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**Borrego Valley Stewardship Council \* PO Box 2078 \* Borrego Springs, CA 92004**

**Meeting Agenda & Notes**

**June 2, 2021 5:30 -6:30PM**

Attendees: (38 total)

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**MEETING NOTES**

- **5:00 PM - BVSC Welcome**
  - *Speaker: Jim Wermers*
  - Welcome to attendees, introduction of the agenda and reinforcement of the forum objectives: community forum to share and gather community feedback
  
- **5:05 PM – BVSC Update on Organizational Development**
  - *Speaker: Kathy Dice*
  - Key Summary:
    - Secured San Diego Foundation grant - \$55,000; Plan on using for organizational development questions and supporting engagement.
    - Brought in **Local Government Commission/SEED Consulting** to support this process. SEED San Diego to provide pro-bono consulting services to support
    - Immediate priorities:
      - BVSC engagement/education – want to continue fostering a forum for discussion and communication
        - Quarterly community forums on topics of concern; more frequent meetings when pressing topics (like COVID) arise
        - Increased communications in the community – e.g. BVSC newsletter
        - Focused on coordination w/ other coalitions and groups
          - BWD, WMB, Sponsor Group (Water and LU Subcommittee; SD County); Revitalization Committee
  - *Speaker: Emily Finnegan / Local Government Commission (LGC) Introduction*
    - Key Summary: the Local Government Commission is a nonprofit that



works with communities across the state to help increase local resilience and livability

- LGC focuses on 4 core program areas: climate, energy, water, and community design.
- The water program addresses complex issues at the nexus of water management and land-use planning, statewide experience with SGMA and groundwater management
- *LGC has been supporting the BVSC since 2019 with integrated planning, education & engagement, & grant writing*

- **5:15 PM - Full Group Discussion: Borrego Health (BH) Update**

- *Speaker: Dr. Edgar Bullock, Interim CEO Borrego Health*

- Undergoing Dept of Justice investigation; cooperating with this
- Currently staffing clinic M-F; 2 adult medicine providers (MD)
- One new provider starting June 6th; there will be a training and transition period replacing the current MD who is retiring
- Access to staff that can help with insurance and other non-medical needs
- Provide a sliding fee for folks that don't have insurance
- Goal is to be the provider of choice for Borrego
- 556 patients are fully vaccinated
  - Pfizer Vaccine clinics - need at least 10 people to open a vial
  - J&J - need at least 5 people to open a vial

- **5:25 PM – Borrego Valley Endowment Fund (BVEF)'s Role in the Healthcare Clinic**

- *Speaker: David Garmon, Vice Chair, Borrego Valley Endowment Fund*

- BVEF and BH joined together in 1980s - one department focused on clinical service and another department focused on fundraising
- 1990s - change in US tax code; health care entities needed to become corporate entities
- Created Borrego Healthcare Society - raise money and created an endowment with the sole purpose of supporting Borrego's medical clinic
  - Stopped in 2015 when Borrego Health transparency issues arose
  - 2015 - became BVEF; broadened scope - mental health services, youth and senior center, air quality monitoring
- Eager to begin discussions with BH - resuming support of Borrego medical clinic and make the clinic successful to provide reliable health care options for BS community

- **5:30 PM - Update on Children's Center and Frugal Coyote**



- *Dan Wright, President of Borrego Springs Youth and Senior Center*
  
- **5:35 PM - Q&A / Open Discussion**
  - *Summary:*
    - *Majority of discussion was related to the status of the Borrego Clinic as well as the future of Children's Center,*
    - Primary concern re: BH, forum and avenue to provide suggestions and feedback. A Borrego community advisory group is needed for specific Borrego Clinic
    - Community support is pouring in for Children's Center. The current funding gap is \$10K/month
    - Donations to the Children's center can be sent to The BS Youth and Seniors Center, Inc PO Box 1362 in Borrego, with an earmark "Children's Center". Monthly donations are helpful
    - Borrego Health received \$36 million from the America Rescue Act divided over 2 years; submitted a budget broken down over 2 years
      - Also applied for another grant from federal govt for capital improvements
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- **5:50 PM - Looking Ahead: Future BVSC Community Forum Meetings**
  - *Facilitated by: Martha Deichler*
    - We've heard that (Health Clinic, Children's Center & Frugal Coyote, Water Rate Increases, Santiago Estate, etc.) are community priorities, what else should we be covering in the BVSC Community Forums?
    - Next meeting:
      - BWD & WMB Update - Water Rate Increases, Community Engagement in Groundwater Planning
      - Update from the Community Sponsor Group - Water and Land-Use Subcommittee
  
- **FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**
  - *Coordinating an in-person Latinx community meeting in Spanish*
  - *Future community forum topic suggestions*
    - *jobs retraining for loss of ag; water issues; long term community planning by sponsor group; Rams Hill development plans; CWA RCS project;*



*micro grid electricity costs; air quality in Valley; improperly abandoned wells in Valley, County approved subdivisions without water service*

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