



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPCGSA)
Special Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 30, 2025
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 2:01 PM by Dana Merrill.

Directors Roll Call:

Dana Merrill – present
Lee Nesbitt - present
Jerry Reaugh – present
Hilary Graves – absent (joins at 2:14PM)
Ryan Scott - present

Others present: Alan Doud
Guests (in person and by teleconference)

ITEM 2: PUBLIC COMMENT

Paul Hoover (guest) asked questions about whether fees assessed for Basin management would require a Prop 218 vote (yes); how would such a vote be tallied (1 parcel, 1 vote); how would the opportunity to participate in the process be presented (formal notice with explanation); would the fees be levied on the County property tax rolls (yes, with the fees likely assessed by acreage); how are those fees being arrived at (we are not there yet); what is the current Basin deficit (varies by year but from 15,000 AF to -1,000 AF). The discussion turned to responses to the PBCC Town Hall meeting on December 16, 2024 where the general consensus was that the “Keep the Lights On” funding is generally accepted, but concerns persist regarding creating a new bureaucracy and keeping the budget trim.

ITEM 3: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DRAFT JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT – 5-PARTY (VERSION INCLUDED IN EMAIL DATED JANUARY 21, 2025 AT 5:34PM FROM BLAINE REELY)

Jerry Reaugh covered the history of this version of the JPA which includes all current GSA members of the PBCC. EPCWD has proposed language for the voting structure which includes at least two of three GSAs (County, EPCWD, SSJWD) voting in the majority. San Miguel Community Services District has indicated that it may not choose to continue as part of the JPA and with that in mind, a 4-party JPA has been developed (see next item). Handouts were distributed that described the different Board powers and which require a 3/5 and which require a 4/5 vote in the 5-party version. The 4-party version requires a majority 3/5 vote on all issues. MOTION TO APPROVE THE DRAFT JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT – 5-PARTY (VERSION INCLUDED IN EMAIL DATED JANUARY 21, 2025 AT 5:34PM FROM BLAINE REELY) made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Dana Merrill, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Hilary Graves – yes
Jerry Reaugh – yes
Lee Nesbitt – yes
Ryan Scott – yes

Motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 4: CONSIDER APPROVAL OF DRAFT JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT – 4-PARTY

MOTION TO APPROVAL OF DRAFT JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT – 4-PARTY made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Dana Merrill, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes
Hilary Graves – yes
Jerry Reaugh – yes
Lee Nesbitt – yes
Ryan Scott – yes

Motion passed 5-0

The discussion continued regarding both version of the JPA and next steps. Hilary Graves asked whether returning to the table and asking for a 4/5 vote for all items should be considered. Alan Doud responded that the prior same request had a negative response. Perhaps some of the powers should be proposed to be moved from 3/5 to 4/5. At this time, it would appear that the County, Paso Robles City and SMCSO are all not supporting the 2/3 (County, EPCWD, SSJWD) proposal. Would a public discussion with those entities be beneficial to clarify their opposition? Hilary Graves reported that some Central Valley GSAs are considering exit strategies from their similar agency agreements. Lee Nesbitt pointed out that the relative small size of the deficit doesn't seem unsurmountable and may be more easily achievable than otherwise thought. Hilary Graves would like to see a public discussion with all five GSAs.

ITEM 5: NEW BUSINESS

Hilary Graves reported on a recent meeting she attended where demand in the wine industry has declined for a variety of reasons, and that it is estimated by some that 50,000 acres of grapes would need to be removed to balance supply and demand. The Central Valley has already reduced its acreage substantially, so responsibility for further removal may lie more heavily with the Coastal growers.

ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 12, 2025

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

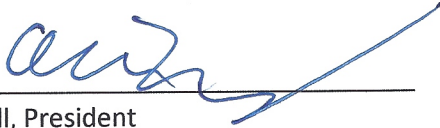
MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote, motion passed 5-0.
Meeting adjourned at 3:19PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

2-25-25

Date