



**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday July 12 2023**

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

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 3:01PM by Hilary Graves

Directors Roll Call:

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

Others present:

Jake Goldman, Streamline
Brent Burchett, SLO Farm Bureau
Patricia Wilmore, PRWCA
Guests (in person and videoconference)

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 14, 2023 MEETINGS

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR JUNE 14, 2023 MEETING made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by

Jerry Reaugh, voice vote:

Motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

ITEM 4: CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM STREAMLINE FOR WEBSITE/HOSTING/DESIGN (STAFF)

Staff gave an overview of Streamline and their services regarding hosting the District website as compared to the current provider, godaddy.com. The services will cost more per month but will include ADA compliance oversight, website design, on call support. Jake Goldman of Streamline was present to answer any questions the Board had regarding Streamline’s services, proposal, etc.

MOTION TO APPROVE PROPOSAL FROM STREAMLINE FOR WEBSITE HOSTING/DESIGN made by Jerry

Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 5: DISCUSSION OF STATUS OF STATE WATER AND POTENTIAL AVAILABILITY FOR BASIN RECHARGE, ETC.

Dana Merrill reported that there appears to be little discussion from the purveyors to increase their portions of the SLO Count allocation. All retained water from past years was “spilled” this year which means it is lost for use in the Basin and County. There has been discussion in the MILR Technical Advisory Committee about State Water. Provost & Pritchard are continuing their consulting efforts on behalf of the District regarding availability of and possibilities to access unallocated State Water. Paul Hoover asked about the blended water project as opposed to State Water, with the response that the blended water project is intended to deliver water directly to specified users as in lieu irrigation.

ITEM 6: UPDATE ITEMS

a. Real-time Groundwater Levels Monitoring project

Jerry Reaugh reported that two continuous monitoring devices have been installed, one in the El Pomar area and one in the airport area. Neither well has a pump in it. GSI is working on getting the telemetry in place to allow remote reporting. Of interest is that without a pump, some results show that there is a 10-20 foot variation in the water level. This begs the question as to whether the wells in the District monitoring network are recording a point in time which may not reflect the actual changes in water levels over time in the Basin. Should the PBCC consider installing continuous monitoring equipment in wells which don't have pumps in them to get a better reading on groundwater levels? Lauren Meisner asked if the results show an up-and-down cycle, or a trend, to which Jerry Reaugh responded that it looked up-and-down. Dana Merrill mentioned the bounce seen in some well levels this year after the heavy rains, and whether that was due to the rains and recharge or less pumping for irrigation because of the rains. Paul Hoover asked if there is a way to determine how much water is saved in a rain year like 2022-2023.

b. SWEEP grant update

Loni Lyttle reported to staff prior to the meeting that the grant proposal was submitted timely and we are now in a holding pattern waiting to hear back from CDFR, hopefully by the end of July. Successful grants will be funded in November.

c. IGGPRA GSP Seminar June 21, 2023

Dana Merrill attended and was asked to participate and explain the District's GSA approval and projects.

d. SLO County Board of Supervisors meetings June 20 and July 11, 2023

The Board of Supervisors discussed the Equity Statement (as County GSA) which has been accepted by the EPCWD and the Shandon-San Juan Water District. The City of Paso Robles did not approve the Statement. Jerry Reaugh talked about the recent Grand Jury report on the status of the Basin.

e. Groundwater Levels Monitoring program

Jerry Reaugh recapped that the network includes approximately 30 wells being read four times per year. 75% of the network wells are up and 25% down this year over last. Paul Hoover mentioned that he has a sounder he is willing to make available to District members.

f. Paso Basin Cooperative Committing – next meeting July 26, 2023

Jerry Reaugh reported that there is going to be a “welcome” of the EPCWD as a GSA member at the July 26, 2023 meeting. Dana Merrill will represent the District on the PBCC, and Jerry Reaugh will be the District’s staff member on the Committee. Jerry Reaugh noted that the technical advisory committees to the PBCC are considered to be Brown Act committees while the PBCC is not.

g. WRAC meeting June 7, 2023

Lee Nesbitt reported on the discussion of the silting up of Lopez Lake and the damage from spillage below the dam this winter. There is an ongoing effort to get all the information on all basins in the County into an accessible website, perhaps this fall. Reservoir reports were presented along with a drought update.

h. State Water Contractors Committee meeting – next meeting September 1, 2023

See earlier discussion Item #5.

i. Update from staff on requested committee clarification – ad hoc vs standing

Staff explained the difference between an ad hoc committee which is composed of less than a quorum of District directors only, is not covered by the Brown Act, and is temporary, and standing committees, which may have Directors participate, are covered by the Brown Act, and considers ongoing specific matters.

j. PBCC MILR Technical Advisory Committee Meeting July 11, 2023

Dana Merrill attended the meeting and reported that the discussion was wide-ranging and included such topics as idling ground, repurposing land, etc. He reminded the Board that the PBCC is not a government entity and has no joint powers agreement. He asked how implementation will be handled, as well as charges for water use. Blaine Reely has reported that it could take a set per acre-foot charge just to keep the MILR program functioning. Charging by acre-foot would help start usage awareness.

k. PCBB Groundwater Monitoring Technical Advisory Committee

Jerry Reaugh reported that discussions included targeting 40 continuous monitoring wells, with a total of 100 in the network. Dana Merrill discussed using meters versus evapotranspiration sensors versus ET modeling (Land IQ and Open ET) in order to bill for usage. Paul Hoover asked how does rainfall and no irrigation affect the data. Dana Merrill responded that rainfall is taken into account. Lee Nesbitt suggested considering giving entities a choice between using meters or ET models.

ITEM 7: TREASURER’S REPORT

a. Monthly Financial Status Report

No questions. Jerry Reaugh reported that the District is on track with the prior budget. One upcoming new expense will be paying the District’s 23% portion of approximately \$100,000 for the annual GSP statement, now that the District will be part of the PBCC. That figure has been included in the 2023-24 budget which was approved at the last District meeting. Dana Merrill suggested that a JPA will need to be considered at some point in the future in order to be able to build out some of the necessary infrastructure that might be needed as part of GSP implementation.

b. 2022 Financial Audit results

Staff reported that the 2022 Financial Audit by the contracted outside auditing firm resulted in no issues for the audited year.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Reaugh reported that the City of Paso Robles is underway on the recycled water pipeline under the Salinas River to Buena Vista. Another contract will cover taking the pipeline to Barney Schwartz Park. Funds for these projects were from the GSP grant. The question of whether the recycled water could be part of the blended water project (60% Nacimiento water/40% recycled) and if so, how much per acre-foot.

Staff reminded the Board that this is an election year for two seats (Reaugh and Rowland), with the filing period opening on July 17 and closing on August 11.

ITEM 9: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – AUGUST 9, 2023

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote:
Motion passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

Dana Merrill, President

Date