

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 14, 2022

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Roll Call:

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

Others present:

Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Hilary Graves.

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 Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2022 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2022 MEETING made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

ITEM 5: UPDATE ITEMS

- a. **Water Neutral New Development ordinance status (Paso Basin Land Use Management Area Planting Ordinance) – Board of Supervisors meeting 12/06/2022**
Jerry Reaugh and Lee Nesbitt attended the meeting. The Board of Supervisors approved the Ordinance by a 3-2 vote. The general consensus of the EPCWD Board is that this is bad policy.
- b. **Groundwater Levels Monitoring program**
Jerry Reaugh presented a summary of the last two years' readings of the wells in the network, with a comparison of August 2021 to August 2022 and November 2021 to November 2022 readings. Of note, water levels in 8 wells increased, while 16 showed a decline. Lee Nesbitt asked if there were any correlation of increase/decline to area and Jerry Reaugh responded to the declines being associated with the "Cone of Depression" and in Almond Dr./El Pomar areas.
- c. **Continuous Monitoring program status**
Jerry Reaugh reported that while the system is not yet fully in place, it is on its way. The equipment should be ordered by the end of January. It looks like being able to upload the readings data to the internet may be within the budget for the program.
- d. **State Water Consulting project and State Water Subcontractors Advisory Committee meeting 11/04/2022**
Jerry Reaugh reported that the County is looking at increasing its back up water supply and emergency allocation. The County has 26,000 AF annually, with an average of 8,900 AF being available. 4500 AF are utilized by active participants, leaving close to an average of 4,500 AF available. This year's allocation is at 5%, although snow pack may lead to an adjustment in that amount.
- e. **Paso Basin Cooperative Committee meeting 10/26/2022**
Jerry Reaugh reported that Blaine Reely, SLO County Director of Groundwater Sustainability, presented the MILR program (fallowing lands). The GSP would develop an extraction fee to fund fallowing of land temporarily in this program. Questions included what would happen to collected funds if no one chose to participate, how would the bidding process work, how would choosing to begin irrigating work and whether PBLUMA would be involved in that process.
- f. **WRAC meetings 10/05/2022 and 11/02/2022**
Lee Nesbit reported on several topics discussed including a presentation on recycled municipal water, funding for the IRWM, Basin management and the Master Water Report to be updated in November 2022.

ITEM 6: TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerry Reaugh presented the Report which included several months due to cancelled meetings. The District is operating within the budget.

ITEM 7: NEW BUSINESS

Hilary Graves attended the Sustainable Ag Expo which covered a number of sustainable practices including such as carbon sequestering, increasing organic matter in soil to increase water retention, and improving soil health in general.

Staff reported that videoconferenced meetings under AB361 will be coming to an end soon and that in-person Board meetings will begin. Staff is investigating the means to videoconference the in-person meetings so that

the public can continue to attend virtually either by videoconference or teleconference, much as is currently taking place.

ITEM 8: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JANUARY 11, 2023

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT


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

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

Motion passed 3-0.


Meeting adjourned at 3:44 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

Date 2/9/23