

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2020

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present: Dana Merrill (by videoconference)
Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference))
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)
Hilary Graves (by videoconference)
Herb Rowland (by teleconference, joins at 3:07PM)

Others present: Paul Sorensen, GSI
Nat Page, GSI
Lee Knudtson, GSI
Alan Doud
Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

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

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2020 MEETING

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

Dana Merrill – abstain
Hilary Graves – yes
Jerry Reaugh – yes
Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment submitted.

ITEM 4: UPDATE FROM JERRY REAUGH ON RECYCLED/LENDED WATER PROJECT

Jerry Reaugh reported that the project is still alive, with Paso Robles City actively looking for users for its recycled water. The recycled water could be blended with Nacimiento water to provide suitable water for irrigation. While the project was mentioned in the County's First Annual GSP report, the project was not mentioned in the GSP as a possibility during implantation, and the County's support is needed going forward on this project. Willy Cunha pointed out that Prop 68 grant monies are on their way and could be used to help fund this project, at least in part.

ITEM 5: REPORT FROM PAUL SORENSEN OF GSI ON STATUS OF WELL EXPANSION PROJECT

Paul reported that the initial work to determine wells that could be considered to expand the network has been completed and GSI staff presented slides showing the various possibilities. It would be preferable to have these additional wells begin measuring water levels and report production if possible in order to gather more usable data, with initial readings being more frequent (preferably weekly) until baseline

patterns for individual wells can be determined. The discussion continued around whether to try and enlist as many wells owners as possible in the project, or start by focusing on those owners within data gaps. AS more data is collected and analyzed, the number of wells that best represent the various areas within the District could be pared down to avoid duplication of effort in nearby wells that perform in similar ways. The question of how to obtain the measurements breaks down into whether the District should hire staff to take the measurements, depend on the measurements from well owners, or contract with an outside service to take the measurements. The Ad Hoc committee of Jerry Reaugh and Dana Merrill will meet with Paul to formulate a list of well owners to contact.

ITEM 6: REPORT FROM PAUL SORENSEN OF GSI ON RECHARGE PROJECT

Shandon-San Juan and EPC need to determine whether the project is ready to finalize or if more work is needed. The preliminary report indicated areas for recharge possibility though Jerry Reaugh pointed out that they have somewhat limited return. Paul Sorensen reported that there are proposed work plans in draft form currently, but are awaiting the results of the Sky Tem study which the County says will be released "soon".

ITEM 7: REPORT FROM PAUL SORENSEN OF GSI ON GSP/SGMA ACTIVITIES

There was a GSA staff meeting in August with a PBCC meeting scheduled for September 23 at 4PM. Willy Cunha would like to see the GSAs develop a budget for implementation and determine how to fund that budget. There is \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 of Prop 68 grant monies with 25% matching for real projects such as recycled water.

ITEM 8: TREASURERS REPORT

Collections for 2020 assessments now stand at 68%. Dana Merrill asked staff to provide a list of the current receivables accounts and for Directors to indicate who they will be contacting.

ITEM 9: UPDATE ON ECONOMIC REPORT AND SOLTERRA STRATEGIES WORK ON ROLLOUT

The Economic Report was debuted at the recent Central Coast Insights webinar series, follow by publication in Wine Business Monthly. There is more follow up in the media to come, which will continue to provide more input on the message about the depth of the effect of across-the-board pumping restrictions.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

Staff requested direction on whether to begin assessing late fees on past due accounts for 2020 assessments, and there was consensus to hold off for now due to Covid and other factors, and to reconsider after November 1.

MOTION TO GENERATE ACCOUNT STATEMENTS WITHOUT ASSESSING LATE FEES ON 2020 PAST DUE ACCOUNTS made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Hilary Graves, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Additional New Business included the mention that Farm Bureau, the County Ag Commissioner's office and the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance will offer a Zoom meeting on 9/23 from 3:00pm to 4:30pm regarding the protocol for the County's reopening in regards to agriculture.

ITEM 11: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 14, 2020

The next regular Board meeting will be on October 14, 2020 at 3PM.

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN 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

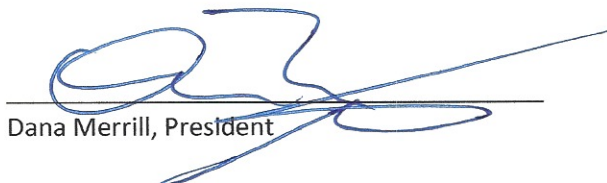
Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:43PM

Respectfully submitted,

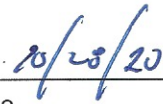


Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President



Date