

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 2, 2022**

Meeting Location:

The meeting was held via teleconference only.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Arturo Vela called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

II. Roll Call

<i>City of Banning</i>	<i>Arturo Vela</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>City of Beaumont</i>	<i>Jeff Hart</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District</i>	<i>Daniel Jaggers</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>South Mesa Water Company</i>	<i>Davis Armstrong</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Yucaipa Valley Water District</i>	<i>Jennifer Ares</i>	<i>Present</i>

Hannibal Blandon and Thomas Harder were present as engineers for the BBWM.

Thierry Montoya was present as BBWM legal counsel.

Members of the public who registered and / or attended:

Cenica Smith, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont
Albert Maldonado
Angela Shelton, City of Banning
Bob Bowcock
James Bean, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Larry Smith, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Madeline Blua, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Madeline Chen
Mia Preciado
Mike Kostelecky
Paul Rodriguez

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Vela led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments:

None.

V. Consent Calendar

A. Resolution 2022-02: Authorizing Public Meetings to be Held via Teleconferencing Pursuant to Government Code Section 54953(e) and Making Findings and Determinations Regarding Same Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2022

C. Status Report on Water Level Monitoring throughout the Beaumont Basin through January 19, 2022

It was moved by Member Jagers and seconded by Member Armstrong to approve Consent Calendar items A and C.

AYES:	Hart, Jagers, Armstrong, Vela, Ares
NOES:	None.
ABSTAIN:	None.
ABSENT:	None.
STATUS:	Motion Approved

Member Armstrong requested to table Item B and pull Item D for discussion.

B. Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2022

Chair Vela continued this item to the April 6, 2022 meeting.

D. A Comparison of Production versus Extraction Credits through December 2021

In response to Member Armstrong, Chair Vela explained that the table evolved to this current form on the Consent Calendar and reminded that Engineer Hannibal Blandon previously presented this as a report.

Mr. Blandon noted that the intent of the report was to give the appropriators an idea of where they stood throughout the year on production versus extraction credits, including any water that might have been imported for spreading. He reviewed the data for South Mesa Water Company, noting that at the end of 2020, the agency had 10,134 acre-feet in storage.

Member Jagers noted the value of the updates.

Chair Vela declared Item D received and filed.

VI. Reports

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

Mr. Blandon advised of an issue with sounding equipment being trapped in Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) Well 29 and need for replacement. He also advised that Bonita Vista Well 2 seems to have collapsed. Possible replacements would be Bonita Vista 1 or 3, and he will coordinate with BCVWD staff to determine the best solution.

Blandon also noted an issue with a 2 percent discrepancy in water transfers between BCVWD and the City of Banning due to differing meter reading dates. He is working toward establishing an accurate quantity.

Chair Vela asked about the sounding equipment. Mr. Blandon explained that the probe is installed permanently in the well and records water levels every hour, on the hour. The sounder is deployed to determine the pumping level of water at the time. Well 29 does not have a probe, as it was lost when the well was pulled recently. There is no issue with accuracy, or with impacting well production, he assured. Mr. Jagers indicated that it is hoped when the well is restarted, the vibration may loosen the equipment, and BCVWD staff will attempt to pull it.

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

Mr. Harder reminded the Committee that the Return Flow Technical Memorandum is still a draft report, but most comments have been addressed.

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

Mr. Montoya reminded the Committee about the appointment of an alternate for the City of Beaumont and requested anyone interested contact him to have the declaration prepared and submitted to the Court.

He also advised of an email received on January 26 from Jean Sabin at the Regional Water Quality Control Board and sent to the Board. Much of the information being requested is available on the Watermaster website, he explained, but it may behoove the Watermaster to draft a water well monitoring procedure to provide to the requester.

VII. Discussion Items

A. Consideration of Special Meeting / Workshop

Recommendation: Consider setting a date and agenda for a special meeting / workshop.

Member Hart introduced the framework for discussion and feedback to make the workshop as fruitful as possible. He suggested starting with a look at the mission and vision statement, followed by objectives, strategies, and action plan.

Member Ares indicated that topic for discussion would be most time consuming and said she is still on the fence about the coordinator. She said she hoped it would be an in-person meeting.

Mr. Jagers agreed, but advised that the BCVWD office is currently closed due to COVID-19 case numbers. He said he hopes to reopen in the next week or two and can make the board room available.

Jagers commented on the worthwhile content of the framework and said he looks forward to robust dialogue to make sure the Watermaster continues to keep its approach fresh and current, address the items listed, and make sure the region has an opportunity to be successful regarding the Beaumont Basin.

Member Armstrong requested a more detailed document including the purpose and intended accomplishment. Mr. Hart indicated that this was the starting point to achieve something more detailed and suggested determining the expected outcome as a group.

Chair Vela agreed and suggested developing the plan with the goal and intent to develop organically.

Jagers suggested adding discussion of recharge location review under strategies.

Chair Vela indicated the mission statement is good but could be polished and suggested a bullet point for imported water, as it plays such an important role in managing the basin.

The workshop was set for Thursday, March 10, 2022 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

B. Discussion of Regional Water Quality Control Board's questions regarding well monitoring / basin modeling procedures

Recommendation: None.

Watermaster Counsel Thierry Montoya reviewed the question from Ms. Sabin at the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding whether the Watermaster has a standardized procedure in place for communicating, supporting, and verifying modeling activities as well as contacting well representatives and doing testing.

This was brought about by Plantation on the Lake, he explained. When staff is going to private wells, there must be a way to have someone representing the private property accompany Mr. Bandon and observe to assure the concern is addressed.

Mr. Bandon indicated that he visits 15 wells in the Basin every other month accompanied by a representative of one of the water agencies to assure there is understanding of what is being done. There has never been an issue, he reported. Of the 15 wells, 13 are dedicated monitoring wells not used for groundwater production, which is preferred, he noted. Only BCVWD Well 25 and 29 are production wells, used because there are no other options in that location.

Bandon reported to the Committee a request from Mr. Jim Kruger for information on static water levels at the Plantation on the Lake and vicinity. Bandon explained the attempt to gauge water level using their well and subsequent inquiry from the Regional Water Quality Control Board implying that the well producers were being forced to have the equipment installed. Ms. Sabin indicated concern about contamination and water quality, then contacted Member Armstrong by email.

Chair Vela advised that the email mentions concern about disinfection of the probe. Mr. Jagers will create a draft document and Counsel Montoya will respond with a formal letter detailing procedures.

Mr. Bandon added that he advises the agencies a week ahead of his visit.

VIII. Topics for Future Meetings

- a. Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin / Groundwater management
- b. Incidental discharge
- c. Development of a recycled water policy
- d. Finalization of Return Flow Technical Memorandum
- e. Presentation of draft 2021 Annual Report (April 6)

IX. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members

Mr. Jagers noted that BCVWD is now preparing the Committee agendas and advised that agendas will be compiled the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

X. Announcements

- a. Special meeting / workshop date: Thursday, March 10 at 11 a.m.
- b. The next regular meeting of the Beaumont Basin Watermaster is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
- c. Future Meeting Dates:
 - i. June 1, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - ii. August 3, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - iii. October 5, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.
 - iv. December 7, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

XI. Adjournment

Chairman Vela adjourned the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster