

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2018

Windfall Farms Conference Room, 4710 Flying Paster Lane, Paso Robles, CA 93446

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present: Hilary Graves
Dana Merrill
Lee Nesbitt
Jerry Reaugh
Al Webster

Others Present: Laurie Gage, District Administrator
Ernest Conant, Young Wooldridge (by phone)
Guests

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:31PM by Dana Merrill

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 21, 2018 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Al Webster, passed unanimously.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

Member Marcia Rice thanked the District for the work to date.

ITEM 4: RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE PROPOSITION 218 PROTEST BALLOT RESULTS AS SUBMITTED BY MEMORANDUM FROM KARI WAGNER DATED MARCH 9, 2018

MOTION TO ADOPT PROP 218 RESULTS made by Al Webster, seconded by Hilary Graves. Passed unanimously with a roll call vote: Al Webster – YES; Hilary Graves – YES; Lee Nesbitt – YES; Jerry Reaugh – YES; Dana Merrill - YES

ITEM 5: REVIEW AND APPROVE DISTRICT DATA REQUEST CHANGES AS PER MEMORANDUM FROM KARI WAGNER DATED MARCH 9, 2018

Jerry Reaugh noted that the changes are those that came in after during and after the ballot processing by Kari Wagner.

MOTION TO APPROVE DATA REQUEST CHANGES AS PER MEMORANDUM FROM KARI WAGNER DATED MARCH 9, 2018. Passed unanimously with a roll call vote: Al Webster – YES; Hilary Graves – YES; Lee Nesbitt – YES; Jerry Reaugh – YES; Dana Merrill - YES

ITEM 6: UPDATE FROM AL WEBSTER ON SLO CHAPTER CSDA MEETING 02/23/2018. CONSIDER SLATE OF CANDIDATES FOR LAFCO SD ALTERNATIVE SEAT

Al Webster noted that there was not a quorum at the meeting and so the vote had not taken place during the meeting. He suggested the District consider Dan Burgess for the SD alternate seat on LAFCO.

MOTION TO VOTE FOR DAN BURGESS FOR THE SPECIAL DISTRICT ALTERNATE SEAT ON LAFCO made by Al Webster, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, passed unanimously.

ITEM 7: RECEIVE RESIGNATION LETTER FROM AL WEBSTER. DISCUSS PROCESS FOR REPLACEMENT AS OUTLINED IN MEMO FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL

Dana Merrill proposed a subcommittee of two board directors to review proposed candidates

MOTION TO APPROVE FORMATION OF A SUBCOMMITTEE COMPOSED OF HILARY GRAVES AND LEE NESBITT TO REVIEW PROPOSED CANDIDATES FOR THE VACANT DIRECTOR'S made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, passed unanimously.

ITEM 8: APPROVE FORMAL LETTER TO THE WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE ("WRAC") REQUESTING MEMBERSHIP

Hilary Graves asked whether the proposed member and alternate were required to be Directors. It may be anyone designated by the Board.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE FORMAL LETTER, APPOINT LEE NESBITT AS PRIMARY MEMBER AND HILARY GRAVES AS ALTERNATE made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Al Webster, passed unanimously.

ITEM 9: DISCUSSION OF STEPS FORWARD IN RESPONSE TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DECISION NOT TO RELINQUISH GSA AUTHORITY FOR THE EPCWD SERVICE AREA

Dana Merrill led a general discussion of what occurred at the Board of Supervisors meeting when the decision not to relinquish GSA authority was made by the Supervisors. Included in the discussion were the ideas of forming a committee of two Directors to discuss next steps with District Counsel, Ernest Conant; that the Board of Supervisors could change that decision at a future date if presented with another request from the District; that the District could consider becoming a partner with another GSA or GSAs as "GSA Partner" is left undefined in the LAFCO conditions for District formation; building a record of participating in Basin-related committees and considerations; continue to submit information to firms such as Hydrometrics; continue to consider projects that would enhance water management in the District service area (such as slowing Huer Huero flow and Paso Robles City purple pipe projects); pursue grant funding for projects.

Dana Merrill appointed an ad hoc committee of Dana Merrill and Jerry Reaugh to talk to Ernest Conant and Shandon-San Juan regarding partnering. Jerry Reaugh suggested a letter to Dick McKinley (Public Works Director, Paso Robles) regarding purple pipe project. Hilary Graves recommended that someone from the EPCWD attend the Shandon-San Juan Board of Directors meeting on March 27, 2018; Jerry Reaugh and Dana Merrill will go and make a public statement regarding partnering with the S-SJ District.

ITEM 10: TREASURER'S REPORT AND PROPOSED 2018 OPERATING BUDGET

Jerry Reaugh summarized his letter and described the Prop 218 assessment versus Operating Budget. The assessment rates that were approved by the membership through the Prop 218 vote are: \$35/acre for irrigated lands; \$0.59/acre for non-irrigated lands; \$15 for one residence; \$50 minimum per owner. Because of the changing scope of the District's activities, the proposed Operating Budget reflects lower assessment rates than those of the Prop 218 vote.

There was a general discussion regarding increasing line items in the budget for pursuing projects.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED 2018 OPERATING BUDGET WITH AN INCREASE BY \$25,000 TO BUDGET ITEM #3 (CHANGED TO "STUDIES AND INVESTIGATIONS") AND BY \$25,000 TO BUDGET ITEM #4 ("ENGINEERING SERVICES") AND WITH PROPORTIONAL CHANGES TO THE ASSESSMENT LEVELS made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Al Webster and passed unanimously by roll call vote: Al Webster – YES; Hilary Graves – YES; Lee Nesbitt – YES; Jerry Reaugh – YES; Dana Merrill – YES. Jerry Reaugh will report back for the minutes what the adjusted assessment rates will be.

Note: Proportional changes to the assessments reported back by Jerry Reaugh resulted in an assessment of \$13/acre for Irrigated Lands; Non-irrigated Lands at \$0.20/acre; no changes to residential, commercial or minimum assessments.

ITEM 11: DISCUSSION OF FOLLOW-UP ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING

- a. Adoption of a Conflict of Interest Code within 6 months, with Forms 700 submitted by Directors in the meantime. Jerry Reaugh suggested adopting the Cooperative Committee's Conflict of Interest Code adapted to the District needs and vote on at next meeting. Jerry Reaugh will check on how often the Form 700 needs to be completed.

ITEM 12: NEW BUSINESS – REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON NEXT AGENDA

None proposed.

ITEM 13: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next Board of Director meeting was scheduled for April 11, 2018.

ITEM 14: ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements made.

ITEM #3: PUBLIC COMMENT

At the request of members of the audience, public comment was reopened at this point.

Patricia Wilmore of the Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance and Jerry Lohr both made comments.


ITEM 15: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION to adjourn made by Al Webster, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 5:10PM

Respectfully submitted,


Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:


Dana Merrill, President

5/9/18
Date