

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

May 12, 2021

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present:

Dana Merrill (by videoconference, joins at 3:07PM)

Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference)

Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)

Hilary Graves (by videoconference)

Herb Rowland (by videoconference)

Others present:

Paul Sorensen, GSI

Jerry Lohr

Mike Dawson, Solterra Strategies

Alan Doud

Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:04PM by Hilary Graves.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 14 AND APRIL 30, 2021 MEETINGS

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

Jerry Reaugh - yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments submitted.

ITEM 4: PRESENTATION BY JERRY LOHR ON LOHR PUMPING REDUCTION EFFORT

Jerry Lohr and the Lohr Team opened the presentation by giving a brief history of the various approaches that have been taken to address the deficit in the Subbasin including recycled water from Paso Robles, blended water (Nacimiento water plus recycled water), fallowing, etc. The Team provided a slide presentation which offered alternatives to pumping reductions including fallowing, best management practices and the blended water pipeline. Water savings could amount to a total of 14,000AF/Y using these three approaches. New methods of data collection and analysis are available to used focused approaches to best management practices.

ITEM 5: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON PROGRESS ON GSP

This item was tabled to later in the meeting.

ITEM 6: REPORT FROM PAUL SORENSEN OF GSI ON SKYTEM REPORT

The report has been made public and has been presented to the Board of Supervisors and at the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee. Paul summarized some of the findings of the report which focused on the recharge potential in the Subbasin. There are actually three reports contained in the final SkyTEM report: a description of hydrogeology and groundwater flow with a 3-D model; a description of how the data was acquired; and a statistical study of groundwater flow by Stanford. The first report is the most “user friendly” and non-technical, and Paul went on to give examples of the reports results showing the tracks of the data collection and the corresponding cross sections developed from the data. Some new and previously unknown faults are indicated by the SkyTem data, and there is some data that supports a re-defining of the Bulletin 118 boundary of the Subbasin. GSI is in process of taking the raw data from the report and putting it into a 3-D program to help visualize the data. As to next steps, this was a pilot study and now the State is looking at state-wide studies using SkyTem.

ITEM 7: UPDATE ON WRAC MEETING MAY 5 2021

Hilary Graves reported that the main focus of the meeting was the Flood Control District budget. Lee Nesbitt reported that the FCD has some \$3.1million in reserves. While there are no specific actions regarding GSP implementation in the budget apart from preparation of reports such as the County’s Annual Water Report. The next WRAC meeting has an agenda item to discuss the Shandon-San Juan Water District’s applications to the State Water Resources Control Board for Nacimiento water.

ITEM 8: UPDATE ON BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MAY 4, 2021 AND REPORT FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE

The Supervisors voted to approve the draft letter to the State Water Resources Control Board opposing the Shandon-San Juan Water District’s applications, and to send the letter as written. The EPCWD had sent a comment letter approved at the last District meeting to request the Board to consider not sending their letter. This letter did not support or oppose the applications; it just asked the Board to take the time to understand the applications and possible outcomes before opposing them to the SWRCB.

ITEM 9: UPDATE FROM AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE GROUNDWATER LEVEL MONITORING NETWORK PROJECT

Jerry Reaugh reported that the District has registered 33 wells to date. Groundwater level measurements in 23 wells have been taken in the last three weeks. There was a general discussion regarding issuing a press release on the project and a MOTION TO DEVELOP AND ISSUE A PRESS RELEASE USING ASSISTANCE FROM SOLTERRA STRATEGIES was made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Hilary Graves, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 10: RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY TO SUBMIT PAST DUE ASSESSMENT ACCOUNTS TO THE COUNTY FOR COLLECTION

Lee Nesbitt asked the total outstanding balance of past due accounts which is just under \$12,000. There was a discussion regarding sending a letter to all open accounts informing them of the District's intention to submit past due accounts for collection through the County's property tax rolls, and giving them the opportunity to pay in full prior to the District taking that step.

MOTION TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION AND PREPARE A LETTER TO PAST DUE ACCOUNTS was made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Herb Rowland, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Herb Rowland – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Hilary Graves - yes

Motion passed 5-0

ITEM 11: TREASURERS REPORT

- a) Budget – Jerry Reaugh presented a preliminary budget and the decision was made to table discussion until the June 9 meeting.

ITEM 12: NEW BUSINESS – REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACE ON NEXT AGENDA

The 2021 Budget will be addressed at the June 9 meeting. A request was made to discuss the GSP and what the District ought to be looking at in this regard. A request for discussion regarding allocating funds for consulting help regarding State Water was made.

ITEM 5: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDERATION OF COMMENTS TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON PROGRESS ON GSP (TABLED FROM EARLIER IN THE MEETING)

Jerry Reaugh opened the discussion by asking whether the District should comment on the perceived lack of progress on the GSP in terms of implementation. Dana Merrill asked should comments be directed to the Department of Water Resources? Lee Nesbitt asked to focus on what the District could expect to achieve with such comments. The discussion touched on whether such comments would elicit a negative reaction. The next election cycle could be an opportunity for the District's voice to be heard. The Board decided to table further discussion of comments on the GSP to a later date.

ITEM 13: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2021.