

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2021

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

Dana Merrill (by videoconference, joins at 3:07PM)
Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference)
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)
Hilary Graves (by videoconference, joins at 3:05PM)
Herb Rowland (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 Dana Merrill.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2021 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Herb Rowland, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments submitted.

ITEM 4: UPDATE ON WRAC MEETING JUNE 2, 2021

Lee Nesbitt reported that there was a presentation on the Adelaida Hydrology project being undertaken by the County with an estimated cost of approximately \$800,000, along with a Stormwater Recapture presentation, again by the County. Steven Sinton of Shandon-San Juan Water District made a presentation on the District's applications to the Department of Water Resources regarding Nacimiento water. The WRAC will next meet September 1, 2021. Dana Merrill pointed out that the Paso Robles and Edna Valley basins are utilizing the greater portion of the \$5M - \$6M in County SGMA-allocated funds, and while the GSAs in Edna Valley are funding SGMA process through a joint powers agreement, there is no such agreement in the Paso basin.

ITEM 5: UPDATE ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING JUNE 8, 2021

Item #23 on the consent agenda for the Supervisors meeting was accepted without discussion. The Department of Water Resources has notified the County that both the Paso GSP and the Cuyama GSP have deficiencies that must be corrected, there was no discussion by the Supervisors on this topic.

ITEM 6: UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING NETWORK PROJECT

Jerry Reaugh reported that 29 of the 33 wells in the network have had their first readings taken. The Tribune newspaper has indicated an interest in covering the well network. The press release has been sent to contacts in Sacramento.

A discussion of the notification by DWR (mentioned in item #5 of this agenda) followed. The Paso Basin Cooperative Committee is addressing the notification and a formal response. There is a 180-day period to rectify the deficiencies. It is not clear whether the issues cited in the notification are the only issues the DWR has with the GSP.

ITEM 7: DISCUSSION OF THE 2021 ELECTION PROCESS AND APPROVE A RESOLUTION ANNOUNCING THE NOVEMBER 2021 DISTRICT ELECTION AND PROCEDURES RELATED THERETO

Seats currently held by Dana Merrill, Hilary Graves and Lee Nesbitt are coming up for election in November.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION ANNOUNCING THE NOVEMBER 2021 DISTRICT ELECTION AND PROCEDURES RELATED THERETO made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – abstain (due to lack of connectivity to videoconference during this item)

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Herb Rowland – yes

Motion passed 4-0 with one abstention.

ITEM 8: CONSIDER RETAINING WATER ATTORNEY TO EXPLORE OPTIONS PRIMARILY FOR STATE WATER DIRECTLY OR VIA THE CCWA PIPELINE TO UTILIZE A PORTION OF SLO COUNTY RESERVED SUPPLEMENTAL WATER, WITH A PROPOSED BUDGET LINE ITEM AMOUNT OF \$35,000

Dana Merrill opened the discussion regarding the District's need for guidance and input on various supplemental water options. There is currently a share of the County's entitlement that is unused. Is there an option including that share that could bring 5,000 to 10,000 AF of water to the Basin, and what would be the process and potential costs? Stephanie Hastings and Paavo Ogren have been consulted on providing such guidance and input and both have agreed to work with the District. The general consensus of the Directors was that this should be pursued. Public comment included supportive input for the idea.

MOTION TO CONTRACT WITH OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS TO SUPPLY GUIDANCE REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL WATER AND APPROVE AT BUDGET AMOUNT OF \$35,000 FOR SAME made by Hilary Grave, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Herb Rowland – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 9: TREASURER’S REPORT

Jerry Reaugh reported that \$35,000 was added to the proposed budget in the event of the passage of the motion in Item #8. The proposed budget now includes assessment levels of \$5.50 per irrigated acre, \$0.08 per non-irrigate acre, \$7.50 per residence, and a \$50.00 minimum assessment amount, resulting in approximate \$90,000 in assessments for the fiscal year.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE BUDGET made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Herb Rowland, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

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

A request to staff for elections materials distribution to the Directors was made. Dana Merrill suggested a future discussion of optimal water application rates and when to consider metering, as well as a potential pilot program to measure how much water is being expended in order to determine base amounts of usage.

ITEM 11: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2021

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

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

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

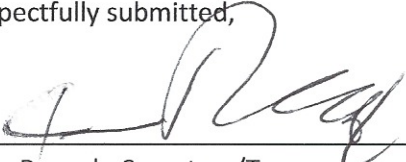
Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:02PM

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

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

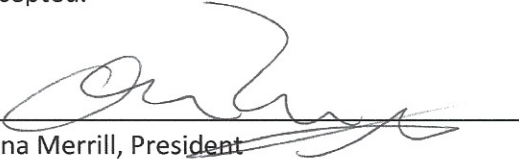
Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:49PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

7-15-21

Date