

Desert Managers Group - Hazardous Materials Work Group  
(DMG-HMWG) Meeting Minutes  
Black Rock Visitors Center – Joshua Tree National Park  
Yucca Valley, California  
February 19, 2003 - 10:00 A.M.

After introductions, Co-Chair John Key called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

Fourteen people were in attendance: BLM (6 - Molly Brady, Mona Daniels, Peter Graves, Lowell Jeffcoat, John Key, and Russell Scofield), NPS (2 - Jeff Ohlfs, and Gerry Wolfe), BIA (1 - Gil Stuart), DOI-DMG (1-John Hamill), Cal EPA (1-Garry Brown), Riverside County Health-Solid Waste LEA (1-Steve Moise), San Bernardino County Health-Solid Waste LEA (1-Kristian Alfelora), and California District Attorney's Association (1 - Jane Crue)

**Minutes Review of Previous Meetings** John Key distributed the minutes from the past two meetings held in August (in Ridgecrest) and November 2002(in Riverside) for review. After a quick review - there were no corrections, additions or deletions made and the minutes were approved.

**Guest Presentation:** Jane Crue, Circuit Prosecutor - Waste Tire Program, California District Attorney's Association gave a power-point presentation on Environmental Circuit Prosecutor Project and the Waste Tire Enforcement Program. Jane talked about some of the ways that she could assist the group member in their prevention and enforcement roles. She also talked about the waste tire problem in California - where 30 million tires are generated annually. One of the biggest problems with waste tires is their potential for tire fires. She stressed the fact that tire fires are a major hazardous materials event. She used the Westley Tire Fire in Stanislaus County as an example. That fire produced large quantities of hazardous waste: mostly pyrolytic oil, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAH's), benzene, butadiene, residual heavy metals (lead and chrome), and large amounts of contaminated water use to fight the fire. To date more than \$ 20 million dollars had been expended by U.S. EPA and the State of California to cleanup the site. The California District Attorney's Association is operating the program on a two-year grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB). The focus so far has been in Madera and Imperial Counties. Jane also distributed copies of her presentation.

**Illegal Dumping Prevention Plan - Status:** Russell Scofield next briefed the group about a proposal that the Keep California Beautiful, Inc. has prepared for the DMG-HMWG's illegal dumping prevention program. The proposal offered several interesting features including a "Cars don't litter – People do" program, a proud community program, a litter prevention program, and a number of educational and outreach components. A small subgroup will be formed to review the proposal and provide recommendations for future action.

## **Initiative Reports:**

**Illegal Dumping Initiative:** John Key updated the group on the illegal dumping program. On January 21, 2003, group members (BLM and Riverside County LEA) met in Palm Springs with representatives from the California Integrated Waste Management Board and the Metropolitan Water District – the group visited illegal dumping sites in several of the Canyons along Dillon Road; these sites included the Indio Hills illegal disposal site, sites in Berdoo Canyon, and sites in Fan Canyon. While at Berdoo Canyon, two stolen cars were recovered that morning – these cars were apparently stripped and burned the evening before to avoid recognition – this is a particular problem for the site where a wide variety of things are dumped ranging from homicide victims to clandestine drug lab residue to medical waste. Based upon the amount of solid waste present, it was recommended that a Farm and Ranch Grant would be appropriate for this area. The site (Walter’s Camp) that was planned to be visited in Imperial County was deferred since it was determined that almost the entire site was on private land – the local county solid waste LEA was handling that site.

John Key talked about CIWMB’s Farm and Ranch cleanup grant program and updated the group on the grant that BLM had received under this program for a number of small illegal dumpsites in the Landers-Yucca Valley area. Four of the six sites had been cleaned up in late November and the remaining two sites are planned for cleanup later on this year.

**Wire Burning:** Nothing new to report.

**Abandoned Minelands (AML):** John Key reviewed the renewed interest in this initiative; however he indicated that he had not had time to follow up with the State of California concerning their inventory of AML sites or with the BLM’s California State Office on the status of their AML inventory.

**Training Update:** John Key distributed flyers for following cooperative training opportunities and conferences that were coming up:

1. Waste Management Conference (February 27-28, 2003 - Santa Monica, CA)
2. Arid Southwest Lands Habitat Restoration Conference (March 3-4, 2003 – Palm Springs, CA)
3. Management of Unexploded Ordnance at Closed & Transferred Ranges (March 25-27, 2003 – Phoenix, AZ)
4. Environmental Crime Scene Investigations Training (April 10 & 11, 2003 – Sacramento, CA)
5. 2003 CHMIA Conference (April 30-May 2, 2003 – Shell Beach, CA)

**New Business:** 2003 DOI Conference on the Environment (May 12-16, 2003 – Phoenix, AZ) - Russell Scofield and John Key have both submitted abstracts for the conference - we have not heard back, but expect both abstracts to be accepted for a formal presentation and a poster for the conference. John Key is serving on the steering committee for posters and exhibits.

**Roundtable discussion followed:**

San Bernardino County (Kristian Alfelor) – He was working on a site in Colton where he might need some assistance.

Riverside County (Steve Moise) - They were working on several sites with BLM and are interested in working on a Farm and Ranch grant for Dillon Road/Coachella Valley/Canyons illegal disposal site project.

BIA (Gil Stuart)- Two tribes are funding cleanups and are putting together applications for separate Farm and Ranch grants. One of the sites involved more than 6,000 crushed automobiles. Gil also reported that perchlorates are becoming an issue for them.

BLM – Needles FO (Molly Brady) – Molly reported the successful Eagle Pass cooperative cleanup program conducted on public lands day in cooperation with BLM, the City of Needles, and a host of volunteers. BLM California State Director Mike Pool attended the event.

BLM – Yuma FO (Lowell Jeffcoat) – Lowell reported discovery of piles of stockpiled ore from the World War II era that had concentrations above regulatory concern for manganese and arsenic in eastern Riverside and Imperial Counties near the Colorado River and location across the river in Arizona. Imperial County Environmental Health was looking into the sites.

BLM –Palm Springs FO (Mona Daniels) – Mona reported that her office was looking into a better inventory of abandoned mineland sites and would appreciate assistance in that endeavor.

The meeting adjourned about 1:20 P.M.

The **next meeting is scheduled for May 29, 2003** at 10:00 A.M. at the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District Office new headquarters at 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos in Moreno Valley, California.

