

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

**Meeting Minutes**

November 21, 2019

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Directors Present: Hilary Graves  
Lee Nesbitt  
Jerry Reaugh

Others Present: Laurie Gage, District Administrator  
Herb Rowland (joins by phone at 3:57PM as public)  
Alan Doud (joins by phone 3:30PM)  
Guests

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 2:57 PM.

**ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OCTOBER 16, 2019 MEETING**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 16, 2019 MEETING made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, passed 3-0.

**ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Paul Sorensen of GSI thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent them as staff during the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee work.

**ITEM 4: UPDATE FROM PAUL SORENSEN OF STATUS OF GSP**

Paul Sorensen described next steps in the GSP process now that the final report is finished. It has been submitted to the four GSAs for final approval; Shandon-San Juan Water District approved it this morning. The submission process to the State is more complex than originally thought. Once received, there is a 20-day initial review period, followed by a 60-day public comment period. The first annual report on the basin water status is due April 2020. An interim MOA for GSP implementation is under consideration by the four GSAs and would be effective until a final form of implementation governance is put into place. There is current consideration about hiring a general manager to be the point person for implementation between the four GSAs, as well as develop budgets, hire consultants, etc. Current very rough estimates on the costs of implementation are around \$1.5 to \$2 million.

**ITEM 5: UPDATE ON IRWM/REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2019**

Hilary Graves was unable to attend, but reported that at the previous meetings, various projects were selected to be funded and the project submitted by EPCWD (Huer Huero Recharge project) was not one of the selected projects.

**ITEM 6: TREASURERS REPORT**

Jerry Reaugh handed out the current A/R report. There was a general discussion on next steps for addressing 2018 past due assessees including sending the letter drafted by Alan Doud.

**ITEM 7: UPDATE ON DETACHMENT REQUESTS AND LAFCO HEARING NOVEMBER 21, 2019**

Hilary Graves attended the LAFCo hearing and made public comment on behalf of the District. Her comments indicated that the District would not object to these specific detachment requests, but reminded the detachees and commissioners that the District expected all past due assessments to be paid in full. She also pointed out that the County has not yet determined what it will cost the landowners in the County GSA for implementation of the GSP and so the detachees stated reason to detach that it would cost them nothing if the County represents them may not be a correct assumption. LAFCO did not provide official notice to the District for the last-minute additions to the detachment group, although the District was aware of it. Alan Doud suggested a follow letter to LAFCO indicating the District's expectation that any future detachment requests would be appropriately noticed to the District so that any comments/objections can be submitted timely, according to code. Without input from the District, LAFCO may move forward with an expedited detachment. LAFCO has established a \$3500 fee for detachments. There was a discussion of determining a specific date by which time any future detachment requests would be considered on an annual basis.

There was a separate general discussion of whether the District need to consider open bidding for services. Alan Doud clarified that the bidding process is not required for professional services types of contracts.

**ITEM 8: UPDATE ON BLENDED WATER PROJECT**

Jerry Reaugh reported that a firm has been hired to design the project, and that the City of Paso Robles has been asked for a contract on recycled water. A similar contract for water from the Nacimiento pipeline may be more complex.

**ITEM 9: UPDATE ON ECONOMIC STUDY**

Dana Merrill submitted comments through email that survey responses were light, but enough to be useful. The County Ag Commissioner's Annual Report was limited as to the information in the report, but the basic data behind the report may provide useful. The study team is developing a timeline for the balance of the project.

**ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS**

SSJ-WD has proposed a joint meeting in December, in part to discuss potential projects. Items for the next agenda include considering changes to the existing attachment/detachment policy, draft a letter for approval to be sent to the 2018 past due accounts, consider a date for annual consideration of attachment and detachment requests to LAFCo, consider a letter from Alan Doud to LAFCo regarding noticing, elaborate on well monitoring system in the basin. Jerry Reaugh pointed out that the minimum threshold values in the GSP for some of the wells in the monitoring network already seem to be close to the well levels and could trigger an undesirable result immediately or soon. Paul Sorensen reported on the attempt to bring more wells into the network and the constraints that currently exist that make this difficult. There are areas with no monitoring wells in place which leads to data gaps.

Herb Rowland left the meeting at 4:55PM.

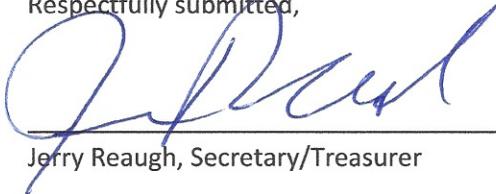
**ITEM 11: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with Shandon-San Juan Water Districts and is scheduled for December 12, 2019 at 9:00AM at the Illy House at Illy Sunnyslope Farms, 3385 Truesdale Rd., Shandon.

**ITEM 14: ADJOURNMENT**

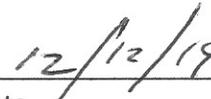
MOTION TO ADJOURN by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt passed 3-0 at 5:20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Accepted:

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date