offer to make

a motion. Director Seley also reiterated a concern with the cost of the TAC work, but specific to the water quality program.

Motion: Motioned by Vice Chairman Smith, seconded by Director Seley, to approve the TAC recommended scope of work and budget for WY 2022 and WY 2023. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

C. *Environmental Working Group Report: Recommended Scope of Work and Budget for Water Year (WY) 2022 (Malone).* Mr. Malone summarized the EWG report in a PowerPoint presentation that is available on Watermaster's website with the materials for the June 10 meeting. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Duncan opened the floor to Board member questions and public comment. A discussion ensued and Chairman Duncan tabled the item for motion and public comment following presentation and discussion of Agenda Item IVD. Public comment was made by Michele Staples. The key points of the initial discussion included:

- Mr. Malone clarified that some of the EWG members believe that the prior conclusion in the GMP regarding the lack of connectivity to groundwater depended ecosystem needs to be verified.
- Director Deichler explained that the EWG recommended scope of work is strongly supported by Director Jorgensen who could not be present at today's meeting.
- Mr. Malone clarified that the services described in the EWG Budget would be performed by West Yost

Following the discussion of Agenda Item IVD, Chairman Duncan called for motion.

Motion: Motioned by Director Deichler, seconded by Director Bennett, to approve the EWG recommended scope of work and budget for WY 2022. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

D. *Draft Watermaster Operating Budget for Water Year 2022 (Adams).* ED Adams summarized the Draft Watermaster Operating Budget for Water Year 2022, in a PowerPoint presentation that is available on Watermaster's website with the materials for the June 10 meeting. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chairman Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. The key points of discussion included:

- It is important to have a reserve budget. There are different opinions about how much money should be held in reserves. Some options discussed included:
 - Target reserves as a percentage of the annual operating budget (half or two-thirds).
 - Target an amount equal to the annual operating budget.
 - If assessments are too low in the early years, the reserves could be depleted. A large enough reserve should be built in the initial years to offset future costs.

Following the discussion, the Board directed staff to (1) prepare a five-year estimate of the operating budget and (2) prepare the final budget based on the reserves discussion and the outcomes of the Board actions- that will be taken when the Chairman returns to Agenda Items IVB and IVC. No Board action was taken.

- E. *San Diego County Water Authority Regional Conveyance System Study (Adams)*. The Board expressed interest in the Water Authority's presentation and requested staff to schedule it at a future meeting.

V. Reports.

- A. Executive Director Reports. ED Adams reported on the following items:
- Assessments Update. ED Adams reported to the Board that a request for payment of Court Imposed Assessments has been sent to all relevant parties.
 - Meter Notice Update. ED Adams reported to the Board that a letter on the requirement to install and verify meters has been sent out to all new BPA Parties.
- B. Legal Counsel Report. None
- C. Chairperson's Report. None

VI. Board Member Comments. Chairman Duncan called for comments. The following comments were made:

- Director Bennett thanked Watermaster staff for the hard work that went into preparing all aspects of the budget materials.
- Director Seley requested that Watermaster staff continue to look for opportunities to improve efficiencies and reduce costs
- Chairman Duncan requested that Staff circulate future Board agendas to the entire Board for review.

VII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster. Chairman Duncan reviewed the potential agenda items for the next Board meetings included in the agenda package. The next meetings are:

- A. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, July 8, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.
- B. Regular Board Meeting – Thursday, August 12, 2021 at 4:30 pm.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. Director Duncan adjourned the meeting at 6:44 PM.



Recorded by:
Samantha Adams, Executive Director



Attest:
Shannon Smith, Vice Chairperson, Secretary,
and Treasurer of the Board