

**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)**

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**May 20, 2020**

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Directors Present: Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference)  
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)  
Dana Merrill (by videoconference)  
Hilary Graves (by videoconference)  
Herb Rowland (by videoconference)  
Alan Doud (by videoconference)  
Mark Battany (by videoconference)  
Paul Sorensen, GSI (by videoconference)  
Ailco Wolf, GSI (by videoconference)  
Jeff Barry, GSI (by videoconference)  
Nate Page, GSI (by videoconference)  
Randy Diffenbaugh (by videoconference)  
Guests (by phone and videoconference)

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:05PM.

**ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2020, APRIL 29, 2020 AND MAY 6, 2020**

**MEETINGS**

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes  
Jerry Reaugh – yes  
Lee Nesbitt – yes  
Hilary Graves – yes  
Herb Rowland - yes  
Passed 5-0.

**ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment submitted.

**ITEM 4: PRESENTATION BY MARK BATTANY, FARM ADVISOR, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, ON  
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

Mr. Battany presented a series slides of methods of measuring evapotranspiration using satellites, and based on either vegetation index (NDVI) or thermal imaging. He noted the Irrisat website ([www.irrisat.com](http://www.irrisat.com)) which provides data collected by satellite. The Irrisat program can calculate the crop irrigation coefficient based on the data, as well as the crop growth, crop water use and daily evapotranspiration. Historical imagery is also available. This method is fairly course and was developed to help irrigation managers, but would be useful to compare to other data tools. Ground truthing of the data, working with the irrigation managers to know what the conditions were at specific data points can prevent errors. He then moved on to methods of thermal imaging of

evapotranspiration. A website (<https://etdata.org/>), in the works but not yet available until possibly 2021 which will be an extremely comprehensive data resource for anything evapotranspiration in the US. Cal Poly has also developed thermal data metrics at <http://www.itrc.org/projects/metric.htm>, a pay-for-use service. He then presented slides that showed how thermal imaging compared to NDVI. Since the satellites pass over the area daily at approximately 10:30AM, and very quickly, does the data captured then be extrapolated for the entire day? This may be the challenge of using thermal data. Calibrating the satellite data with measured evapotranspiration conditions on the ground allows for model refinement. He then discussed various methods of measuring evapotranspiration on the ground. There are several measurement stations, which can then be combined with weather stations to further refine evapotranspiration data. Other data points include moisture sensors, frost conditions and inversion data. There are a number of weather stations making such measurements across the Basin currently, and Mr. Battany is looking for further sites that could be utilized.

#### **ITEM 5: GSI UPDATE AND PRESENTATION ON PASO ROBLES BASIN FLOOD WATER CAPTURE FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Ailco Wolf of GSI opened the update with a discussion of the basic processes that were used in the Study. The Study objectives were to identify optimum stormwater recharge areas and to quantify capturable stormwater. Success of capture depends on a high rate transmission of water into the receiving aquifer and lateral transmission away from point of capture. Multiple data sets were used to develop the data and get to the objectives, including Slope Index, Saturated Soil Hydraulic Conductivity, and Aquifer Hydraulic Conductivity. Multiple potential sites were developed and then potential capturable stormwater was looked at for each. The results show that the sites with the highest potential for recharge also have the lowest streamflow to be captured. Artificial recharge from supplemental sources might need to be considered. Jeff Barry described next steps. A discussion of potential supplemental sources followed, along with discussion of the GSP model and using it to determine the extent of the benefit of recharge of water in certain locations as outlined in the Study. Paul Sorensen/GSI will develop a memo to the Board and the board of Shandon-San Juan Water District (joint participants in the Study) with a summary of the Study and consideration of next steps.

#### **ITEM 6: GSI UPDATE ON EXPANSION OF WELL MONITORING NETWORK**

Paul Sorensen of GSI presented information on the existing well network (the GSP Representative Monitoring System) and possibilities for expansion of that network using existing wells and new monitoring wells. Wells were identified by the GSP which could be included to expand the network. There is a need for well owners to agree allow the data to be public for the wells to be included in the network. There are wells in the County monitoring program that are confidential, but could be made public with owner agreement. The DWR maintains a database of Well Completion Reports which could help identify wells that might be included. There are a number of wells within the S-SJWD area that have data in the DWR database whose owners could be approached. Some wells were found using Google Earth, though some could be stock tanks. GSI and Randy Dffenbaugh of S-SJWD are going to establish priorities for well owner contact within the S-SJWD area. A similar approach could be used for EPCWD. Jerry Reaugh asked about projected cost for such a project; a few to several thousand was Paul Sorensen's estimate. Paul Sorensen responded to a question from Herb Rowland regarding what would qualify/disqualify a well to be considered by indicating that location and well construction details are most important.



Jerry Reaugh asked for a summary of the helicopter flyover project status. Paul Sorensen indicated that the project leaders are creating cross sections of the data which has yet to be released, and that the comparison of those cross sections to the geologic and hydrogeologic data from the Fugro study is in process. There are places where the data agree, and places where they diverge. The report may be out by late summer.

**ITEM 7: GSI UPDATE ON INITIATIVES TO MEASURE AND RECORD WATER LEVEL AND EXTRATION DATA. CONSIDER FORMATION OF A SUBCOMMITTEE TO REVIEW EXISTING PROGRAMS SUCH AS IN MONTEREY COUNTY AND INVITE SHANDON-SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT TO WORK TOGETHER ON THIS**

Dana Merrill suggested tabling this topic to the next meeting when a subcommittee composed of Randy Diffenbaugh, Willy Cunha, Dana Merrill and Jerry Reaugh can meet and discuss, then present to both Boards.

**ITEM 8: CONSIDERATION OF A LTTER FROM THE DISTRICT REGARDING THE NEED FOR A FALLOWING PROGRAM TO THE SLO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ITS MEETING ON JUNE 11 ON THE WATER NEUTRAL NEW DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

Jerry Reaugh described the Planning Commission hearing scheduled for June 11 which includes an update to Basin boundaries to coincide with Bulletin 118 boundaries; redefining the area of severe decline; and a fallowing program. Some fear that fallowing at this time may allow for a loss of pumping rights because of the Ordinance. There is a program at the County currently which defines water credits, but it expires with the Ordinance. So a solid fallowing program that encourages farmers to participate is essential. S-SJWD has developed comments that have been submitted to the County and perhaps EPCWD should consider something similar.

MOTION TO WRITE A LETTER TO SLO COUNTY IN SUPPORT OF A FALLOWING PROGRAM made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

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

Motion passes 5-0. Hilary Graves and Jerry Reaugh will write a draft letter and present it for approval at the June 10, 2020 meeting.

**ITEM 9: TREASURERS REPORT**

Jerry Reaugh presented a report which showed the prior two years expenditures, current anticipated expenditures and the proposed budget for the District. With sufficient reserve funds and projected funds for various anticipated and unanticipated projects, the proposed budget allows for a stable assessment rate from last year to this, with no change in assessment levels for irrigated acreage, non-irrigate acreage, residences or commercial/industrial.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 5-0.

Hilary Graves requested tabling Item #s 10 and 11 until the next meeting

**ITEM 10: CONSIDER PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEER FOR RWMG WORKING GROUP TO IMPLEMENT THE STORM WATER RESOURCE PLAN**

Tabled until next meeting.

**ITEM 11: UPDATE ON ECONOMIC REPORT AND SOLTERRA STRATEGIES WORK ON ROLLOUT**

Tabled until next meeting.

**ITEM 12: NEW BUSINESS**

None submitted.

**ITEM 13: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 3:00PM.

**ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh. Roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

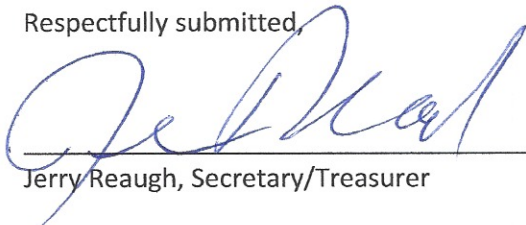
Hilary Graves – yes

Herb Rowland – yes

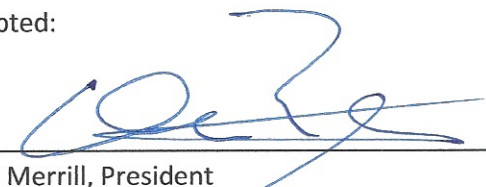
Lee Nesbitt – yes

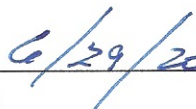
Motion passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:15PM

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dana Merrill, President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date