



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday February 8, 2023

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Roll Call:

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

Others present:

Brett Stroud
Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 PM by Dana Merrill.

ITEM 2: CONSIDER MOTION TO REINVOKE AB361 TO CONTINUE HOLDING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) FOR THE REASONS STATED IN RESOLUTION 2022-003.

MOTION TO REINVOKE AB361 TO CONTINUE HOLDING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) FOR THE REASONS STATED IN RESOLUTION 2022-003 made by Hilary Graves, seconded by

Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2023 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2023 MEETING made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry

Reaugh, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented

ITEM 5: CONSIDER REVISED PROPOSAL FOR CONTINUOUS MONITORING PROGRAM FROM GSI, INC.

Jerry Reaugh reported that the sensors have been ordered. The expected cost will exceed the original proposal amount. Jerry Reaugh will report in March with update on the proposal.

ITEM 6: UPDATE ITEMS

- a. **Joint meeting with Shandon-San Juan Water District January 30, 2023 regarding groundwater sustainability, SGMA, GSP compliance, and project advancement**
Jerry Reaugh reported a meeting attendance of approximately 45 people. Supervisor Bruce Gibson attended and is working on reaching out to stakeholders. Hilary Graves pointed out the value of the joint meeting paradigm and suggested holding joint meetings more frequently with a workshop format. ECPWD's potential reaffirmation of becoming a GSA was discussed. Blaine Reely presented updated information on the MILR program in development at the County.
- b. **SLO County Board of Supervisors meetings January 24, 2023, January 29, 2023 and February 7, 2023**
The supervisors voted to rescind the recently-passed Paso Basin Land Use Management Area ordinance. Dana Merrill reiterated the concern of increasing the exemption from 5 AF to 25 AF that was part of the now-rescinded ordinance. During the supervisors' meeting, Bruce Gibson requested that the EIR be decertified and that staff revisit the Water Neutral New Development ordinance (now back in place as part of the rescission), including looking at off site offsets and following. He also touched on the MILR program and that the best way to manage the Basin was through SGMA as opposed to County Land Use authority.
- c. **Paso Basin Cooperative Committee meeting January 25, 2023 (cancelled, next meeting March 16)**
- d. **Groundwater Levels Monitoring program** (Taken out of order at beginning of Update Items)
Monitoring is scheduled for February, April, August and November. The District is now beginning year three of the program.
- e. **State Water Consulting project (no January meeting, next meeting March 3)**
The potential to use unallocated State Water for the Basin's benefit is being included in possible projects in Blaine Reely's office. The District is willing to support that possibility. Jerry Reaugh reported that DWR has upped the delivery from 5% to 25-30% because of the recent storms. Dana Merrill asked about stream gages, and Jerry Reaugh intends to follow up with Nate Page (GSI, Inc.), and Willy Cunha (SSJWD).
- f. **WRAC meeting February 1, 2023 (no December meeting)**
No update was provided.

ITEM 7: REPORT FROM GSA AD HOC COMMITTEE. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING REAFFIRMING EPCWD'S INTEREST IN BECOMING A GSA

Hilary Graves expressed that it is time to bring up becoming a GSA, and thanked Jerry Reaugh for his work on the possible reaffirmation letter to the Board of Supervisors. Dana Merrill pointed out that becoming a GSA was one of the primary reasons the District was formed. A general discussion of

reaffirmation followed, with consensus on supporting reaffirmation. Kathleen March, a District landowner, expressed support for the District becoming a GSA. Jerry Reaugh stressed that this year is when many GSP implementation decisions will start happening and being part of that process is important.

MOTION TO AFFIRM THE DISTRICT'S INTEREST IN BECOMING A GSA AND INFORMING THE BOARD AS SUCH WITH THE PROPOSED APPROVAL LETTER WITH MINOR ADJUSTMENTS made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Hilary Graves, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Kathleen March requested a copy of the finalized letter.

ITEM 8: CONSIDER AD HOC COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP DISTRICT STATEMENT OF EQUITY INCLUDING OPTIONS FOR REDUCING OVERDRAFT IN EQUITABLE MANNER

Hilary Graves noted that Supervisor Bruce Gibson and various State agencies stress equity as part of the GSP process. An equity statement could be crafted such that it is like a District mission statement, a guiding document going forward. Dana Merrill suggested looking at what other GSAs have done in this regard. Hilary Graves and Lee Nesbitt volunteered to be an ad hoc committee to develop a potential District equity statement. Kathleen March discussed the Cuyama Basin's GSP and approach to cut backs.

Hilary Graves left the meeting at 4:18PM

ITEM 9: TREASURER'S REPORT

No discussion of the Report took place.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

There will be a Town Hall meeting at Robert Hall Winery on 2/15 on Basin issues. Staff reminded the Board that this is an election year with Jerry Reaugh's and Herb Rowland's terms finishing up.

ITEM 11: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – MARCH 8, 2023

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nestbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed, 4-0.

Motion passed 4-0.
Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

3-20-23

Date