

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Meeting Minutes

May 23, 2019

Windfall Farms Conference Room, 4710 Flying Paster Lane, Paso Robles, CA 93446

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present: Jerry Reaugh
Lee Nesbitt
Hilary Graves
Dana Merrill
Herb Rowland (by conference call)

Others Present: Laurie Gage, District Administrator
Guests

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:06PM by Dana Merrill.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 7, 2019 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MAY, 2019 MEETING made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, passed 5-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments submitted.

ITEM 4: TREASURER'S REPORT

- a. and b. – the proposed 2019/2020 budget was presented by Treasurer Jerry Reaugh and included at comparison of 12/2017 to 05/19/2019 versus the 2019/2020 proposed budget. The necessary assessments to achieve the 2019/2020 proposed budget would be lower than the previous year's assessment.
Dana Merrill initiated a discussion of how to notify title companies about assessment obligations and connection of parcels to the EPCWD (see item 5(c) below).
- c. A motion to consider approval of the proposed budget was tabled until later in the meeting in order to clarify some of the budget numbers.

ITEM 5: DISCUSSION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING:

- c. Inform title companies of assessment: When the District was formed, LAFCO defined and recorded the boundaries without using APNs and so there was no mechanism for getting the connection between parcel and the District into title company records. Dana Merrill reported being in contact with District Counsel Alan Doud and a local title company officer regarding this item.
- a. Attachments and Detachments procedure: Dana Merrill revisited that there are several District assessees who have indirectly approached the District on detaching but no further action has been taken. There is also one attachment request that has been made. It is not clear at this

time whether the process could be as straightforward as the Board resolving to agree to a detachment and then LAFCO proceeding by whatever mechanism they have in place; LAFCO has not informed the District of either the process or the fees charged. Hilary Graves suggested a procedure whereby the Board would be informed of a detachment request in writing by the owner, the Board would make a decision on the detachment, and it would go to LAFCO from there. Dana Merrill will follow up with Shandon-San Juan Water District to see how the current detachment process in proceeding with them. Jerry Reaugh reiterated the idea that any detachment approval by the Board would only come after all past due assessments are paid in full.

- b. Collection procedures: The process could start with a certified letter sent to the assessee. No further procedures were put forward.

ITEM 6: UPDATE ON CURRENT DETACHMENTS

- a. See item 5(a) discussion above.

ITEM 7: UPDATE FROM GSI STAFF

Paul Sorensen discussed the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Meeting that occurred yesterday, May 22 and the substantial re-writing of Chapter 9, which may in turn require changes to Chapter 8. The timeline for upcoming chapter releases is that Chapters 9-12 and associated appendices are now open for comment until July 1, and then opens the period until mid-July for GSAs to give feedback. August 8 is the scheduled date for the release of the final report.

Herb Rowland left the conference call at 3:04PM.

Paul Sorensen continued the update, indicating that many issues in the GSP are considered placeholders and will have to be dealt with during the initial 3-5 year implementation period of the Plan.

Lee Nesbitt excused himself at 3:29PM.

The discussion continued, involving the extension of the offset ordinance.

ITEM 8: UPDATE ON PURPLE PIPE PROJECT

Calculations show that the salts in the recycled water will require mixing with Nacimiento water in order to be usable for irrigation. There is Nacimiento water potentially available, but the cost is unknown. Site surveys continue for the project.

ITEM 9: UPDATE FROM THE ECONOMIC SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE ECONOMIC STUDY PROJECT

The Study is underway. Farm Credit has committed funds to the cost, and the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance may contribute as well. Farm Bureau has been similarly approached, but there has been no decision from them to date.

ITEM 10: UPDATE ON GSP STATUS, RECENTLY RELEASED DOCUMENTS, AND COMMENTS ON MAY 22ND PBCC MEETING. CONSIDER OUTREACH COMMUNICATION TO OUTSIDE GROUPS.

Paul Sorensen's update in Item 7 addressed this update as well.

ITEM 11: UPDATE ON HUER HUERO RECHARGE PROJECT AND COOPERATION WITH COUNTY

Dana Merrill has contact Angela Ruberto regarding the District's interest in this project. The County is now aware that the District would like to consider cooperating with the County, but it has to be a County-led project and wouldn't be considered until after the adoption of the GSP (no later than January 31, 2020).

ITEM 12: UPDATE ON SUPPLEMENTAL WATER OPTIONS

There was a general discussion of the availability of State Water Project supplies and whether the current pipeline’s size would constrain further deliveries. There may be an option for pre-treatment-plant supplies

ITEM 4: TREASURER’S REPORT (c) CONTINUATION

Jerry Reaugh proposed assessment levels of \$6.00 per acre for irrigated land and \$0.08 per acre for non-irrigated lands, residential/commercial levels to remain at same levels for the 2019/2020 budget year, and asked for approval of those assessment levels pending any changes to the proposed budget when reviewed.

MOTION TO APPROVED THE 2019/2020 PROPOSED ASSESSMENT LEVELS AS OUTLINED BY THE TREASURER’S REPORT made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

ITEM 13: NEW BUSINESS – REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NEXT AGENDA

No new items for requested.

ITEM 14: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 19th, 2019 at Windfall Farms Conference Room, 4710 Flying Paster Lane, Paso Robles, starting at 3:00PM.

ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

06-19-2019
Date