

DESERT MANAGERS GROUP
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS WORKING GROUP
Meeting Minutes - November 14, 2000 - Barstow, California
August 30, 2000

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Dave Anderson at 10:00 AM at the Mojave National Preserve's Office in Barstow, California. Co-Chairs Dave Anderson and John Key welcomed all those attending. .

In attendance were: Dave Anderson, Haz Mat Specialist, NPS-Mojave National Preserve (Co-Chair)
John Key, Haz Mat Program Coordinator, BLM-California Desert District (Co-Chair)
, Safety Officer, NPS-Death Valley NP
, Environmental Protection Specialist, BLM-Needles Field Office
Russell Scofield , BLM Ranger, BLM-Barstow Field Office
, Environmental Engineer, Edwards AFB
, Deputy Secretary for Enforcement, CAL EPA

It was noted that a number of regular group members were away on fire assignments out of state or absence due to other commitments.

Co-Chair John Key reviewed the previous minutes with those in attendance. The minutes were approved as read.

Old Business:

Open Dump Initiative Update - Russell Scofield: Discussion of the need for review of the database and inventory form and prior to the submission to the Desert Managers Group. Russell Scofield plans to turn in comments to Mike Kurth, Mojave Desert Ecosystem Project [(760) 255-8842] to get inventory form updated and to confirm when the password would be released to committee members for use in updating and testing entry of a selected number of dumps.. Bill Wiley indicated that he would recontact Mike and attempt to get password to up-date and test database. Others are encouraged to do the same.

Further discussion revealed that the cost sharing state funds with California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) are in an escrow account, and would not be lost should matching funds not be immediately available by the partner agency. The use of the DOI Central Hazardous Materials Fund was discussed. Co-Chairs Key and Anderson feel that funding from this source is unlikely. John Key will keep us informed as the status of Central Hazardous Materials Funding.

Wire Burning Initiative: John Key passed out a copy of an article on wire burning that he had submitted and that was published in the California Hazardous Materials Investigations Association Newsletter. More efforts will be made to get regulatory and enforcement agencies to recognize that wire burning is an environmental problem. John Key will follow-up with Tim Post, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, Larry Caffey, BLM-El Centro Field Office and Roger Vintze, Cal EPA-DTSC on this initiative.

Potential Responsible Party (PRP) Search assistance availability was discussed. Lisa Brown was interested in finding out how agencies tracked down PRP's. Several resources were identified: DOI Solicitor Larry Bradfish; BLM Paralegal Specialist Janet Youngdahl at NARSC in Denver; the Western States Project in Phoenix; and the National Environmental Investigations Center (NEIC) in Denver were all identified as having some type of capability for PRP searches.

Co-Chair Key was going to request assistance from EPA to get another point of contact for the illegal dump

program since Bob Shellnutt had retired from EPA and would not be available. Bill Wiley indicated that he would contact the BLM National Training Center in Phoenix for assistance with a Native American Conference coming up soon. We will ask for copies of the example video tapes that Shellnutt shared with us and/or a speaker to present them to the NTC conference. Lisa Brown suggested that we check with Jim Fisher, EPA, R-9, San Diego office for assistance.

Bill Wiley lead a discussion of Hazardous Materials Interagency Inspections and Incident Command System (ICS) that he and LT Donna Davis (California Department of Fish and Game) were working on this project. There was a discussion of a need for inclusion into the Federal Red Card (Fire Qualification) System - John Key indicated that he would follow up on this with the National Interagency Fire Center. A mobile command center was also discussed. BLM-CDD had a motor-home that they were developing for this purpose, but the recent fire activity had deferred activity on this project.

New Business:

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA): Recent contact with BIA and local tribes have indicated that they are both interested in participating in our group and possibly the Desert Managers Group. Bill Wiley indicated that he would invite BIA and Tribal Representatives to attend our next meeting.

Roundtable Discussion: Reviewing recent incidents: BLM-Palm Springs Field Office had reported discovery of recent wire burning activity in Little Morango Canyon and Bill Wiley, BLM-Needles Field Office reported on a recent incident at the Danby Mill Site where a World War II landmine was discovered by BLM personnel and was removed and disposed of by Fort Irwin Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) personnel.

Members were welcomed to the LEA's workshop (in progress). Sessions suggested for attendance included: CIA (Closed, Illegal & Abandoned) Sites - Remediation, Closure, Paper and Field Work, and Technical Assistance. Panel Discussion on CIA Sites: Lisa Brown, Conference Presentation: Russ Scofield presented a power point program to a general session of the conference on the Desert Managers Group and the DMG's Illegal Dumping Restoration Program.

The DOI Conference on the Environmental is coming up in March 13-15, 2001 in Albuquerque, New Mexico - the DMG-HMWG should plan on participating.

Training: CSTI was offering a new Hazardous Materials Investigations training course in September 2000 in San Luis Obispo - John Key is one of the instructors. An Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Conference upcoming in Las Vegas in January-February time-frame - BLM would be hosting it. John Key is on the steering committee and will keep us informed of the details.

Next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2001 at 10:00 AM at the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District Office at 6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, California 92507-0714.