

**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**July 14, 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 (absent)

Others present: Guests (by phone and videoconference)

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 PM by Dana Merrill.

**ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2021 MEETING**

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

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jerry Reaugh asked John Hollenbeck (guest) whether he had seen anything regarding the submission by Shandon-San Juan Water District to the State regarding Nacimiento water. John Hollenbeck has not seen anything to date. Jerry Reaugh also announced that John Diodati has been installed as the permanent Public Works Director.

**ITEM 4: UPDATE ON STATE WATER CONSULTING PROJECT**

Jerry Reaugh and Dana Merrill have met with consultants Paavo Ogren and Stephanie Hastings' associates. There have been some changes on how to acquire State Water and for moving water around with more flexibility. The Central Coast Water Authority is responsible for State water from the system to Santa Barbara through the pipeline run by CCWA. San Luis Obispo County is the purveyor which can purchase State Water. It is unknown whether the EPCWD could be a purveyor, but there is excess capacity in the pipeline at times which could be utilized. Untreated water is available at Polonio Pass, but cannot be pumped through the CCWA pipeline through the County which can only carry treated water. The County has purchased an annual allocation of 23,000 AF, but only has access to pipeline capacity of 5,000 AF; any additional capacity would require changing the existing contracts. If additional water were purchased for recharge, it would be necessary to determine whether using it actually shows up in the groundwater levels. Hilary Graves commented that State Water is a very valuable resource and if the County doesn't utilize its entire allocation and it cannot be easily or affordably purchased, there should be a consideration of selling

the allocation and using the funds to offset costs in the Basins. Lee Nesbitt asked whether taking untreated water from Polonio Pass would require a separate pipeline infrastructure investment and the answer was yes. That water could be used for recharge.

Dana Merrill asked about the Blended Water Project status, currently being pursued by private parties in conjunction with the City of Paso Robles. There is landowner interest, with some easements in discussion, and specific plans and potential pathways are being studied.

#### **ITEM 5: UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING NETWORK PROJECT**

Round two of readings is scheduled for early August. Jerry Reaugh reported a much increased level of engagement by participants.

#### **ITEM 7: TREASURERS REPORT**

(Item taken out of order due to scheduling)

Jerry Reaugh reported that invoices for annual assessments were mailed on July 9. He anticipates that the District will see another round of reply notifications that properties enrolled in the District have changed hands. He also reported that the detachment process, as reported by LAFCO, is still not completely finalized as the required map has not been prepared by the detachees.

(Jerry Reaugh left meeting at 3:31PM)

#### **ITEM 6: REVIEW BY STAFF OF UPCOMING ELECTION REQUIREMENTS AND TIMELINE**

Laurie Gage, District Administrator, reported that Declaration of Candidacy forms have been provided to the directors in the three seats up for election. Those forms need to be completed and returned to the District elections official (Gage) by 5PM on August 6, 2021, the official deadline for all Declaration of Candidacy forms. Declaration forms are available for the public to physically pick up at the elections office (5715 Linne Road), or to download from the website. If there are only three candidates for the three open seats, no election will be required and the Board of Supervisors will appoint those three candidates. If more than three valid Declarations are received, then the District will proceed to an election on November 2, 2021.

#### **ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS – REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACE ON NEXT AGENDA**

Lee Nesbitt suggested considering looking at the watershed and building a better understanding of how that watershed could be utilized to benefit the Basin. Hilary Graves mentioned a presenter at a recent Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting who had studied recharge opportunities in the Basin, which could dovetail with the watershed concept. There is an opportunity for each individual farmer to put recapture processes in place on owned property; recapture off property is much more complex. Hilary suggested inviting the presenter to a future EPCWD meeting to discuss. There was also a brief discussion of the Yoeman's Plow and how beavers affect slowing down water courses, as well as terracing for waterways and farm ponds, all as a means of stormwater recapture.

#### **ITEM 9: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for August 11, 2021

**ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

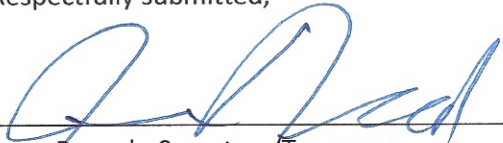
Dana Merrill – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes


Hilary Graves – yes

Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:44PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Merrill, President

8/20/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date