

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

Dana Merrill (by videoconference)
Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference))
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)
Hilary Graves (by videoconference)
Herb Rowland (by videoconference)

Others present:

Paul Sorensen, GSI
Alan Doud
Willy Cunha
Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:04PM by Dana Merrill.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 14, 2021 MEETING

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

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

Motion passed 4-0 with one abstention.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments submitted.

ITEM 4: UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF WELL NETWORK EXPANSION PROJECT

Jerry Reaugh reported that letters have been drafted for specific well owners within the District to determine interest in participating in the well network expansion. Groundwater levels would be measured three times per year (April, mid-summer, fall post-harvest) by a third party contractor. Paul Sorensen reported that these efforts were included in the public draft of the Water Year 2020 Report as a positive step.

ITEM 5: UPDATE ON SOLTERRA STRATEGIES' ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY PROJECT STATUS

This project is intended to raise stakeholder awareness of the impacts of extraction cutbacks as the only approach to balancing the Basin. There was no update presented at this time.

ITEM 6: UPDATE ON THE WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Hilary Graves reported that the State Water Project ad hoc committee met with Public Works Staff in January to review the Water Management Tools Study. Increased utilization of the County's State Water allocation offer opportunities for projects such as recharge and enhancement of water quality, and increases flexibility in options to address drought. This is a high-value resource for the County, and there is the potential to reduce costs and add revenue through exchanges and sales of unused allocation.

ITEM 7: UPDATE ON THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING JANUARY 26, 2021 AND THEIR CONSIDERATION OF POLICY POST-WATER NEUTRAL NEW DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE EXPIRATION IN JANUARY 2022. CONSIDER ACTION.

Dana Merrill explained that the County is working on creating a new replacement ordinance prior to expiration of the existing WNNND ordinance. There have been suggestions to raise the de minimis exemption to 25AFY from the existing 5AFY, and to extend the "lookback" period to six years. They are considering a 3-tier system ranging from no offset required if the new usage would be less than 25 AFY, to a CEQA requirement for the top tier. Costs to develop the ordinance could be around \$675,000. This approach protects the County's authority by utilizing their land use authority. Hilary Graves commented that costs for CEQA compliance could be in the \$500 per acre to \$2000 per acre range. Further developments in the ordinance creation process will be reported back.

ITEM 8: UPDATE ON THE PASO BASIN COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING JANUARY 27, 2021. CONSIDER ACTION.

The Water Neutral New Development ordinance expiration and potential replacement was discussed at the PBCC meeting, as was the Water Year 2020 Report. Debbie Arnold was elected the new chair of the Committee. The GSAs are awaiting communication from the State on approval of the GSP, submitted January 2020.

ITEM 9: UPDATE ON THE JOINT MEETING OF HE OPERATING COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL COAST WATER AUTHORITY AND SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT STATE WATER SUBCONTRACTORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE JANUARY 14, 2021

Dana Merrill attended the videoconference and found the presenters group to be organized and connected. There was no San Luis Obispo County representation at the meeting. One presenter pointed the Cuyama GSP as "progressive"; 40% cutbacks are in place there. Attending the meeting reinforced the importance for networking.

ITEM 10: TREASURER'S REPORT

One more assessment payment has been received and deposited.

ITEM 11: NEW BUSINESS – REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACE ON NEXT AGENDA

No requests were presented.

ITEM 12: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for March 10, 2021

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT

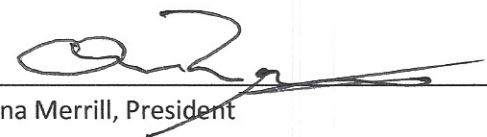
MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote. Motion passed 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 4:25PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

3/22/21

Date