

**Record of the Minutes of the
Beaumont Basin Committee Meeting of the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster
Special Meeting
Wednesday, March 6, 2024**

Meeting Location:

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
560 Magnolia Ave., Beaumont, CA 92223

I. Call to Order

Chair Art Vela called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

<i>City of Banning</i>	<i>Art Vela</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>City of Beaumont</i>	<i>Robert Vestal</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District</i>	<i>Dan Jagers</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>South Mesa Water Company</i>	<i>David Armstrong</i>	<i>Present</i>
<i>Yucaipa Valley Water District</i>	<i>Joseph Zoba</i>	<i>Present</i>

*Hannibal Blandon and Thomas Harder were present as engineers for the
Beaumont Basin Watermaster (BBWM).
Steve Stuart of Dudek was present as BBWM administrator.*

Members of the public who registered and / or attended:

*Brittany Lim, South Mesa Water Company
Ron Duncan, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Lance Eckhart, San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency
Mike Kostelecky, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Joyce McIntire, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Alison Edmisten, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Erin Anton, Yucaipa Valley Water District
Thaxton Van Belle, City of Beaumont
John Covington, Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Robert Rasha, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Lynda Kerney, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
Mark Swanson, Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District*

III. Pledge of Allegiance: Chair Vela led the pledge.

IV. Public Comments: None.

V. Workshop / Discussion Items

A. Discussion on Process and Categorization of Water Sources in Annual Report and Use of Different Types of Storage Accounts

Hannibal Blandon of ALDA reminded the Committee about discussion on the categorization of water sources and the consensus there was no need to differentiate, as water comes from the same storage account.

Discussion needs to be incorporated into the annual report, Blandon continued, and introduced a draft subsection showing Tables 3-8 and 3-9. He reviewed the content in detail.

Additional water supply is required when a storage account is at zero, which is the fundamental premise of the adjudication, Mr. Blandon stated. At that point, under the Rules and Regulations, that Appropriator would pay an assessment. Chair Vela asked what would happen if there was no additional water supply available to purchase. Mr. Blandon pointed out that the Judgment provides that all producers shall be allowed to pump sufficient water from the Basin to meet their respective requirements.

The Committee discussed:

- *Could the BBWM purchase water from the San Gorgonio Pass Water Agency*
- *The Basin adjudication was not established to allow harm to another entity*
- *Levy / penalty for a storage account going negative*
 - *Formula-based solution / daily charge*
 - *Punitive, intended to be corrective*
 - *Better for the Appropriator to solve the problem before going negative*
 - *May not be effective*
 - *It is the cost of doing business*
- *Fees could be collected in an escrow account*
 - *End result is the Appropriator would pay twice*
 - *How does that money get spent?*
 - *To supplement the Basin with additional water or similar use*
- *Intention of the judgment is to make the Basin whole*
- *This Committee is for accounting, not to cure someone's problem*
- *In the spirit of collaboration, there are management actions that can be done to maintain the Basin in balance*

Dudek has been retained to review the Rules and regulations and this seems like an element of discussion for that activity, Member Jagers noted.

Member Armstrong requested a redline draft of the annual report.

Mr. Stuart suggested approaching management strategies by looking at potential future scenarios.

B. Discussion on Management Areas

Mr. Steve Stuart reminded of previous discussion and reviewed proposed Basin management areas. He noted recognition of the physical features / constraints affecting the groundwater flow and jurisdictional boundaries.

If implemented, water budgets would be quantified, which may lead to identifying undesirable results. It would also guide prioritization of projects such as additional artificial recharge. The judgment is the guiding document to use of groundwater resources, he assured.

The approach for the management areas is to break it down to try to understanding better what is going on.

Member Armstrong said he is not seeing an issue related to east vs. west side of the Basin; it is one Basin. Mr. Stuart reminded about the decline in storage of 41,000 af on the west side. He noted that SMWC is on the north side of the San Gorgonio Pass fault zone, but the drop in storage is on the other side.

It is a matter of looking deeper into the causes and potential issues to help address the decline, Stuart continued. Overall production far exceeds the Safe Yield, he advised. Looking at the impacts of scenarios is the purpose behind this, he said.

Mr. Armstrong advocated establishment of a recharge basin on the west side.

Mr. Stuart shared maps and described the fault lines and groundwater flow. He proposed four management areas driven by jurisdictional boundaries and physical boundaries that influence groundwater flow. Analysis in each management area would guide the prioritization of projects.

Member Jagers discussed decline in precipitation and related return flow, the lack of overlies (who are the majority of the extractors) in the room, a well site request from BCVWD to SGPWA to pump the mound, and the safe yield calculation is probably wrong from a physical solution perspective. Before moving further, the overlie entities need to be in the room, he stated. Of additional concern are the conversion of overlie rights to appropriative rights, he noted.

Member Zoba said he liked the management areas and pointed to the groundwater contours. He suggested looking at change in storage in the four areas. Until a volume of water can be quantified, it is hard to determine how well such a large region is actually doing. There is potential for a better management strategy in the four zones.

Member Jagers suggested renaming the areas "study zones."

Chair Vela agreed and noted that the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was more restrictive than desired for the Basin's management. The intent is to understand how the subunits of the Basin are working and to develop management solutions, right-sizing projects. He said study should be based more on physical constraints.

Mr. Stuart presented a division into two areas based on hydrogeologic study areas.

Overlier rights are tied to the parcels identified in the judgment, Stuart continued. It is when an appropriator provides water to those particular parcels that the transfer of rights occurs. As these things come together, that is not going to be lost, he assured.

Member Zoba indicated that he was looking to more of a management area rather than study as that is the goal. If the west end is to be managed, impacts need to be understood. Agencies are not coordinating their actions, he noted. There should be an area of control and where activities are identified and tied together to link activity and results.

Member Jagers explained that BCVWD has been managing based on the annual reports and areas the District overlies. He discussed management actions and the need to understand leakage, studying the Basin as a whole.

Member Armstrong indicated support for one study area: the Basin as a whole.

Mr. Stuart said he would talk to Mr. Harder about study areas and look at calculating water budgets for each of the proposed "study areas".

C. Update on Data Management System

Mr. Michael Palavido advised the Committee that there is a Quick Start Guide on how to access the system. Between now and the next meeting he will enter additional data and create a function for members to enter their own data.

BCVWD will try to finalize well survey data in the next week or two, Member Jagers noted.

D. Identify next steps:

No discussion.

VI. Topics for Future Meetings

	Item	Date Listed
A	Development of a Recycled Water Policy	3/27/2019
B	Development of a return flow accounting policy	3/27/2019
C	Development of a methodology and policy to account for groundwater storage losses in the basin / groundwater management	3/27/2019
D	Procurement Policy including thresholds for RFP process	8/17/2021
E	Incidental discharge	10/6/2021
F	Monitoring of future west side well sites and methodologies, and potential collaboration with USGS	10/5/2022
G	Direction for use of different types of storage accounts	8/2/2023
H	Discussion on what to do when an Appropriator goes negative	10/4/2023 and 11/1/2023

VII. Comments from the Watermaster Committee Members:

Member Jagers said the group is better for the dialogue and the continued focus on understanding the Basin.

Member Armstrong noted that on March 15 the SMWC will be dedicating a reservoir to George Jorritsma.

VIII. Announcements

2024 Meeting Dates:

- Wednesday, April 3 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, June 5 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, August 7 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, October 2 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting
- Wednesday, December 4 at 11 a.m. Regular Meeting

XI. Adjournment

Chair Vela adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Attest:



Daniel Jagers, Secretary
Beaumont Basin Watermaster