



SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WATER TECHNOLOGY CLUSTER

September 26, 2002, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Central Valley Business Incubator
2555 Clovis Avenue
Clovis, California

Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m.

II. Action Team Presentations and Discussion

A. International Center for Water Technology. (Angelo Mazzei, Claude Laval, David Zoldoske)

- Federal Funding Request - Claude Laval reported that two teams have been to Washington. The Appropriations Committee has 13 spending bills to consider. As of today, the request has been passed by the House subcommittee and full appropriations committee, but has not passed out of the House of Representatives. There is one week for continuing resolutions and we should know the recommendation by the first week of October. Other possible sources of funding future requests include the departments of defense, interior, and energy and the USDA.
- Economic Impact of the International Center for Water Technology - Dan Clawson reported that the Economic Impact Study is not yet ready; it should be completed by the next cluster meeting. The preliminary findings indicate an increase of approximately 200-300 permanent jobs in the region from the development of ICWT.
- Upcoming Trade Shows – Dan Clawson reported that CIT, ICWT, and the CALIFT programs will be on exhibit at the upcoming IA show in New Orleans and at the upcoming show in Las Vegas.
- ICWT Director's Report
 - Dave Zoldoske reported that \$500,000 was received from the Public Utilities Commission to develop an additional testing lab for pump management, water meter certification, and minor repairs. The facility will also used for pump certification and backflow prevention cycle certification and will be considered the first lab built under the ICWT program. The lab should be

operating by June 2003. An ad hoc committee of industry members will be recruited to provide advice on the specifications of the lab.

- CIT is in negotiations with USDA to secure two research scientists, which would be dedicated to water and energy issues. If secured, the scientists will add to the work of the ICWT.
- Dave Zoldoske is chairing IA legislative committee, which will be helpful in securing additional support for ICWT.
- The Public Utilities Commission is organizing an outreach meeting for pump dealers. CIT will fund the meeting. More details to follow.
- Dave recently met with the City of Clovis. They are interested in a partnership with ICWT to provide training for water treatment facility technicians.

B. Workforce Committee. (Russ Densmore, Richard Meno, Sheri Abercrombie, Mike Morrill, Rita Mell, Larry Wimmer, Denise Cano, Manjit Muhar).

Manjit Muhar reported on current activities:

- The training program will consist of three parts: Water Tech Boot Camp, internships, and the promotion of careers in water technology and manufacturing at the high school and junior college levels.
- Program packages will be available at the Water Cluster reception, October 15.
- The committee will call cluster members to recruit them for the internship program. A commitment from a minimum of 5 companies is needed.

C. Industry Advocacy Committee. (Don Thompson, Ashley Swearengin, Dan Clawson, Vern Highley)

- Need to send out email to cluster and find out what organizations and publications the members participate in. Submit articles to publications.
- Ashley will follow up with Mark Aydelotte, University Relations, to help coordinate publicity for the upcoming reception and press conference on ICWT and the water cluster.

III. Update on CALIFT.

- SBIR grant writing training helps companies pay for R&D – for small companies
- Upcoming shows:
 - Irrigation Association in New Orleans
 - CALIFT will sponsor a breakfast in New Orleans – representatives from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Brazil will be there.
 - Sinaloa – CALIFT has one free space available
- Dan Clawson will make a presentation at the Milken Institute on October 7.

IV. Wrap-Up/Next Steps.

- The next meeting of the Water Cluster will be Thursday, November 21, 9-11 a.m. at the Central Valley Business Incubator.