

Desert Managers Group - Hazardous Materials Work Group  
(DMG-HMWG) Meeting Minutes  
National Park Service - Mojave National Preserve  
Barstow, California  
September 5, 2001 10:00 A.M.

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

Fifteen people were in attendance: BLM (6 - John Key, Russell Scofield, Lowell Jeffcoat, Cathy Wolff-White, Kent Varvel, and Bill Wiley), NPS (3 - Jeff Ohlfs, Dave Anderson, and Mary Martin), DOI-DMG (1 - John Hamill), USFWS (1 - Charles Sullivan), Edwards Air Force Base (1 - Elvie Hoag), Cal-EPA (1- Garry Brown) Cal EPA-Lahontan RWQCB (1 - Hisam Baqai), LA County Health-Solid Waste LEA (1 - Chris Mastro).

**Minutes Review of Previous Meetings:** John Key reviewed the meeting's minutes from the last meeting held in May. There were no corrections, additions or deletions needed and the minutes were approved. as read.

**Guest Presentations:**

Chris Mastro (Los Angeles County Health - Solid Waste Local Enforcement Agency) was the guest speaker and presented PowerPoint presentation on their illegal dump site cleanup program in the Antelope Valley. He talked about some of the ways that Los Angeles County was using to cleanup illegal solid waste sites. Chris distributed a copy of his presentation to the group.

**Status of DMG Funding:**

John Hamill talked about our plans for next year - he expects the same level as this year, but we are going to have to wait and see what will be coming.

**Initiative Reports:**

**1. Illegal Dumping Initiative:**

John Key and Russell Scofield 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. Next fiscal year (2002), we are planning to cleanup the Vidal Illegal Dump using AB 2136 funds. Russell Scofield distributed our FY 2002 DMG Budget Proposal for the Illegal Dump Project. He also updated the group on the CIWMB's Farm and Ranch cleanup grant application that he had submitted for a number of small illegal dump sites in the Landers-Yucca Valley area. The grant was approved by the board and we are in the process of finalizing the interagency agreement/memorandum of understanding with San Bernardino County so the funds can be transferred. Russell Scofield talked about our illegal dump project prevention program and our prevention strategy to include prevention as a component of each individual project plan. He also reported on attending the DIRT meeting is June 18 with John Key and indicated that attending was helpful in developing our outreach/prevention plan.

John Key talked about a new waste stream we were beginning to see dump on our lands e-waste (electronic waste) - wastes derived from electronic components such as computers and televisions. These wastes are no longer accepted at landfills - they have to be recycled. Chris Mastro provided one source for cycling: Puyam Electronics, an electronics/CRT recycler at (661) 948-5068.

**2. Wire Burning Initiative:**

John Key talked about the status of our wire burning initiative - the DMG has approved our action plan at their last meeting - so we can start working on implementing it. He also mentioned our poster on wire burning that was presented at the 2001 Department of the Interior's Conference on the Environment in Albuquerque, New Mexico in March 2001.

### **3. Abandoned Minelands Initiative:**

Andy Lesceskowski was not present - nothing new was reported.

#### **Training Update:**

John Key passed out some certificates of completion for the 8-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) refresher training that the hazardous materials working group sponsored at the BLM's California Desert District Office in Riverside on June 19, 2001. He also discussed cooperative training that is available and that was planned for next year - the 8-hour HAZWOPER annual refreshed training, a hazardous materials sampling course and possibly an environmental contaminants course. He said that he was planning another Dumps of the Desert Tour for the first week of November 2001 for agency policy makers and managers to orient them on our problems and opportunities. He also briefly mentioned additional available technical training at California Specialized Training Institute (CSTI) in San Luis Obispo, CA and at the Bureau of Land Management's National Training Center (BLM-NTC) in Phoenix, AZ.

**New Business:** No new business.

#### **Roundtable discussion followed:**

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Charles Sullivan) - Reported that energy projects/proposal had priority; indicated that the use of programmatic biological opinions assessments was being challenged and that the Service had not decided what to do yet in light of this challenge.

Lahontan RWQCB (Hisam Baqai) - Briefly mentioned their continued involvement with cleanup and remediation operations with California Department of Fish and Game at Searles Lake.

BLM - Needles (Bill Wiley) - Talked about the Needles Field Office development of a programmatic assessment for cleanups and the problems they are facing with the formal consultation for Nipton and the Route 66 projects.

Los Angeles County (Chris Mastro)- They are putting together a Farm and Ranch grant and had a tire amnesty day and collected over 10,000 tires. They are also setting up a GIS project to document and track illegal dump locations.

The meeting adjourned about 1:00 P.M. The **next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2001** at 10:00 A.M. at the Bureau of Land Management's California Desert District Office, 6221 Box Springs Boulevard in Riverside, California.