

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2021

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

Dana Merrill (by videoconference)
Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference)
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)
Hilary Graves (by videoconference)
Herb Rowland (by videoconference)

Others present:

Paul Sorensen, GSI
Alan Doud
Randy Diffenbaugh
Willy Cunha
Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00PM by Dana Merrill.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 11, 2020 MEETING

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

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

Motion passed 4-0 with one abstention.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments submitted.

ITEM 4: UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON STATUS OF WELL NETWORK EXPANSION PROJECT

Jerry Reaugh presented a proposed letter to selected well owners regarding approval from them to collect groundwater level data. A consent form would accompany this letter. Expanding the well network is critical due to the low numbers of wells currently in the GSP network. Data from monitoring wells is critical as groundwater level data is what the GSP and State will ultimately look at to determine whether the Basin is reaching its objectives. The District is targeting 20-30 new wells to be part of the data collection effort.

ITEM 5: UPDATE FROM GSI, INC. ON THE SKYTEM PROJECT

Paul Sorensen presented some preliminary information on the Paso Basin Aerial Groundwater Mapping Pilot Study ("SkyTEM"). A USGS report is just being released which helps to define some of the boundaries, especially in the eastern portion, of the Basin. The SkyTem project data seems to support some of the

features in the USGS report. The aerial mapping data will provide another analysis tool, and is already confirming some of the assumptions made in earlier studies. Draft data from the project will be presented to the Board of Supervisors at an upcoming Supervisors meeting.

ITEM 8: TREASURER’S REPORT (NOTE: THIS ITEM TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)

Jerry Reaugh reported that the 2019 Audit was completed prior to year’s end and that work has begun on the 2020 Audit with the same firm. Our budget is on track with three projects current in process: the Well Network Expansion project; the rollout of the Economic Study by Solterra Strategies; and the ongoing hydrogeologic support provided by GSI, Inc.

The discussion turned to considering policy regarding submission of past-due accounts to the County’s Tax Collector’s Office for collection on behalf of the District. The Board consensus was to establish this policy and move forward with establishing the mechanism with the County.

Discussion of policy regarding assessments on future detachments centered on when to stop assessing a landowner who has requested detachment, and the Board consensus was to cease new assessments as of the date the request for detachment is submitted to LAFCo. Existing unpaid assessments as of that date will be considered due and payable.

Alan Doud clarified that accounts are considered delinquent when they are 6 months past due. He also clarified that the Delinquency and Sale process (which exists in Code), another alternative for pursuing delinquent charges, results in the existence of the delinquent charges being added to the property title.

MOTION TO SET POLICY THAT ACCOUNTS ARE CONSIDERED DELINQUENT AFTER 180 DAYS FROM DUE DATE; THAT DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS WILL BE SENT TO THE COUNTY FOR COLLECTION THROUGH PROPERTY TAX BILLING; AND NEW ASSESSMENTS ON FUTURE DETACHMENTS WILL STOP AS OF THE DATE OF REQUEST FOR DETACHMENT IS FILED WITH LAFCO made by Dana Merrill, seconded by Hilary Graves, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 6: UPDATE FROM HILARY GRAVES ON THE WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2020

Hilary Graves reported that the Supervisors have approved participation in the Delta Conveyance project. There are currently several vacancies on the WRAC. Hilary is part of the Stormwater Capture ad hoc committee. A State Water Management Tool ad hoc committee was formed to develop strategies to maximize State Water usage. There are opportunities to use and/or sell portions of the County’s allocation and need to be looked at.

ITEM 7: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF SOLTERRA STRATEGIES PROPOSAL REGARDING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY

Dana Merrill discussed the continuing importance of getting the word on the Economic Study out to the general public and to stimulate a wider conversation. Solterra Strategies has developed a number of strategies to do that in their proposal.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SOLTERRA STRATEGIES PROPOSAL REGARDING THE ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Hilary Graves, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS

There is an item on the Board of Supervisors' January 26, 2021 meeting regarding developing policy to follow after the Water Neutral New Development ordinance ("Ag Offset" ordinance) expires in January 2022. There is a Paso Basin Cooperative Committee meeting on January 27, 2021.

ITEM 10: NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2021.

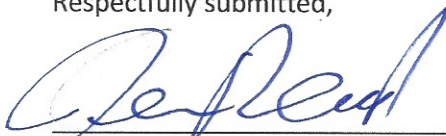
ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

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

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

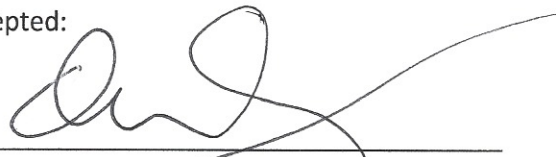
Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:20PM

Respectfully submitted,

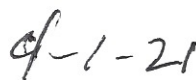


Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President



Date