



## **SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER**

February 20, 2003  
Central Valley Business Incubator  
2555 Clovis Avenue  
Clovis, California

### **Minutes**

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Claude Laval called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Self-introductions were made. Claude thanked Vern Highley for advocating for the ICWT on his trips to Washington. His advocacy played a large part in the ICWT receiving a \$1.8 million appropriation in the 2003 Omnibus Spending Bill.

#### **ICWT Fundraising Efforts and Report from the Director.**

David Zoldoske provided background information on the effort by many individuals that resulted in the Federal appropriation of \$1.8 million for the ICWT. He asked everyone who sent letters of support to congressmen and senators to write to those elected officials again to thank them for their support. A copy of each letter should be sent to David at the Center for Irrigation Technology at Fresno State. There will be approximately a .65% reduction to the \$1.8 million.

He reported that he would be meeting with the architects and university facilities representatives today to discuss the first phase development of the ICWT. In addition to the Appropriation, approximately another \$500,000 has been identified. Any equipment that can be contributed will assist the development of the Center. The ICWT will be completed in three phases. It is projected that the first phase, consisting of the testing/certification component, will open this year. President Welty has committed to “fast track” the project. The architects will review the possible sites and make a recommendation.

#### Discussion/suggestions:

- It was suggested that a “want” list of equipment that could be donated and a list of certifications needed by members be developed. A survey will be developed and sent out to members.
- Need to broaden the scope of the Center and clarify that it is not an economic development project for the San Joaquin Valley. Need to focus news releases.
- Move some cluster meetings south—possibly CSU Bakersfield. This would increase attendance and bring in members of the oil industry.
- It was agreed to hold the next meeting on May 22, in Bakersfield. The agenda will include a PowerPoint presentation and the survey of certification needs.

### **University Advisory Board.**

- Discussion of the link among ICWT/CIT/California Water Institute to Fresno State. University guidelines require an advisory board. Dave Zoldoske will develop a draft.
- Need to clarify the organization of each of the projects and put on web site.
- The ICWT will serve the global water industry. An advisory board is strictly a university requirement.

### **Other.**

- It was suggested that links to water cluster member companies be put on the ICWT web site and member companies put link to ICWT on their web sites.

### **Committee Reports.**

#### **Workforce Committee.**

Manjit Atwal reported on committee progress.

- Russ Densmore's hand was badly injured in an accident. Ron Parks is replacing him on the committee.
- CIMT is in the process of student recruitment; anticipate placing 15 students
- The boot camp curriculum is being developed. It will be based on company needs.
- Students should be placed by the end of April
- A multimedia CD is being produced. It will focus on the recruitment of high school students and incumbent workers.

#### **Industry Advocacy Committee.**

Don Thompson reported on committee activities.

- Recommended that a committee be appointed to write a formal marketing plan for the next 4-6 months. The committee will consist of Don Thompson (BSR Group), Randy Delenikos (Lakos), Dan Clawson (CALIFT), Kate Norum (CIT), Jolene Polyack (EDC Kingsburg), Bill Jones (Crystal Flow), Laura Ramos (CALIFT), and Cynthia Harris (EDC Fresno County).
- Discussion of a Political Action Committee (PAC) and formation of a separate corporation to work with the ICWT. It was suggested that Bill Thomas be invited to participation. The corporation should have a non-profit designation such as 501 (c) (6).

### **Update on Marketing and Export Development Programs.**

- Dan Clawson reported that four companies went to Sinaloa, Mexico.
- Members were asked to complete the videoconference survey that was distributed. The survey included a choice of the type of industry area that interested each company and what countries each preferred to videoconference with.

### **Wrap-Up/Next Steps/Adjournment.**

- Tim Bornemann of California manufacturing Technology Center (CMTC), a non-profit consulting firm, was introduced. The company provides services for small and medium manufacturers.

- **The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2003, in the Stockdale Room at CSU Bakersfield. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. Following the meeting, lunch will be provided for all attendees. Specific directions and an agenda will be sent out.)**