

MINUTES
BORREGO SPRINGS WATERMASTER BOARD MEETING
Conducted Virtually via GoToMeeting
Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

The following individuals were present at the meeting:

Directors Present	Chair Tyler Bilyk – Agricultural Sector
	Vice Chair Jim Bennett – County of San Diego
	Treasurer Shannon Smith – Recreational Sector
	Secretary Gina Moran – Borrego Water District (BWD)
	Mark Jorgensen – Community Representative
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	Trey Driscoll, Intera, TAC Member representing BWD
	Tammy Baker, BWD Board Member
	Jim Dax, Board Alternate – Community Representative
	Elaina Thompson
	Jessica Clabaugh, BWD Finance Officer
	Diane Johnson, BWD Board Member
	Steve Anderson, BB&K, representing BWD
	Geoff Poole, BWD General Manager
	JC

Please visit the [Watermaster's Website](#)¹ to access the Agenda Packet, recording, and presentation for the November 19, 2025 Meeting. The following meeting minutes identify the start time each agenda item discussion (hours, minutes, seconds: 00:00:00), which can be used as a reference to find and listen to the details of each topic discussed in the [meeting recording](#) for specifics and context.

I. Opening Procedures

- A. Chair Bilyk called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM at which time the meeting recording was started. 00:00:00
- B. Chair Bilyk led the meeting participants in the Pledge of Allegiance. 00:00:15
- C. Samantha Adams, Executive Director (ED) called roll and confirmed that a quorum of 4 of 5 members of the Board were present.² 00:00:37
- D. Approval of Agenda. The Board discussed the agenda topics for the November 19, 2025 Board meeting. 00:01:14

Motion: Motioned by Director Jorgensen, seconded by Vice Chair Bennett to approve the Agenda. 00:05:00

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote (5-0-0).

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

² Director Smith was absent for the roll call (Agenda Item I.C) but arrived at the meeting around 3:04pm.

II. Public Correspondence

- A. *Correspondence Received.* Chair Bilyk referenced the correspondence included in the agenda package. 00:05:32
- B. *Public Comments.* Chair Bilyk called for public comments. Public comment was made by: 00:05:56
- Elaina Thompson on the topic of farm fallowing and concern about dead trees in the Borrego Valley.
 - Tammy Baker on the topic of the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystems (GDE), clarifying that BWD has yet to take an official position on this issue and will wait for the Watermaster evaluation of the UCI Study Report to be completed before taking any position.

III. Consent Calendar

Chair Bilyk called for discussion on the Consent Calendar items included in the November 19, 2025 agenda package. 00:10:24

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued – Item III.M was pulled from the consent calendar, resulting in two motions.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Moran to approve the Consent Calendar, inclusive of an edit to November 3, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes and excluding Item III.M. 00:22:46

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).

Motion: Motioned by Director Bennett, seconded by Director Moran to approve Item III.M in the Consent Calendar. 00:27:44

Motion carried by majority roll-call vote (4-0-1). Director Smith abstained.

IV. Items for Board Consideration and Possible Action

- A. *Final Water Year 2025 Water Rights Accounting.* ED Adams gave a presentation summarizing the memo on the WY 2025 Water Rights Accounting included in the agenda package. 00:28:55

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued, and no Board action was taken.

- B. *Consideration and Approval to Engage with C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs to Perform the WY 2025 Annual Financial Audit.* ED Adams gave a presentation on the proposal to perform the WY 2025 financial audit. 00:38:50

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued to determine action.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith, seconded by Director Jorgensen, to approve the \$8,812 proposal by C.J. Brown & Company, CPAs to perform the WY 2025 financial audit. 00:41:08

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).

- C. *Final Water Year 2025 Budget Status.* ED Adams provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 00:41:45

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued, and no Board action was taken.

- D. *Results of Scenario 1C: Prospective Northward Shift in Projected Pumping.* Lauren Salberg provided a summary of the Borrego Valley Hydrologic Model results for Scenario 1C based on the presentation slides included in the agenda package. 00:47:30

- Public comments were made by Tammy Baker and Trey Driscoll.
- Board discussion ensued, and no Board action was taken.

- E. *Additional BVHM Scenario: Judgment Scenario* Ms. Salberg gave a presentation summarizing the memo included in the agenda package. 01:21:24

- Public comments were made by Trey Driscoll, Tammy Baker, and Jim Dax.
- Board discussion ensued, including Legal Counsel input, to determine action.

Motion: Motioned by Director Smith seconded by Chair Bilyk, to approve a budget not in excess of \$31,144 to perform the Judgement Scenario and use results to: i) make water rights transfer decisions, ii) update the Sustainable Management Criteria (SMC) in the Groundwater Management Plan (GMP), and iii) consider how water levels will correlate with a change in SMC. 02:16:21

Motion failed to meet supermajority vote needed to amend the budget (3-2-0). Directors Moran and Jorgensen voted no.

- F. *Consideration of WY 2026 Budget Amendment* ED Adams provided a summary of the options for amendments to the WY 2026 budget as described in the memo included in the agenda package. 02:19:11

- There were no public comments.
- Board discussion ensued to determine action. Two motions were made by the Board, with discussion occurring between motions

Motion: Motioned by Jorgensen seconded by Bennett, to approve WY 2026 Budget Option 1A to increase budget for the Environmental Working Group by \$17,640. 02:35:24

Motion failed to meet supermajority vote needed to amend the budget (3-2-0). Chair Bilyk and Director Smith voted no.

Motion: Motioned by Vice Chair Bennett seconded by Director Jorgensen, to approve WY 2026 Budget Amendment Option 1A to increase the Environmental Working Group budget by \$17,640, with the provision that West Yost will not confer with The Nature Conservancy. 02:44:38

Motion passed with supermajority vote (4-1-0). Chair Bilyk voted no.

- G. *GMP Assessment and Update Workshop: RCA #6 – Land Subsidence.* Andy Malone provided a summary of the memo included in the agenda package. 02:45:46
- Public comment was made by Diane Johnson.
 - Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.

V. Reports.

- A. *Legal Counsel Report.* Mr. Markman had no topics to report on. Chair Bilyk asked if he could provide an update on the outstanding Doljanin complaint and Mr. Markman provided such. 03:11:43
- There were no public comments.
 - No action was taken by the Board.
- B. *Technical Consultant Report.* Mr. Malone reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 61 through 62 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 03:12:56
- There were no public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.
- C. *Executive Director Report.* ED Adams reported on the items listed in the agenda package memo (see slides 63 through 64 of the [Board presentation slides](#)). 03:23:31
- There were no public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued, and no action was taken by the Board.
- D. *Chairperson's Report.* Chair Bilyk had no report. 03:29:34

VI. Approval of Agenda Items for December 17, 2025 Board Meeting

- ED Adams reviewed the list of potential agenda items for the next several Board meetings listed in the agenda package. 03:29:40
- There were not public comments.
 - Board discussion ensued to determine action.

Motion: Motioned by Director Jorgensen seconded by Director Moran, to approve the following agenda for the December 17, 2025 Regular Board Meeting: 03:34:52

- Resolution 25-02 to add additional authorized bank signatories
- Consideration of approval of West Yost Contract Amendment
- Consideration of Approval of January TAC Meeting Agenda
- Review Change in Groundwater Storage Calculation –2024 to 2025
- GMP Assessment and Workshop – Economic Capacity to Implement Mitigation Strategies (such as Domestic Well Mitigation)
- Status update on the Technical Consultant's Review of the GDE Study Report

Motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote (5-0-0).

VII. Board Member Comments

Chair Bilyk called for comments.

03:35:46

- Director Smith read an excerpt from the BWD review of the GDE Study Report.

VIII. Next Meetings of the Borrego Springs Watermaster

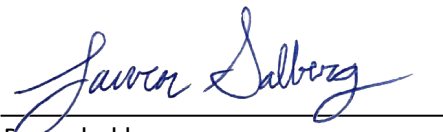
Chair Bilyk reviewed the meetings listed in the agenda package.

03:37:32

IX. Adjournment

Chair Bilyk adjourned the meeting at 6:40 PM.

03:37:50



Recorded by:

Lauren Salberg, Staff Geologist, West Yost



Attest:

Gina Moran, Secretary of the Board