

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2009

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee was called to order by Chair Ben Godfrey at 12:05 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ben Godfrey led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken and it was determined that a quorum was present.

Members Present

Mayor Kathy DeRosa
Mayor Eduardo Garcia
Mayor Larry Spicer
Councilmember Ben Godfrey, Chair
Councilmember Stanley Sniff
Councilmember Cindy Finerty
Mayor Steve Pougnet
Mayor Pro Tem Gordon Moller

Agency

City of Cathedral City
City of Coachella
City of Indian Wells
City of Indio
City of La Quinta
City of Palm Desert
City of Palm Springs
City of Rancho Mirage

Members Absent

Vice Mayor Beverly Mays
Supervisor Roy Wilson
Councilmember Al Schmidt
Board Member Anthony Sanchez

Agency

City of Blythe
County of Riverside, 4th District
City of Desert Hot Springs
Imperial Irrigation District

Others Present

Joe Lim
Nancy Wright
Rosa Maria Gonzales
Monica Swartz
Cherie L. Snyder
Hugh Heneg
Bertha A. Hernandez
Cathryn Woodland
Janet Laiblin
Scott Caso
Patrick Swarthout
Richard Cromwell III

City of Indio
Mission Springs Water District
IID
CVWD
AQMD
AQMD
AQMD
AQMD
AQMD
AQMD
The Gas Co.
Clean Cities

CVAG Staff

Larry Parrish

Katie Barrows
Jim Sullivan
Aurora Wilson
Jacob Alvarez
Linda Rogers

4. **FINALIZATION OF AGENDA & ADDITIONS & REVISIONS**

There were no additions or changes.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

6. **COMMITTEE MEMBER & DIRECTOR COMMENTS**

Mayor Pougnet announced an event called "Turn the Lights Out for an Hour" on March 28th. Staff explained that on March 28th starting at 8:30 p.m. a number of cities along with the City of Los Angeles are signing on to turn out lights. Staff indicated that if the committee so directs, that information could be circulated to CVAG member jurisdictions.

Katie Barrows stated that Supervisor Wilson provided a copy of a Sustainable Building Policy that the County has recently adopted at their February 10, 2009 meeting. If the committee is interested, staff can circulate copies of the policy.

7. **CORRESPONDENCE**

8. **REPORT FROM SCAQMD REGARDING AIR QUALITY AND COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

Aurora Wilson informed the committee that she asked the Air Quality and Management District to come back and provide a brief presentation on our air quality and compliance issues. Cherie L. Snyder, Senior Enforcement Manager with AQMD introduced AQMD team members and provided an overview of Dust Control in the Coachella Valley. Some of Ms. Snyder's talking points included the following:

- Dust complaints 2004-2008
- Dust-related Notices to Comply issued in each CVAG City 2004-2008
- Dust-related Notices of Violation issued 2004-2008
- Dust-related Notices of Violation issued in CVAG cities 2004-2008
- Dust Education Programs in the Coachella Valley both in English and Spanish
- Dust Program Challenges in Coachella Valley
- In process:
 - Creation of web-based content
 - Streaming Lawn Scalping Training
 - Dust Program Content

Updates to Training Program

- Handbook and related materials
- Streamlining Recertification Process

Ms. Snyder also acknowledged the local efforts by the Cities of Rancho Mirage, La Quinta, Indian Wells and Palm Desert. Further discussion ensued regarding AQMD setting up meetings with the cities to talk about things that AQMD has seen in the field and to actively partner together more effectively. There was discussion about stabilizing sites and creating a model.

Aurora Wilson responded to Mayor Spicer's question stating that there is definitely a correlation between PM10 and construction activity. Some of the PM10 is from natural wind events but also much of it is man-made from construction activity and agricultural activity. There are some cities where developers are not paying attention and not following through with dust and PM10 issues.

This item was received and filed by the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LANDSCAPER OVERSEEDING CERTIFICATION ORDINANCE AND UPDATE

Aurora Wilson stated that it has been a year and a half since the Landscaper Overseeding Certification Ordinance was approved and distributed to the cities. All cities with the exception of the City of La Quinta have adopted the ordinance. The class began in June 2008 and 18 classes have been held in English and in Spanish with approximately 630 people completing the course and receiving the certificate. In December staff met with the Business License staff from the member jurisdictions to gauge the implementation process of this ordinance. There came recommendations from those meetings that staff discussed and were outlined in the staff report. Some of those points included: i) certain exemptions on the Landscapers Overseeding Certification Ordinance; ii) online course for renewal of the Landscape Overseeding Certification; iii) Code Enforcement staff taking the Overseeding Certification course; iv) Subcontractors performing certain duties in member jurisdictions showing evidence of certification. CVAG staff is also analyzing an on-line course rather than having someone take the same course next year. Further discussion ensued regarding subcontractors coming into the valley and hired to do one project.

It was moved by Councilmember Sniff and seconded by Mayor Spicer that the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee recommend that the Executive Committee approve the distribution of this report to the member jurisdictions to consider taking action on the following Landscaper Overseeding Certification Ordinance recommendations:

- 1) Establish an exemption category for the Landscaper Overseeding Certification Ordinance that would include landscape design, landscape architect businesses and individual contractors from outside of the Coachella Valley on a case by case basis;**

- 2) **Require Code Enforcement staff from the member jurisdictions to take the two-hour Overseeding Certification course;**
- 3) **As part of the contract process with member jurisdictions, subcontractor(s) hired for the purpose of annual overseeding and related maintenance, shall be required to show evidence of completion of the Landscaper Overseeding Certification course.**

The motion passed with five cities in favor and three cities in opposition: Palm Desert, Cathedral City and Rancho Mirage.

10. UPDATE ON APRIL 2009 ENERGY SUMMIT AND ENERGY FAIR AND CONSIDERATION OF AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR EVENT MANAGEMENT WITH BURKE RIX HINES AND ASSOCIATES

Katie Barrows stated that we are working on the 2009 Energy Summit and this is a follow-up to the Desert Lyceum event that took place last year. A proposal is before the committee for a contract with an event management firm, Burke Rix Hines with experience both in the Coachella Valley and throughout Southern California. The Energy Summit Working Group has actually talked to four different firms to work with us on this event. The contract is for an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the event management, managing the venue, registration and online web registration and assisting us with marketing and publicity and helping to recruit sponsors. The first item for consideration is that the committee consider recommending to the Executive Committee that they authorize the Executive Director to sign a contract with Burke Rix Hines. Funds for the event will be provided by sponsorship recruitment and at the present time we have sponsorships from Southern California Edison, The Gas Co. and the Building Industry Association. We are working on sponsorships from a number of other organizations. Staff indicated that we have \$3,700 in our event account. Staff added that we might also be able to use funds from our Desert Cities Energy Partnership as well.

There was some discussion about the solicitation process for the event management firms. Staff indicated that four firms were solicited based on suggestions from available firms in the area. This firm was selected because they had a local presence, had a great deal of experience and a fair price.

It was moved by Mayor Garcia and seconded by Councilmember Sniff that the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee authorize the April 17, 2009 Energy Summit and recommend that the Executive Committee approve an Agreement for Professional Services for event management with Burke Rix Hines and Associates ending June 30, 2009 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 and authorize the Interim Executive Director to execute the agreement.

The motion carried with one abstention from the City of Palm Springs.

Katie Barrows also gave a brief overview along with Mayor Pougnet regarding the Draft Summit Program. Mayor Pougnet indicated that this year's format will be somewhat different than what was done by the Lyceum last year and

discussed the program strategy. Currently we are looking at some key Mayors to give a Green Cities Speech in the afternoon. There was some discussion about ending the summit with a Call to Action. Staff reported that a list of speakers will be confirmed and the committee will continue to be updated. Katie Barrows discussed letters to be sent out to cities inviting them to be sponsors along with sponsorship levels.

This brief update on the Draft Summit Program and Sponsorship was for the committee's review to be received and filed.

11. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF A LOCAL MODEL WATER-EFFICIENT LANDSCAPE ORDINANCE BY THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY WATER TASK FORCE

Katie Barrows stated that CVAG has been participating in the Riverside County Water Task Force. The Water Symposium is also scheduled for May 28th in Palm Springs. The Task Force is also helping to coordinate a statewide mandate through AB 1881 requiring a Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance. The Task Force has taken on this effort to help all of the cities in the County. CVAG and the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG) have been working with the Task Force. CVAG staff has collected the ordinances from city staff and the jurisdictions. The Task Force staff and consultants are taking all of the ordinances as well as the state model ordinance and are putting together a draft model ordinance. Staff indicated that if a city does not adopt such an ordinance, the agency is subject to the state's Model Water Efficient landscape Ordinance by statute. The Coachella Valley has already taken leadership in water conservation and water efficient landscaping. In April, CVAG staff will be asking your City Managers and staff to review their draft model ordinance. Later on in the fall, individual cities would be asked to evaluate and adopt an ordinance. Next week the Water Task Force will be reviewing the ordinance that the County put together and they want to circulate it and get feedback.

Further discussion ensued regarding a presentation from Coachella Valley Water District. All the water districts are working together on a water conservation program: DWD, MSWD, CVWD, Coachella and Indio Water Authority.

This item was received and filed by the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.

12. CONSIDERATION OF A POTENTIAL COACHELLA VALLEY REGIONAL BASELINE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY CONSISTENT WITH AB 32 AND SB 375

Katie Barrows made a request to the committee for a potential valley-wide inventory of greenhouse gases in a cooperative effort to accomplish that. AB 32 and SB 375 both provide a variety of ways in which local governments will be asked to take a look at greenhouse gases and evaluate impacts of the greenhouse gases in terms of climate change. There is an opportunity to take a look at this being done on a regional basis for CVAG member jurisdictions to the extent that we have a discreet air basin and the Air Quality Program is a model for how that kind of cooperation has developed. CVAG staff met earlier with

AQMD in January following on the presentation from Barry Wallerstein that was presented to the committee last November about the implications of SB 375 and AB 32 and the potential for AQMD's assistance and support. AQMD has offered technical assistance to CVAG and staff has inquired about the potential for funding from them. A number of jurisdictions are taking a look at greenhouse gas inventories. As AB 32 is implemented in terms of CEQA and General Plan evaluations will have to evaluate in the future the impact of greenhouse gases. Staff has taken a preliminary look at cost associated with this and it appears that a greenhouse gas inventory could cost between from \$40,000 to \$100,000 for a consultant. A consultant could then work with individual jurisdictions with technical support from AQMD and CVAG staff to gather information.

Staff added that a protocol is being developed by the State for local governments in terms of greenhouse gas inventory. There was further discussion regarding hiring a consultant to gather information, but not getting out too far in front of the state's protocol. Staff indicated that the state has an adopted protocol and there are a number of organizations that are doing these inventories. There still remains a certain amount of groundwork that needs to be done. This can be brought back to the committee in March. Katie Barrows added that there are still lots of unanswered questions on AB 32 and SB 375 about exactly how these will be implemented and what kind of funding will be available.

The consensus of the Energy and Environmental Resources Committee that staff be directed to keep this issue at this level and come back in March with a more detailed funding mechanism and a more general procedure.

13. CONSENT CALENDAR

Approval

13A Approve Minutes of the January 8, 2009 Energy and Environmental Resources Committee.

It was moved by Councilmember Sniff and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Finerty that the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee approve the Minutes of the January 8, 2009 meeting.

The motion carried.

Information

13B Energy & Environmental Resources Committee Attendance Roster

This item was received as an information item by the Energy & Environmental Resources Committee.

14. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Energy & Water Conservation Subcommittee** is scheduled for **February 19, 2009** at 8:00 a.m.
- **Energy & Environmental Resources Committee** is scheduled for **March 12, 2009** at 12:00 Noon.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Rogers
Program Assistant II