

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2021

Windfall Farms Conference Room, 4710 Flying Paster Lane, Paso Robles

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

Dana Merrill (joins at 3:04PM by videoconference)

Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference)

Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)

Hilary Graves (by videoconference)

Herb Rowland (joins at 3:59PM by videoconference)

Others present:

Alan Doud

Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Hilary Graves.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2021 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Hilary Graves– yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

ITEM 4: UPDATE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 SCOPING MEETING FOR THE PASO BASIN LAND USE PLANTING ORDINANCE EIR

Staff was asked to report. There was fairly light public comment on the scope of the EIR, and the County declined to take any input on other aspects of the ordinance. Hilary Graves asked whether the proposed change in de minimis exemption from 5AF to 25AF was discussed, which it was not. There was a general discussion between the Directors as to the fact that the County, through this ordinance, is exercising its land use authority and can grant planting rights, but not pumping rights. The GSAs have the ability to control pumping rights.

ITEM 8: (TAKEN OUT OF ORDER) UPDATE ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING AUGUST 24, 2021

Jerry Reaugh reported that the Supervisors approved an extension of the existing ag offset requirements from January 2022 to August 31, 2022. The replacement ordinance is in process (See #4) with an EIR in process. Lee Nesbitt asked if there has been any discussion at Farm Bureau regarding the potential of changing the de minimis exemption to 25AF, which would be per site and not per parcel.

ITEM 5: UPDATE ON WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WRAC) MEETING SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

District participants were unable to attend the meeting, so no update was available.

ITEM 6: UPDATE ON STATE WATER CONSULTING PROJECT

Dana Merrill and Jerry Reaugh have continued to meet with the consultant's staff and Paavo Ogren. The State Water subcontractors recently met and now have more flexibility in tools to use with State Water. The County currently has approximately two to three years of supply in storage barring any unexpected spillage, with a need of 4500AF to cover subscribers in the County. It was suggested that the County consider using uncommitted County water to offset the Basin deficit, if pipeline capacity could be organized. It might now be possible for the State Water subcontractors to sell water to the District directly as opposed to the District attempting to obtain directly from State Water. Stephanie Hastings is anticipating a County study on pipeline capacity and raw water. The Paso Robles Basin is apparently not on the committee's radar as needing water. Stephanie Hastings would like to informally approach the County regarding the study as well as the subcontractors to start a dialog with EPCWD. Courtney Howard of the County has said that there is pipeline capacity but it would need to be reserved which would have a cost attached.

MOTION FOR STEPHANIE HASTINGS TO IDENTIFY AS THE DISTRICT'S REPRESENTATIVE REGARDING STATE WATER made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 7: UPDATE FROM THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING NETWORK PROJECT

A summary of the project to date was presented by Jerry Reaugh. There have been two readings of levels so far, one in April and one in August, and is anticipating taking a total of four readings in 2022. There was a discussion of moving to two or three readings per year, and there was consensus that it stay at three.

ITEM 9: TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerry Reaugh debuted a new Treasurer's Report summary to be presented monthly from this point onwards.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS – REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NEXT AGENDA

Dana Merrill asked if there is any news on the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee's work and agenda. The PBCC has approved \$85,000 to use towards responding to the State's letter regarding GSP insufficiencies that need correction. Jerry Reaugh reported that the County has hired a recruiter to fill a GSA manager position reporting to Wade Horton.

Staff (Laurie Gage) requested any information directors might have on underground irrigation systems as a District member has inquired. Dana Merrill has spoken with Mark Battany, Water Management and Biometeorology Advisor for UC, who indicated that benefits of these systems may have been over-

optimistic. The Board might consider having a vendor do a presentation, and to look for grower input. Staff (Laurie Gage) asked if the Directors would like to see a summary of District landowner changes and the discussion that followed included concerns about maintaining landowner privacy. A report could be generated that indicated site without specific landowner identification.

ITEM 11: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 13, 2021

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

- Dana Merrill - yes
- Hilary Graves – yes
- Lee Nesbitt – yes
- Herb Rowland – yes
- Jerry Reaugh – yes

Motion passed 5-0.

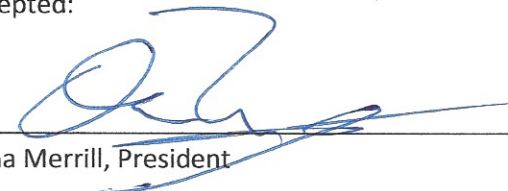
Meeting adjourned at 4:09PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

10-27-21

Date