

Desert Managers Group - Hazardous Materials Work Group
(DMG-HMWG) Meeting Minutes
BLM California Desert District Office
Riverside, California
November 13, 2001 10:00 A.M.

After introductions, the meeting was opened by Co-Chair John Key at 10:00 A.M.

Twelve people were in attendance: BLM (John Key, Molly Brady, Jim Burd), NPS (Jeff Ohlfs, Dave Anderson,), DOI-DMG (1 - John Hamill), DOI-BIA (Gil Stuart), USFWS (Charles Sullivan), USEPA (Jim Fletcher), Cal-EPA (Garry Brown), Cal-EPA-Air Resource Board (Greg Binder), LA County Health-Solid Waste LEA (Chris Mastro).

Minutes Review of Previous Meetings: There were no corrections, additions or deletions needed and the minutes were approved. as read.

Guest Presentation: Jim Fletcher, USEPA's Border Office, gave a presentation describing his role in accomplishing the Office's mission, which includes support to local tribes and agencies. The presentation began with a brief overview of Region 9 EPA and the role that the Tribal Program office plays in Border and Native American issues. The Office plays a role in the distribution of approximately \$75 million in water and waste water programs. The primary goal of the office is to provide sustainable development in the Border Region. The Office employs three strategies: public participation, interagency cooperation, decentralization of resources to building capacity. The office's challenges center around: disparity of budgets between different sides of the Border, population growth, lack of Mexican facilities.

Status of DMG Funding:

John Hamill reported that the Open Dump Program is anticipated to be approximately \$200K. The BLM budget is due out the week of 1-14 and those numbers will be verified.

Initiative Reports:

1. Illegal Dumping Initiative:

Russell Scofield has been hired as the BLM Restoration/Open Dump Coordinator and will be supervised out of the Barstow BLM Field Office but will remain stationed at his current office in the Black Rock Fire Center in Joshua Tree National Park.

Successful Cleanups were reported at Charleston View and Adobe Baseline.

John Key updated the group concerning the DMG's illegal dump cleanup projects that are being conducted on a cost-share basis with funding provided by the California Integrated Waste

Management Board (CIWMB) under the AB 2136 program. The Nipton and the Route 66 illegal disposal sites are all ready to go, funds are obligated - we're just waiting completion of formal biological consultation from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The B.O. for Nipton was anticipated before year end and a programmatic BO for the Route 66 sites was anticipated early in 2002.

Potential Partnerships have been proposed with Metropolitan Water, Clark County Nevada, and MGM/Primm. Additional information will be provided at the next Workgroup meeting.

2. Wire Burning Initiative: No change since last meeting

DMG Meeting - September 19-20, 2001, Riverside, CA

This was a facilitated meeting designed to take a deep look at the group's direction and goals. Long discussions and extensive surveys were conducted as a part of this effort.

DMG Executive Coordination Committee Meeting - October 23, 2001, Ontario, CA.

One outcome of the Facilitated meeting in Riverside was that the Managers have revisited their priorities for Workgroup efforts. In terms of Open Dump Initiative the Managers have these priorities: 1) Prevention; 2) Partnerships; 3) Cleanups; 4) Database

Training Update:

John Key discussed training that will be made available to all interested parties and that was planned for next year - the 8-hour HAZWOPER annual refreshed training (target June); USEPA's Hazardous Materials Incident Response Operations (165.5) (scheduled 2-11-02 thru 2-15-02) Sampling for Hazardous Materials (165.9) (scheduled 4-30-02 thru 5-2-02) and possibly three environmental contaminates courses offered by USFWS. The Dumps of the Desert Tour is currently scheduled for the first week of April 2002; agency policy makers and managers to orient them on our problems and opportunities.

New Business: No new business.

Roundtable discussion followed:

BLM, Key, reported discoveries of a few Wire Burns that will require cleanup.

BIA, Stuart, reported that the Tribes have been working with CIWMB on used tire grants; Aboveground Storage Tank (fuel) upgrades that have been past problems; one Leaking Underground Storage Tank; BIA has fully funded one Solid Waste Removal for a Tribe.

BLM Manager, Brady, encourages the workgroup to employ creativity in Prevention efforts; pursue Partnerships; consider outreach to the public at highway rest areas.

BLM, Burd, reported status of efforts related to the Molycorp.

CalEPA, Brown, briefly explained his role within CalEPA and stated that coordination with DMG has been identified by his Agency Management and the Governor's office as a priority.

LA County LEA, Mastro, reports that the High Vista site in Antelope Valley is scheduled for early December and will take approximately 1 week. He is also planning a few more sites in the near future.

USFWS, Sullivan, reported his progress on the Route 66 programmatic Biological Opinion.

Air Board, Binder, explained his group's function in the Mobile source Statutory and Regulatory Enforcement, On and Off Road sources.

DMG-DOI, Hamill, reported that the Salton Sea Symposium is scheduled for January 9-11, 2002. Topics will include: Water Transfer issues; Salton Sea Water Balance discussions; Fallowing Programs.

NPS-MOJA, Anderson, reported status of National Park Foundation cattle grazing purchases and subsequent donations; Park-wide Preliminary Assessment/Site Investigation efforts are on-going; Morningstar Mine in undergoing an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis.

NPS-JOTR, Ohlfs, reports that in house cleanups planned at Joshua Tree are temporarily on hold but inventory work is proceeding as co-lateral time allows.

USEPA, Fletcher, reports his involvement in the development of a Memorandum of Understanding for cleanup work for Southern Arizona Border group. MOU will address fugitive dust generated by Immigration Agents dragging tires to obscure old footprints and arrast related trash left behind at Immigration raids.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2002 at 10:00 A.M. at the Bureau of Land Management's Barstow field Office and will be hosted by John Key.