



**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)**  
**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPCGSA)**  
**Regular and Special Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday May 22, 2024**  
SVP Winery, 111 Clark Road, Shandon, CA 93461

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:09AM by Dana Merrill

Directors Roll Call:

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

Others present:

Members of Board of Directors, Shandon-San Juan Water District/GSA  
Alan Doud, Young Wooldridge  
Christopher Alakel, City of Paso Robles  
Patricia Wilmore, Paso Robles Wine County Alliance  
Guests (in person and by teleconference)

**ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Noe presented

**ITEM 3: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING BOARD VACANCY**

Tabled until after the Special joint meeting with SSJWD/GSA.

**ITEM 4: JOINT MEETING WITH SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT/GSA AND ESTRELLA-EL POMAR-CRESTON WATER DISTRICT/GSA TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER THE NEXT STEPS IN GSP IMPLEMENTATION. MULTIAGENCY MEETING PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54954(B)(3).**

(Note: Agenda items were taken out of order and are presented here in the order discussed)

**ITEMS 4 a) – c)**

Willy Cunha of SSJWD/GSA requested Alan Doud, counsel for both Districts to preface the discussions with an overview of the current status of governance of the Basin, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the GSAs, and what options for governance in the future would look like. He also discussed various fee structures and their adoption via assessment ballot processes. Volumetric extraction fees can be used for administrative and project costs on a Basin-wide basis. Steve Sinton emphasized that the fees need to be the same for all overlies of the Basin in order to be fair. The individual GSAs could continue to assess for administration. Jerry Reaugh noted that it is hoped that the Basin-wide fee structure could be in place by 2025, with this fiscal year being the last where individual GSAs have different fee structures. The current obligations of the GSAs to the PBCC will require that EPCWD/GSA increase its assessments for 2024-2025. Willy Cunha reviewed the Grant Implementation schedule and how to evaluate projects for benefit to overlies of the Basin. The Funding Study (underway) should bring some clarity. He also discussed the Land IQ project, the associated weather stations and where to install them to increase ground truthing capability. Drinking well

mitigation is a high priority, along with well verification. Using Land IQ data will relieve the pressure to continue irrigating in order to maintain the ability to extract.

Section 8 of the annual report was displayed and various topics were discussed including grand funding, the Paso Basin land use ordinance in effect, stream gauges, and the need to expand the monitoring well network which is in process.

Matt Turrentine commented that a volumetric fee will give pumpers incentive to look at how they use water and why. Steve Sinton asked how the Rate Study is going to show that we are making progress towards sustainability. He noted it would be good to see how other GSAs are using curtailment, and that the PBCC needs to approach the State on how to find equity in curtailment.

Matt Turrentine shared that 151 wells have been identified to be added to the monitoring network and that the County is in the process of obtaining permission from the landowners to effect this. He noted that not only are there data gaps geographically, but also in the timing of readings.

**ITEM 4 d): REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVING THE PBCC BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 24-25**

The discussion moved to consideration and approval of EPCWD's portion (\$175,800) of the PBCC Budget for FY 2024-2025.

MOTION TO APPROVE EPCWD'S PORTION OF THE PBCC FISCAL YEAR BUDGET IN THE AMOUNT OF \$175,800 made by Hilary Grave, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 4-0.

**ITEM 3: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDER ACTION REGARDING BOARD VACANCY**

(Postponed from earlier in the Regular Meeting)

Dana Merrill appointed himself and Hilary Graves to an ad hoc committee to review candidates for the open Board seat and recommend a final candidate for approval.

**ITEM 4 e): REVIEW AND CONSIDER APPROVING A PROPOSAL FROM TRIPEPI SMITH FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT**

(As part of the Special Meeting)

Peter Johnson of Tripepi Smith presented a proposal for outreach including several options. After discussion, a motion was made to approve Option 2 with a total annual cost of \$17,765.00 to be split between SSWWD/GSA and EPCWD/GSA. MOTION TO APPROVE OPTION #2 OF THE TRIPEPI SMITH PROPOSAL FOR OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT made by Dana Merrill, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, passed 4-0.

**ITEM 5: NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was presented.

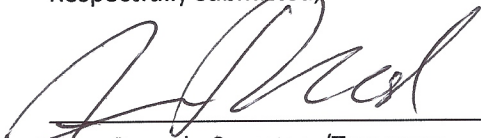
**ITEM 6: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING JUNE 12, 2024**

**ITEM 7: ADJOURNMENT**

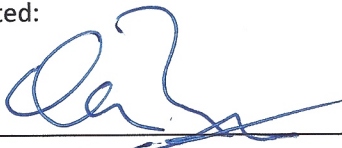
MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, passed 4-0 .

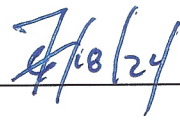
Meeting adjourned at 10:42AM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

  
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Dana Merrill, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
