

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 5, 2020**

Meeting Location:

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Arturo Vela called the meeting to order at 10:03 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>Daniel Jagers</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>

Thierry Montoya was present representing legal counsel for the Beaumont Basin Watermaster (BBWM). Hannibal Blandon and Thomas Harder were present as engineers for the BBWM.

Staff present: Yolanda Rodriguez, Mark Swanson, James Bean, Bill Clayton and Erica Gonzales from BCVWD.

Members of the public who registered and / or attended: Steve Lehtonen, Jeff Davis, David Fenn and Ron Duncan from the San Geronio Pass Water Agency (SGPWA), Jennifer Ayres from Yucaipa Valley Water District (YVWD), John Covington from the Morongo Band of Mission Indians, Fran Flanders, and Jim Ohanian

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Vela led the pledge of allegiance.

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Consent Calendar

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jagers to approve the Meeting Minutes of the following dates as amended:

1. Meeting Minutes for December 4, 2019

AYES:	Jagers, Vela, Warsinski, Zoba
NOES:	None.
ABSTAIN:	Jorritsma
ABSENT:	None.
STATUS:	Motion Approved

VI. Reports

A. Report from Engineering Consultant – Hannibal Blandon, ALDA Engineering

No report.

B. Report from Hydrogeological Consultant – Thomas Harder, Thomas Harder & Co.

No report.

C. Report from Legal Counsel – Thierry Montoya, Alvarado Smith

Mr. Montoya reported that he followed up in response to a public comment from Mr. Wood of Sharondale with a voice mail message explaining that the reduction in their water rates was likely due to a ramp-down given to all members pursuant to storage losses. Montoya said he had not heard back from Mr. Wood.

Mr. Montoya reported he received an email from Member Zoba raising some objections to the vote taken on the allocation of water rights.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Reorganization of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster Committee - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Zoba to continue with the current officers:

- *Chair Arturo Vela*
- *Vice Chair George Jorritsma*
- *Secretary Dan Jagers*
- *Treasurer Joe Zoba*

and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Jagers, Jorritsma, Vela, Warsinski, Zoba
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: None.
STATUS: Motion Approved

B. Consideration of the Watermaster Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and Fiscal Year 2020-2021

Treasurer Zoba explained the budget process.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Jorritsma to approve the Watermaster Budget for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and approved by the following vote:

AYES: Jagers, Jorritsma, Vela, Warsinski, Zoba
NOES: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
ABSENT: None.
STATUS: Motion Approved

C. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through January 23, 2020

Recommendation: No recommendation.

Engineering Consultant Hannibal Blandon explained that no new wells have been added to the program. Sixteen existing wells continue to be monitored for water level, and two for barometric pressure, he said.

Yucaipa 34 has seen a significant drop, Blandon advised, and explained a problem with the probe. There has been no significant production in the area of Oak Valley 5, he continued, but water levels continue to decline.

The Noble Creek observation wells show that the aquifer continues to rise, Blandon said. There have been no significant changes at other wells, he said. The Banning wells continue to recover, he added.

A communications cable at Banning M9 needs replacement, and potential replacement is needed again at Valley 5, Blandon noted.

D. A Comparison of Production and Allowable Extractions through December 2019.

Recommendation: No recommendation. Information only.

Mr. Blandon compared production and allowable extractions through the end of 2019. For the four appropriators, it takes into consideration the transfer of overlying rights that occurred from Oak Valley Partners to YVWD, allocating the full amount of 1,399 acre-feet (AF). The amount of water imported in 2019 was 13,895 AF. Total production, Blandon stated, was 14,121 which is 71 percent of the allowable amount.

The City of Banning exceeded its total and will be using some of its storage account, Blandon noted. Member Jagers suggested adjustments be made to the BCVWD and City of Banning accounts due to some deliveries made from BCVWD's Well 25 in 2019 to the City of Banning as part of its co-ownership. Member Jagers explained the well co-ownership and processes. Member Zoba asked if there was a way to provide the information to Mr. Blandon more quickly; Mr. Jagers suggested reporting quarterly. Member Zoba suggested a quarterly report on the BBWM agenda, Jagers was amenable.

E. Consideration of Change Order No. 2 for Task Order No. 17 for the Development of a Return Flow Methodology for the Beaumont Basin

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee approve Change Order No. 2 to Task Order No. 17 for the sum not to exceed \$27,850.00 and to direct the Treasurer to invoice specific Appropriators based on anticipated benefits.

Mr. Harder advised that ALDA Inc. and Thomas Harder & Company have been working over the past year on evaluating return flow by appropriator and a draft technical memo was finished last October. Significant comments were received, and a scope of services has been produced to address those comments. Included in the Change Order are items such as re-evaluation of indoor/outdoor water use estimates, landscape irrigation efficiency assumptions, additional water delivery account types, and accounting for pipeline losses, Harder stated. He detailed the related tasks and methodology and advised the Committee about some of the comments that will be addressed.

The initial budget for the project was about \$40,000, Harder noted. A change order over the summer totaled \$4,780 for reconciling the water account types, and this change order is \$27,850 which brings the revised budget to \$72,770, Harder advised.

Member Jagers suggested that the districts provide their data on water losses to Harder. Member Zoba suggested dropping Task 4 on pipeline and sewer losses; Mr. Harder explained this analysis would result in a detailed estimate. Member Zoba pointed out that return flows in general

do not comply with the basin plan objective and suggested the quality issues should be addressed, which would further increase the cost. He questioned the value of the study. Chair Vela suggested further analysis of needs. Mr. Harder indicated he could look at the recommended information and revise the scope of services.

The original task, Harder pointed out, was to receive credit from the appropriators for water that they are using and is returning to the groundwater. Zoba explained his quality concerns in response to a question from Chair Vela. Member Jagers added that there are sources of higher quality water also being added to the basin and the Committee should take a holistic approach to all water quality issues that take place over time in the basin.

Member Zoba pointed out that state regulations will require reduction of losses and said he did not see value in accounting for that. Chair Vela said system losses are real, and although a leaky system should not be rewarded, the analysis seems worthwhile. Member Jagers suggested that an accounting of losses and how they affect the adjudicated basin and safe yield would be of value whether credit is given or not.

Per the request of Mr. Harder, the City of Banning will provide data on infiltration and inflow to its plant during rain events.

Mr. Harder will revise the scope of services with Task 4 remaining, for consideration at the next meeting.

F. 2019 Annual Report Status and Rescheduling

Recommendation: That the Board considers moving the April meeting to its regular schedule on the first Wednesday of the month.

Mr. Bandon said he had anticipated having a draft of the annual report to present at this meeting, but some needed data is not yet available. In order to accommodate preparation of the report, Bandon recommended moving the March 25 meeting to April 1. Bandon noted that the draft report would be available at the April meeting, and a final report at the June meeting.

Member Jagers pointed out that the SGPWA has begun operating their recharge ponds and there are some deliveries being made. Mr. Bandon indicated he was aware.

Member Zoba asked Mr. Bandon how the overlying water right transfer between Oak Valley Partners and YVWD would be handled in the 2019 report. Mr. Bandon noted that in previous discussion (Item VII. D) it

was stated that YVWD would receive 1,399 AF for 2019, so for 2018 is 181.4; for 2019 it is 1,398.9. Member Zoba clarified that the full amount would be transferred; Mr. Blandon confirmed.

It was moved by Member Zoba and seconded by Member Jorritsma to move the April meeting to its regular schedule on the first Wednesday of the month in 2020 and thereafter. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Jaggers, Jorritsma, Vela, Warsinski, Zoba
NOES:	None.
ABSTAIN:	None.
ABSENT:	None.
STATUS:	Motion Approved

G. 2018 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report –
Presentation of Final Report

Recommendation: That the Watermaster Committee adopts the
Final 2018 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report.

Mr. Blandon reviewed the process of the preparation of the 2018 report and shared highlights.

Resolution 2017-01 allowed the SGPWA to store up to 10,000 AF of imported water in the basin, Blandon reminded the Committee. Groundwater production total listed by appropriators totaled 15,026 AF for 2018, Blandon stated, and Member Vela pointed out this will require a minor adjustment. Mr. Blandon agreed, based on the transfers between Beaumont and Banning.

Mr. Blandon explained the report makes some recommendations: some work has been done to develop a policy to account for groundwater storage losses, but it has not yet been finalized; and develop a protocol to increase accuracy and consistency of data reporting.

Member Jaggers shared a handout from March 2019 and noted the changes had not been reflected in the report. He said he believes Banning and BCVWD have come to terms on the amount of water delivered to Banning: approximately 119.75 AF through 2018, and provided documentation, requesting the report include the data. Jaggers also noted some corrections to the handout. Mr. Blandon acknowledged the revisions.

Mr. Jagers advised that BCWVD and Banning will meet to assure the numbers are in agreement then will forward that to the consultant and bring back the information to the Watermaster.

Member Zoba noted that at the last meeting, Counsel Montoya had addressed the intent of Form 5 and whether the parties (YVWD and Oak Valley Partners) intended to transfer all of the overlying water rights from Oak Valley to YVWD, and asked if any correspondence had been received from the parties to disagree with that intent. Mr. Montoya said he had not. Member Zoba asked if Mr. Montoya's view had changed at all whether that was intended to be the full transfer. Mr. Montoya responded that his comments were his comments at the last meeting.

Member Zoba expressed concern that the annual report is inconsistent with the judgment, specifically the transfer of 180 AF is not done by Form 5 which is required by the Watermaster. The net result in Table 3.7 and 3.8 is wrong, Zoba continued, and said he thinks they will always be wrong in every annual report moving forward. He indicated his intent to vote against approval of the annual report.

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Jorritsma to adopt the Final 2018 Consolidated Annual Report and Engineering Report including the clarifications on the water transfers between Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District and the City of Banning from production at Well 25 and delivered to a point of connection to the City of Banning, as reflected in the handout and minor verbal modification noted by Member Jagers. The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES:	Jagers, Jorritsma, Vela, Warsinski
NOES:	Zoba
ABSTAIN:	None.
ABSENT:	None.
STATUS:	Motion Approved

Mr. Blandon clarified that the 2018 report will reflect the conditions as of the end of 2018; anything that happened in 2019 will not be included and will be part of the 2019 report.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

- A. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin resulting from the artificial recharge of water resources.
- B. Development of a methodology and policy to account for recycled water recharge.

- C. Discussion of return flow credit and how it might be managed.
- D. Quarterly production reports for City of Banning through jointly owned well

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members:

Member Zoba explained the website is making a transition to a WordPress format so there may be glitches over the next few weeks. Mr. Jagers advised that he had tried to retrieve the minutes from the last meeting and currently only page 1 was shown.

X. Announcements

- A. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, April 1, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
 - ii. Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
 - iii. Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
 - iv. Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
 - v. Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster