

**RECORD OF THE MINUTES OF THE
BEAUMONT BASIN WATERMASTER
February 11, 2009**

Watermaster Members Present:

City of Banning:	George Thacker (Alternate for City of Banning)
Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District:	Anthony Lara (Alternate for BCVWD)
South Mesa Water Company:	George Jorritsma
Yucaipa Valley Water District:	Joseph Zoba

Watermaster Members Absent:

City of Beaumont:	Dee Moorjani
BCVWD:	C.J. Butcher

Consultants Present:

Mark Wildermuth	Wildermuth Environmental Inc
Mike Plinski	Wildermuth Environmental Inc
Andrew Schlange	Chief of Watermaster Services
Joseph Aklufi	Aklufi and Wysocki

Others Present:

Barbara Voigt	SGPWA
Luwana Ryan	Self
Frances Flanders	Self
Patsy Reeley	Self
Judy Bingham	Self
Jeff Davis	SGPWA
Dr. Blair Ball	BCVWD
Mr. Newman	Self

1. Call to Order

Chairman Jorritsma called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Dee Moorjani and C.J. Butcher were absent to this meeting.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Jorritsma led everyone into the Pledge of Allegiance

4. Oral and Written Communication

Frances Flanders addressed the Watermaster Commission on an item not on the agenda. Ms. Flanders addressed the Watermaster regarding the current \$25 charge for copies of the audio recordings. She requested a refund of money that she had spent purchasing copies of audio. She also indicated that the Watermaster website needs to be updated.

5. Discussion Items

- A. Availability of Supplemental Water for Groundwater Replenishment, Watermaster Letter Dated December 5, 2008

- Yucaipa Valley Water District Letter Dated December 12, 2008
 1. Role and Responsibility of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster (Adjudication document attached)
 2. 2008 Water Supply and Demand Report to LAFCO
 3. Consultant Contracts and Task Orders

Recommendation: General Discussion and Comment

Schlange indicated that a letter dated December 5, 2008 regarding the subject matter was sent out to all Watermaster members to remind them that the Watermaster has been in operation for five years and in those five years numerous projects have been accomplished; such as managing the temporary surplus, State Project Water is being delivered, storage accounts have been developed and are being filled and recycled water will be available in the near future. He indicated that the BCVWD has been approved for a grant and loan for recycled water. He further indicated that planning is under their way to develop new local sources to help transition between now and the time that agencies are able to acquire thru the San Gorgonio Pass Agency additional water supplies to meet future water demands. He indicated that a storm water evaluation was also done and that a methodology for accounting of such water is in the process of being developed. The first transfer of overlyers water was accomplished on February 4, 2009.

Mark Wildermuth with Wildermuth Environmental Inc explained safe yield and the temporary surplus concepts. He also explained "overdraft" and stated that we are not currently in overdraft. He provided a slide showing the different stages of the groundwater storage. He further explained that agencies that over-pump water in excess of their determined rights are responsible to find replacement in supplemental water.

Member Zoba indicated that the Watermaster has issues internally and that the Judgment doesn't really states what the price for replenishment of the basin would be. He stated that he wants to see solutions not where we were and where we are. He indicated that the agencies are building something that is not sustainable.

Schlange stated that all agencies, including the Pass Agency need to meet and discuss how to obtain more water. He indicated that the agencies have five years before the temporary surplus is gone. He indicated that a financing program to purchase and storage of water is necessary to minimize the cost of water to the consumer.

Zoba indicated that a decision needs to be taken by the Cities regarding development. He stated that managers need to resolve the water issue and look at the real cost to bring the water in. He indicated that it is really difficult to figure out where we stand in reality.

Wildermuth indicated that agencies need to expand discussions to other people or agencies that could help make the decisions, an example being the County of Riverside.

Member Thacker indicated that Banning is ready to purchase water from the Pass Agency and take care of its own problem. He further stated that Banning is getting groups together to be ready when development starts.

Member Zoba indicated that Banning needs to keep in mind that the Pass Agency only has 15% available water right now.

Member Lara indicated that there is no reliable source of water available. He indicated that BCVWD being the biggest pumper will pay the most of the cost in five years. He indicated that local sources of water are the most reliable sources of water right now.

Zoba indicated that the agencies need to be part of the discussion and find the solutions.

Schlange indicated that the agencies can solve part of the problem by developing those other sources of water that are available locally. He indicated that one priority should be to fix EBX II to maximize the yield when it is available. He stated that recycled water systems need to be tied in together. He indicated that another option was to put a landscape ordinance to convert all landscape to drought tolerant plans.

Zoba stated that he wants a list of priorities from the Watermaster and all agencies can figure out as to what needs to be done first.

Schlange indicated that one of his frustrations was that for last 18 months time was wasted by arguing over \$22 rate increase with the Pass Agency instead of agencies working together to develop a plan to resolve water issues.

Wildermuth indicated that Banning documents need to be consistent with Pass Agency's Urban Water Management Plan.

Jeff Davis indicated that a consultant will be hired to work on their UWMP and have it published by March 2010.

Mr. Newman, a member of the audience agreed with Member Zoba in that all agencies need to review priorities and to work with the ones that need to be dealt with first. He further questioned about how the shallower wells issues will be addressed.

Wildermuth indicated that shallower wells will be dealt on a case by case basis.

Patsy Reeley indicated that agencies need to know where they are right now as members are so scattered. She indicated that this basin is in overdraft and it has been in overdraft since the adjudication and the availability of water is always a problem. She stated that the Watermaster has to determine the availability of water in this basin and the agencies can't depend on EBX II and if it is up to the City to slow down development then to have the City stop development. She indicated that the agencies can't keep depleting the basin.

Mr. Newman questioned the Watermaster as to what if his well or any well runs out of water because the appropriators take the water then what happens?

Member Thacker responded to Mr. Newman that if his well was within Banning area they would help him out somehow to get him out of the situation.

Dr. Blair Ball, as member of the audience indicated that he agreed with Member Zoba in that all agencies, general managers, Watermaster, board presidents and the Pass Agency need to get together but not including the City or County Planning at this level to talk about these issues. He indicated that the State Project Water is not a dependable source of water. He indicated that he agreed that a conservation plan needs to take place. He stated that development "does not run the show". He stated that until agencies have enough water we can't bring anymore development. He indicated that water retailers agencies need to take care of its customers first. He indicated that a community has to have some development in order for it to survive and create jobs and businesses for the people.

Member Zoba indicated that as action items the Watermaster needs to start talks with the Pass Agency to talk about the drought situation and EBX II.

Dr. Blair Ball indicated that agencies have an obligation to care for the people that are in the community right now and to have enough water to satisfy the demand from the community.

Mr. Newman indicated that he hopes that at the next meeting a solution be reached with all agencies.

Chairman Jorritsma indicated that as purveyors, all agencies need to get together and look at where we are and find other solutions to fill the needs of our people.

Luwana Ryan addressed the Commission on a task order issue indicating that total amount of task orders for STWMA and BBWM paid to consultant from Wildermuth Environmental were \$1,050,500. She stated that, that is a lot of money spent on this basin and that studies are overlapping and nothing has been accomplished.

B. Finance Alternatives

- Member Contributions (General Budget)
- Pump Tax
- Other

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

C. Methodology to complete New Storm Water Recharge

Recommendation: Comment and Discussion

This item was tabled for a future meeting.

6. Closed Session

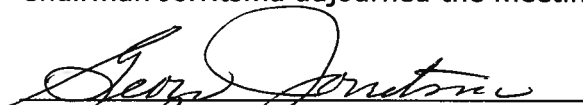
Chairman Jorritsma adjourned the meeting to Closed Session at 12:13 pm.

A. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Potential Litigation Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9c - One Case

Chairman Jorritsma reconvened the meeting at 1:15 pm indicating that no reportable action was taken.

7. Adjournment

Chairman Jorritsma adjourned the meeting at 1:16 pm



Chairman Jorritsma, Chairman to the Watermaster