

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING
Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting
Thursday, June 13, 2024, 4:30 p.m.

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Directors Present	Chair Dave Duncan – Borrego Water District (BWD)
	Vice Chair Tyler Bilyk – Agricultural Sector
	Secretary and Treasurer Shannon Smith – Recreational Sector
	Mark Jorgensen – Community Representative
	Jim Bennett – County of San Diego
Watermaster Staff Present	James M. Markman, Legal Counsel
	Samantha Adams, Executive Director, West Yost
	Andrew Malone, Lead Technical Consultant, West Yost
	Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost
Others Present	Christopher Baker, DWR
	Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member
	Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager
	Jim Dax, Board Alternate – Community Representative
	Leanne Crow, Board Alternate – County of San Diego
	Rich Pinel, Board Alternate – Recreational Sector
	Steve Anderson, BB&K, representing BWD
	Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member
	Trey Driscoll, Intera, TAC Member representing BWD
	Christopher Baker, DWR

Please visit the [Watermaster's Website](https://borregospringswatermaster.com/past-watermaster-meetings/)¹ to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the June 13, 2024 Meeting.

I. Opening Procedures

- A. Chair Duncan called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM at which time the meeting recording was started.
- B. Chair Duncan led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance.
- C. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of all members of the Board were present.
- D. Approval of Agenda.

Motion: Motioned by Director Jorgensen, seconded by Vice Chair Bilyk to approve the Agenda.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

II. Public Correspondence

- A. Correspondence Received. No public correspondence was received.
- B. Public Comments. Chair Duncan called for public comments. There were no public comments.

¹ <https://borregospringswatermaster.com/past-watermaster-meetings/>

III. **Consent Calendar.** Chair Duncan called for any discussion on the Consent Calendar items included in the June 13, 2024 agenda package.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Jorgensen to approve the Consent Calendar. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

IV. **Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action**

A. *Draft Final Water Year 2025 Budget.* ED Adams summarized the draft final Water Year (WY) 2025 budget included in the Agenda package. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. Public comment was made by Tammy Baker.

The key points of discussion included:

- The purpose and cost of performing elevation surveys on wells in the Groundwater Monitoring Program.
- Suggestion to staff to provide a range of costs for the WY 2025 Pumping Assessment to pumpers when communicating the WY 2025 Budget. Staff reminded that the range is large depending on carryover outcomes and is difficult to predict until the end of the water year.
- Status update on the 5-Year Assessment of the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP) and the impact to the WY 2025 budget and grant funding.
- Suggestion to staff to consider communicating changes in the future Pumping Assessments to Pumpers, in consideration of the Supplemental Assessment that was issued in WY 2023.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Jorgensen, to approve the WY 2025 budget as presented by staff. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

B. *Status Update on the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield.* Andy Malone provided a status update on the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield, as summarized in the Agenda package memo. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. Public comment was made by Diane Johnson.

The key points of discussion included:

- The work includes assessing future projections of climate change into the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model (BVHM).
- A water budget from the recalibrated BVHM will be prepared at the conclusion of Task 4 – *Model Recalibration*.
- Efforts to Redetermine the Sustainable Yield are projected to be on-schedule.

No Board action was taken.

C. *Consideration of Approval of the Agendas for TAC and EWG Meetings.* Mr. Malone described the proposed Agendas for the upcoming Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Environmental Working Group (EWG) meetings scheduled for July 1, 2024 and July 16, 2024, respectively. At the conclusion of the presentation, Chair Duncan opened the floor to public comment, followed by Board discussion. Public comment was made by Diane Johnson.

Motion: Motioned by Director Bennett, seconded by Vice Chair Bilyk, to approve the TAC and EWG meeting Agendas included in the Board package. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

V. Reports.

- A. Legal Counsel Report. None.
- B. Technical Consultant Report. Mr. Malone provided a status update on the Biological Restoration of Fallowed Lands and Address Abandoned Wells projects (see slide 23-24 of the [Board presentation slides](#)).
- C. Executive Director Reports. ED Adams reported on the following items:
 - Prop 68 Grant Updates
 - Chair Duncan reported that a meeting with the new grant manager at DWR is scheduled for June 18, 2024.
 - Status of DWR's review of the Groundwater Management Plan
- D. Chairperson's Report. None.

VI. Approval of Agenda Items for July 11, 2024 Board Meeting. ED Adams reviewed the potential agenda items for the next Board meetings listed in the agenda package. The Board discussed items to be included on the July 11, 2024 Board meeting agenda, in addition to items listed in the Agenda package. Discussion included:

- A request to add a placeholder on future agendas to discuss DWR's comments on the GMP.
- ED Adams updated the proposed Agenda for the July 11, 2024 meeting on the meeting screen based on discussion, noting it now includes the following items:
 - Spring 2024 Semi-Annual Monitoring Report
 - WY 2024 3rd Quarterly Budget Status Review
 - Status Update on the Redetermination of the Sustainable Yield
 - Discussion on DWR comments (if needed)

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith seconded by Director Jorgensen, to approve the July 11, 2024 agenda presented. *Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).*

VII. Board Member Comments. Chair Duncan called for comments.

- Director Smith thanked Director Pinel for attending the May Board meeting in his absence.

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster. Chair Duncan reviewed the meetings listed in the agenda package.

IX. Adjournment

- Chair Duncan adjourned the meeting at 5:54 PM.



Recorded by:
Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost



Attest:
Shannon Smith, Secretary and Treasurer of the
Board