

**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)**

**Special Meeting Minutes**

**April 2, 2020**

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Directors Present: Lee Nesbitt  
Jerry Reaugh (by phone)  
Dana Merrill (by phone)  
Herb Rowland (by phone)

Others attending: Alan Doud, District Counsel (by phone)  
Tom Berg, State Department of Water Resources (by phone)  
Paul Sorensen, GSI, Inc. (by phone)  
Guests (by phone)

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:06AM.

**ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment submitted.

**ITEM 3: CONSIDER SUBMISSION OF DISTRICT COMMENTS ON THE GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

Dana Merrill opened the discussion by reviewing the options regarding commenting on the GSP:

1) Consider making no comment on the GSP and allowing the comments made to the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee ("PBCC") to be representative. 2) Pursue District comments as part of our responsibility in representing our members. The County, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency ("GSA") for our members has done little to no outreach apart from the publicly-held PBCC meetings. There is no defined reason for the District not to submit comments.

Jerry Reaugh, ad hoc committee, presented comments compiled to date focusing on Governance/Budget, Basin Information System, and the Groundwater Level Monitoring Network, areas of the GSP perceived by the District to be lacking in detail.

In terms of governance, consider having a JPA or an agency provide the governance structure, with advisory committees providing input. The Cuyama Basin has formed a JPA which includes four counties and a total 11 members (including San Luis Obispo County) to provide governance for that basin.

Regarding well monitoring and reporting, the discussion emphasized the need to know how much water is being pumped as a primary data point. Monterey County has established a reporting system that has been in place for 20 years or so. SLO County has no such reporting system in place or proposed as part of the GSP. Outreach to ensure stakeholders understand the fairness of the reporting system would need to be part of the system, otherwise the incentive to record and report accurately could be compromised.

Paul Sorensen described that current monitoring system comprised of 22 wells for the entire Basin, which is not sufficient to adequately measure and therefore represent conditions in the Basin. The

current monitoring system reflects the County's year-old program of keeping the information on the monitoring wells confidential and the need for that data to become more open will require outreach to the monitoring well owners for permission to make the data public, so that the data collected over years can be utilized. There is a need to analyze the monitoring network to determine the extent of data gaps.

Tom Berg of the Department of Water Resources clarified that he will not be personally reviewing the Basin GSP due to his involvement in Basin oversight for DWR, and that the DWR will be reviewing the GSPs for adequacy, not directly approving them at this time. There will be a preliminary review for adequacy with the full review to be completed within two years. Comments directed towards where the Plan is perceived to be adequate or inadequate would be most helpful to DWR and stand the best chance of being incorporated.

**ITEM 4: NEW BUSINESS**

Jerry Reaugh proposed bring edited comments to the next regular meeting scheduled for April 15, 2020 for consideration as an action item.

**ITEM 5: ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, passes 4-0 on roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – aye

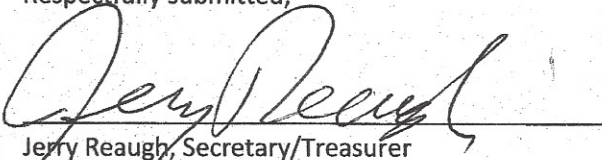
Jerry Reaugh – aye

Lee Nesbitt – aye

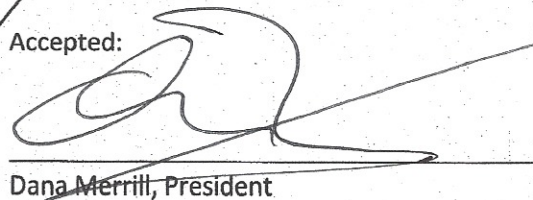
Herb Rowland – aye

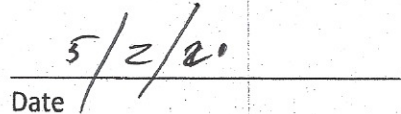
Meeting adjourned at 10:29AM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

  
Dana Merrill, President

  
Date