



**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 14, 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 3:02PM by Hilary Graves

Directors Roll Call:

Dana Merrill – absent (joins at 3:05PM)

Lee Nesbitt - present

Jerry Reaugh - absent

Hilary Graves – present

Herb Rowland - present

Others present:

Blaine Reely

Brent Burchett

Guests (in person and videoconference)

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2023 AND MAY 15, 2023 MEETINGS

MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FOR MAY 10, 2023 AND MAY 15, 2023 MEETINGS made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Herb Rowland, voice vote:

Motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

ITEM 4: CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL RESOLUTION 2023-003 ANNOUNCING THE NOVEMBER 2023 DISTRICT ELECTION AND PROCEDURES RELATED THERETO

MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2023-003 ANNOUNCING THE NOVEMBER 2023 DISTRICT ELECTION AND PROCEDURES RELATED THERETO made by Herb Rowland, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – absent

Hilary Graves – yes

Jerry Reaugh – absent

Herb Rowland – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 3-0

Dana Merrill joins meeting at 3:05PM

ITEM 5: CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FROM LONI LYTTLE OF ADVANCED VITICULTURE CONSULTING, INC. TO PROVIDE GRANT WRITING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE EVENT OF A SUCCESSFUL GRANT

APPLICATION FOR THE UPCOMING STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (SWEEP) BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM.

Loni Lyttle reviewed the SWEEP block grant program and indicated that she believes that EPCWD is competitive as a GSA for funds. The applications are due on Monday, June 19 and the Board formed a standing committee to assist in the application completion process and ongoing SWEEP matters (Loni Lyttle, Hilary Graves, Mark Greenspan, Noah Small, Lauren Meisner). Hilary Graves asked if and how the various projects will be able to quantify how much water is being saved/not used to which Loni Lyttle responded that it is extremely likely that every project will include flow meters.

Part of Loni Lyttle's proposal includes the fulfilling the outreach requirement in the grants through the Vineyard Team, Farm Bureau, etc. Projects will be submitted to the Board for review and approval on a periodic schedule. Hilary Graves asked if non-District members could apply for grant funds and the answer is yes. It would be at the Board's discretion how to prioritize grant recipients' projects. Hilary Graves asked how long the funds are available if granted by CDFA; three years. The approved grants should be announced and funds made available as of November of 2023. Dana Merrill asked if there is a means test for recipients; No. All grant funds are paid on a reimbursement basis. 15% of the total grant can be used for grant administration, and 5% for technical assistance (to be provided by Devin Best of the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District). There are direct cost funds in the administration funds for outreach.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL AS PRESENTED BY LONI LYTTLE OF ADVANCED VITICULTURE CONSULTING, INC. TO PROVIDE GRANT WRITING AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE EVENT OF A SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE UPCOMING STATE WATER EFFICIENCY AND ENHANCEMENT (SWEEP) BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Herb Rowland, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Herb Rowland – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Jerry Reaugh – absent

Motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 6: UPDATE ITEMS

a. Real-time Groundwater Levels Monitoring project

No update provided.

b. SLO County Board of Supervisors meetings May 16 and June 6, 2023

The Board of Supervisors voted in their June 6, 2023 meeting to relinquish GSA control of properties within EPCWD boundaries. Blaine Reely reported that he has a meeting on June 15 with DWR to establish logistics and amend the GSA notice. Blaine confirmed that the revised map of the District boundaries is complete. Lee Nesbitt asked if a new application will be needed from the District to which Blaine responded that it is likely. Hilary Graves asked if there is someone from Blaine's group/the County who would be available to be part of the SWEEP standing committee to which Blaine responded that their group is stretched thin right now.

c. Groundwater Levels Monitoring program

No update provided.

d. WRAC meeting June 7, 2023

Lee Nesbitt reported on the pilot project to compile all data from the Basin by November of this year. The Committee is revising its bylaws and discussed being more open to the public. The wind machine ordinance was discussed.

ITEM 7: TREASURER'S REPORT

a. Monthly Financial Status Report

No questions.

b. Consider final 2023-2024 Budget for approval

Hilary Graves utilized notes prepared by Jerry Reaugh to discuss the budget. The only change, instituted because of the unknown costs of becoming/participating as a GSA in the PBCC was to increase the assessment level for irrigated acreage to \$5.00 (from \$4.50). Dana Merrill reminded the Board that PBCC costs to date have been offset by State grant monies. Blaine Reely reported that the budgeted amount of \$30,000 for the District's proportional share of the annual report should be sufficient.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FINAL 2023-2024 BUDGET made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Herb Rowland – yes

Jerry Reaugh – absent

Motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 8: NEW BUSINESS

Dana Merrill brought up that there are unutilized funds left in the State Water Consulting project which, if added to approximately \$3,000 or less proposed by Provost & Pritchard, could finish up their work on the project. State Water is now on the PBCC agenda, along with blended water. Is there a way to use unallocated water in conjunction with other purveyors? Could the District request unallocated State water if the PBCC does not pursue it? Hilary Graves asked that staff agendize a discussion of State Water on the next meeting agenda (July 12). Hilary Graves asked for clarification on the way different committees work (ad hoc, standing, etc.) at the next meeting, including whether non-District members can participate in committees.

ITEM 9: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JULY 12, 2023

ITEM 10: ADJOURNMENT


MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Herb Rowland, voice vote:
Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:01PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

8-14-23

Date