



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 8, 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 3:09PM by Dana Merrill.

Directors Roll Call:

Dana Merrill – present
Lee Nesbitt - present
Jerry Reaugh – by teleconference, non-voting
Hilary Graves – present
Herb Rowland - by teleconference, non-voting

Others present:

Blaine Reely – SLO County Director of Groundwater Sustainability
Willy Cunha – Shandon-San Juan Water District
Brent Burchett, SLO Farm Bureau
Patricia Wilmore, PRWCA
Guests (by videoconference)

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2023 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 11, 2023 MEETING made by Herb Rowland, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, passed 3-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

ITEM 4: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF PASO BASIN COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT AMENDMENT #2

Jerry Reaugh gave background on the Amendment at the PBCC. It is intended to allow each GSA to generate RFPs, and to approve and administer contracts. Currently, only Paso Robles City and San Luis Obispo County are allowed to do this. San Miguel declined to approve the Amendment which requires unanimous approval. The Board considered the Amendment and by a MOTION made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Hilary Graves, chose to approve the Amendment as it stands in the event that it is revived and San Miguel CSD chooses to approve. Roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes
Hilary Graves – yes
Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 3-0

ITEM 5: UPDATE ITEMS

a. Groundwater Levels Monitoring

1) Real-time Groundwater Monitoring

The two wells (Airport area and El Pomar area) currently monitoring groundwater levels in real time had “bubblers” installed. This equipment is in addition to the existing monitoring

equipment and was installed in order to test the effectiveness of both systems and for provenance. So far, both types of equipment are returning data that tracks.

2) EPCWD Groundwater Monitoring Network

The next readings were scheduled for November 16 – that reading date has been moved to November 15.

b. SLO County Board of Supervisors meetings October 17, October 31 and November 7, 2023

Staff reported that the appointment of Jerry Reaugh and Herb Rowland in lieu of election took place during the October 31 meeting.

c. WRAC meeting November 1, 2023

Lee Nesbitt reported on the various presentations and agenda items which included a presentation by SLOCOG regarding consideration of water use to be included in future development plans in order to work towards efficiency. Blaine Reely presented a report on using evapotranspiration data as a method of monitoring use. There was a drought update and report on the status of County reservoirs.

d. State Water Subcontractors Committee meeting November 3, 2023

Dana Merrill and Jerry Reaugh have been attending the various meetings and subcommittee meetings. Dana reported that discussions there are now including the topic of how to take advantage of the County's reserved but unused allocation. Some of the other parties may be interested in selling their unused water. The Committee is aware of the EPCWD's proposed project for recharge in the Huer Huero. Dana will be presenting the 5-year proposed recharge project at the upcoming PBCC meeting with the intention for the PBCC to take over next steps. Jerry Reaugh reported that there may be existing funds granted to SLO County for the Salinas dam that might be able to be reallocated to the recharge project. Hilary Graves reminded the Board about how perception works, and the importance of accuracy in describing that State Water is real water, purchased and paid for.

e. PBCC Technical Advisory Committee meetings (MILR, Groundwater Measurement, Blended Water)

1) PBCC meeting October 25, 2023 and all TAC meetings

Jerry Reaugh reported that the Paso Robles City alternate brought up the governing structure of the PBCC and that perhaps there is a better alternative than the MOA. There is now an approved RFP for a fee structure study for short and long term funding for meeting the Basin's SGMA requirements. The contract for the Blended Water Project engineering is approved. Kathleen March (public) asked if any grants were being applied for and Hilary Graves responded with information about the \$7.3M grant received by the County for all basins, \$3.5M of which is going to the Purple Pipe Project and \$1M to San Miguel CSD for their programs.

2) PBCC staff report

Jerry Reaugh reported that Staff recently met and agreed to proceed on the RFP for a PBCC standalone website. The staff has completed the expanded network study and is looking for direction on next steps. There is a survey being prepared for vendors to conduct extraction monitoring. Staff is also working on development of a PBCC budget.

ITEM 6: TREASURER'S REPORT

a. Monthly Financial Status Report

There were no questions or comments on the report.

ITEM 7: NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Reaugh reported that there may be a special PBCC meeting in December to address multiple issues not specified at this time.

ITEM 8: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – DECEMBER 13, 2023

ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT


MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, motion passed 3-0.
Meeting adjourned at 348 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

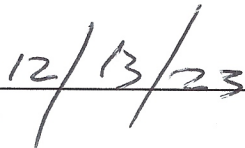


Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President



Date