

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

Meeting Location:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
560 Magnolia Avenue
Beaumont, CA 92223

I. Call to Order

Member George Jorritsma called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

II. Roll Call

<i>City of Banning</i>	<i>Arturo Vela</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>City of Beaumont</i>	<i>Kyle Warsinski</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Beaumont Cherry Valley Water District</i>	<i>Eric Fraser</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>South Mesa Water Company</i>	<i>George Jorritsma</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Yucaipa Valley Water District</i>	<i>Joseph Zoba</i>	<i>Present</i>

Kyle Warsinski was present as the alternate representing the City of Beaumont in the absence of Member Dave Dillon. Arturo Vela was present as the alternative representing the City of Banning in the absence of Chairman Duane Burke. Thierry Montoya was present representing legal counsel for the Beaumont Basin Watermaster.

Members of the public who registered their attendance were: John Jeter, Bill Dickson, Fran Flanders, Bob Wall, Tom Harder, Carl Kymla, John Covington, Hannibal Blandon and Jack Nelson.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Member George Jorritsma led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Public Comments

No public comment was received at this time.

V. Consent Calendar

A. Meeting Minutes

1. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2015

Member Kyle Warsinski motioned to amend the minutes to reflect the change from a 5-0 vote on item 7.D. to a 4-1 vote, with the City of Beaumont voting against. Member Joseph Zoba seconded the motion; motion passed 5-0. Member Arturo Vela subsequently motioned to approve the minutes as amended. Member Zoba seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

VI. Reports

- A. Report from Engineering Consultant - Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Engineering
- Engineer Hannibal Blandon to present several of the discussion items later in the meeting.*
- B. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya, Alvarado Smith
- Legal Counsel Montoya reported on the work he had done in regard to the storage account application from the Morongo Board of Mission Indians (Tribe), in preparation for the meeting.*

VII. Discussion Items

- A. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin [Memorandum No. 15-21, Page 10 of 85]
- Recommendation: No recommendation*
- Engineer Blandon gave a status report of the water level monitoring equipment in the Beaumont Basin.*
- B. Task Order No. 6 – Water Level Monitoring for 2015 Reallocation of Funds to Acquire Four Additional Monitoring Probes [Memorandum No. 15-22, Page 14 of 85]
- Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee approves the reallocation of \$3,000.00 under this task to acquire four additional monitoring probes and associated equipment from Solinst Canada.*
- Engineer Blandon provided an accounting to date for Task Order No. 6, and that the \$3,000 available in the 2015 allocation could be used to acquire four additional monitoring probes. He provided background information on several sites in the Basin that could be monitored with the additional probes.*
- Member Zoba motioned to approve the reallocation of the \$3,000 pursuant to Task Order No. 6 for the four additional monitoring probes. Member Fraser seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.*
- C. Discussion Regarding Task Order No. 8 with ALDA Inc. for On-Call Engineering Services [Memorandum No. 15-23, Page 15 of 85]
- Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee approves Task Order No. 8 for a sum not to exceed \$20,000.00.*
- Engineer Blandon provided an overview of Task Order No. 8. Member Zoba motioned to approve Task Order No. 8 for a sum not to exceed \$20,000.00. Member Vela seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.*

- D. Adoption of the 2014 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report [Memorandum No. 15-24, Page 17 of 85]

Recommendation: No recommendation

Engineer Blandon stated that it would be prudent to address the issues of overlying water rights and the transfer from Oak Valley Partners at this meeting and postpone the delivery of the report until the next meeting.

- E. Independent Accountant's Financial Report of Agreed-Upon Procedures for the Beaumont Basin Watermaster [Memorandum No. 15-25, Page 18 of 85]

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee receives and files the Independent Accountant's Financial Report for the period ending June 30, 2015.

After Member Zoba provided a brief explanation of the report, Member Vela motioned to receive and file the report. Member Fraser seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

- F. Consideration of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 [Memorandum No. 15-26, Page 25 of 85]

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee adopts the budget as presented.

Member Zoba gave a presentation on the Proposed Budget, including a proposed amendment in line item GL account 5063 from \$10,000 to \$20,000. Member Zoba motioned to approve the Proposed Budget with the amendment. Member Fraser seconded the motion and the motion passed 5-0.

- G. Morongo Band of Mission Indians - Proposed Groundwater Storage Agreement - Revised Storage Location [Memorandum No. 15-27, Page 27 of 85]

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee approves the proposed groundwater storage project, as proposed by the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, pending the development of a surface and groundwater monitoring program specific to this project.

Engineer Blandon presented a new groundwater storage project proposal from the Morongo Board of Mission Indians (Tribe). The proposal includes a relocation of the recharge facility which resolves several issues discussed in the previous meeting. The accounting under the proposal would include the Tribe's storage account being credited for in-lieu deliveries as well as for water imported and recharged within the Basin.

After discussion among the Members, Engineer Blandon, and Legal Counsel Montoya regarding the legality of the proposed accounting for an overlying user under the stipulated judgment, Engineer Steve Johnson of Stetson Engineers, Inc. spoke on behalf of the Tribe. He stated that crediting a storage account for in-lieu deliveries it is a widely accepted practice in other parts of Southern California.

Legal Counsel Montoya and Member Fraser further addressed the issue by reaffirming that the judgment does not explicitly address the crediting of an overlying party's water storage account for unused water rights. Member Fraser also highlighted differences between judgments in other basins of Southern California and that of the Beaumont Basin.

Member Fraser motioned to approve the groundwater storage project as proposed by the Tribe, subject to the Tribe receiving credit explicitly for the water that is demonstrated to be recharged within the Basin, and that it meets water quality that is equivalent to State Project water being recharged elsewhere. Member Warsinski seconded the motion. Member Warsinski sought to clarify the motion and expressed a desire to see the Committee address an in-lieu policy within the parameters of the judgment.

Engineer Blandon reminded the Committee of the issue of potential water losses and stressed that the Committee consider that. Member Fraser amended the original motion to include staff's recommendation pending the development of surface and groundwater monitoring projects specific to this project.

John Covington, Water Department Manager for the Tribe, asked that the Committee consider further amending the motion, striking the language that the water quality needs to meet the quality of State Project water. He expressed his belief that it would be more appropriate that the water quality meet the Basin objectives instead. Member Fraser further amended the motion to reflect that the water quality needs to meet the water quality as identified in the Basin objectives. Member Warsinski seconded the twice-amended motion.

Tribal Legal Counsel Scott Sommers recommended that the Committee, in developing a methodology of accounting for water losses, adopt one that is uniform throughout the Basin and not specific to the Tribe. Member Fraser contended that losses must be project-specific due to differing hydrology in different parts of the Basin. Mr. Sommers agreed with this and clarified that a policy should be adopted Basin-wide, while the application of the policy would differ on a project level.

Member Zoba requested that the five member agencies constituting the Committee receive a copy of the environmental study for the proposed project. Member Jorritsma fielded a vote of the standing motion, and the motion passed 4-1, with Member Jorritsma voting no.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

- A. Recycled Water Recharge Policy

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members

No comments from the Watermaster Committee Members were made.

X. Announcements

B. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Member George Jorritsma made the announcement above.

XI. Adjournment

Member George Jorritsma adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Attest:

Eric Fraser, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster