



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPCGSA)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
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 2:02PM by Hilary Graves

Directors Roll Call:

Hilary Graves – present

Lee Nesbitt - present

Ryan Scott – present

Zach Merkel – present

Eric Pooler - absent

Others present: Guests (in person and by teleconference)

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment presented.

ITEM 3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2025 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVES THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 2025 MEETING made by Ryan Scott, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

ITEMS 4: CONSIDER SUBMISSION OF BALLOT FOR LAFCO SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE SEAT

There was no consensus on the ballot and no ballot was approved for submission.

ITEM 5: CONSIDER DIRECTION TO EPCWD/GSA STAFF REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN PRAGA MEETINGS (EPCWD/GSA STAFF)

Hilary Graves opened the discussion with background on the request from Matt Turrentine (PRAGA Board President) for EPCWD/GSA staff member Laurie Gage and SSJWD/GSA staff member Stephanie Bertoux to attend the PRAGA staff meetings. Ryan Scott offered that it would be a positive thing to have Laurie Gage's experiential history, perspective and participation.

MOTION TO DIRECT EPCWD/GSA STAFF TO CONTINUE PARTICIPATION IN PRAGA STAFF MEETINGS made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Ryan Scott, voice vote.

Motion carried 4-0-0.

ITEM 6: CONSIDER MODIFICATIONS TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CHECK SIGNATURES AND LEVELS OF APPROVAL (EPCWD/GSA STAFF)

EPCWD staff summarized the current check signature and authorization policies, and suggested modifications to allow the Secretary/Treasurer to authorize and sign checks less than \$500; checks from \$501 to \$5000 would require written (including email) authorization of the President or Vice President and could be signed by the

Secretary/Treasurer or a board member; checks over \$5001 would require written (including email) authorization of the Board and could be signed by the Secretary/Treasurer and one board member, or by two board members.

Member of the public Murray Powell suggested a monthly report of disbursements paid and unpaid, and Hilary Grave included in the motion to adopt the modifications the inclusion of such a report in the monthly Treasurers Report.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE SUGGESTED MODIFICATIONS TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CHECK SIGNATURES AND LEVELS OF APPROVAL AND TO INCLUDE A MONTHLY REPORT OF PAID AND UNPAID DISBURSEMENTS IN THE TREASURERS REPORT made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Zach Merkel, voice vote. Motion carried 4-0-0.

ITEM 7: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDER FOR APPROVAL ALTUM AQUA LOGIC PROPOSAL FOR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH WORKSHOP JOINTLY WITH SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT/GSA

The discussion included a suggested date of February 23 in a single-day event with multiple opportunities throughout the day for people to attend. The agenda could be developed from the recent PRAGA meetings on budget and funding mechanism options, along with stakeholder representation options. The total contract of \$1500 would be split between EPCWD/GSA and SSJWD/GSA at \$750 each.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE ALTUM AQUA LOGIC PROPOSAL FOR EDUCATION AND OUTREACH WORKSHOP JOINTLY WITH SHANDON-SAN JUEAN WATER DISTRICT/GSA made by Ryan Scott, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

- Hilary Graves – yes
- Ryan Scott – yes
- Lee Nesbitt – yes
- Zach Merkel – yes
- Eric Pooler – absent

Motion carried 4-0-0

ITEM 8: DISCUSS AND CONSIDER DIRECTION FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2026 PRAGA BOARD MEETING REGARDING STAKEHOLDER REPRESENTATION AND FUNDING MECHANISM OPTIONS

Hilary Graves recounted the meeting Steve Sinton convened with results presented to the PRAGA Board for more diverse representation on the PRAGA Board. The discussion continued and touched on whether it would be advisable to incur the expense necessary to change the JPA agreement, how more members on the Board could affect flexibility and nimbleness, how many members to add and who they would represent, and changes to the voting structure. The general consensus was that there is acceptance of the SGMA-required costs in the PRAGA budget, but how to manage undesirable results needs to be addressed, as opposed to viewing the issue as how to reduce/eliminate the overdraft. Option 2 from the PRAGA February 18 meeting with a non-Brown-Act advisory committee gathered the firmest consensus during the discussion.

The discussion moved to funding mechanism options. The SGMA-required budget items make up the bulk of the proposed budget. Funding projects is a conversation for down the line when additional data on the Basin helps determine direction. Hilary Graves referenced the funding structure that Napa Valley has adopted. The comparison of Prop 218 versus Prop 26 as the funding mechanism was discussed in depth, with the consensus of the Board being that Prop 26, with its one-year timeframe and no project funding, was the way to move forward.

ITEM 9: TREASURERS REPORT DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026

No comments were submitted.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

No new business items were submitted.

ITEM 11: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – MARCH 11, 2026

ITEM 16: ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 3:44PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Gage, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

Hilary Graves, President

Date

