

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2020

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present: Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference, joins at 3:12PM)
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)
Dana Merrill (by videoconference)
Hilary Graves (by videoconference)
Alan Doud (by videoconference)
Paul Sorensen, GSI (by videoconference)
Randy Diffenbaugh (by videoconference)
Guests (by phone and videoconference)

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:01PM.

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 20, 2020 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment submitted.

**ITEM 4: REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEE ON PROGRAM TO RECORD WATER LEVEL AND
EXTRATION DATA**

The subcommittee has met and discussed different paradigms for developing a program to record water levels and extraction data by members. Monterey County has had a program in place for some 30 years which utilizes monthly readings and annual reporting, compiled by crop and by area. A similar program here could be in-house with staff recording and auditing reporting, or could be outsourced to a third party provider. Cuyama Basin is using satellite measurement of water applied by crop. Land IQ (satellite) could be utilized in the District with ground truthing to confirm readings. Semi-Tropic is using Land IQ and bills according to usage from that data. The subcommittee considered and suggests working with Shandon-San Juan Water District to maintain uniformity.

**ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER FROM THE DISTRICT REGARDING THE NEED FOR A
FOLLOWING PROGRAM TO THE SLO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION FOR ITS MEETING ON JUNE
11 ON THE WATER NEUTRAL NEW DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE**

This item discussion was tabled until later in the meeting.

ITEM 6: CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM GSI WATER SOLUTIONS, INC TO STUDY EXPANSION OF THE WELL MONITORING NETWORK.

Paul Sorensen of GSI Water Solutions, Inc. presented a contract to study increasing the monitoring well network for the Basin at a cost of \$11,000. Discussion centered on how many wells would be needed to fill data gaps, whether EPCWD and SSJWD should work in concert on this, how to develop a list of potential wells on members' properties and whether this is something that should be handled by the GSA. Randy Diffenbaugh is currently investigating costs to hire a third-party service to read measurements, and to install transducers in wells and transmit by telemetry. Hilary Graves asked for clarification whether there were funds in the current budget for such a proposal to which Jerry Reaugh confirmed that the budget includes set-aside funds for projects such as this.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PROPOSAL FROM GSI WATER SOLUTIONS, INC AND FUND made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 5: CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER 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 reported on the staff report for the Planning Commission meeting which indicates that the Water Neutral New Development (WNND) ordinance will terminate in January 2022. John Peshong has indicated that he would like to see a fallowing program developed. The Planning Commission will be considering moving the WNND's requirements to be under the management of the GSAs/GSP. The meeting will also address changing the Basin boundary to match the State's definition of the Basin boundary.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION REGARDING THE NEED FOR A FALLOWING PROGRAM PENDING INPUT FROM DISTRICT COUNSEL PRIOR TO THE END OF THE MEETING made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Hilary Graves – yes

Motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 7: TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerry Reaugh reported that invoices have been prepared and are ready to send for this year's assessments. Staff reported that one outstanding assessment from 2018 and 2019 has been paid.

ITEM 8: CONSIDER PARTICIPATION OF VOLUNTEER FOR RWMG WORKING GROUP TO IMPLEMENT THE STORM WATER RESOURCE PLAN

Hilary Graves will confirm with member Jessica Locklin with clarification on the amount of hours required for the monthly meetings and reports to the Board.

ITEM 9: UPDATE ON ECONOMIC REPORT AND SOLTERRA STRATEGIES WORK ON ROLLOUT

Dana Merrill reported speaking with the consultant and that we are still in a holding pattern regarding releasing the report. Cal Poly will hold it until we are ready. The District needs to consider how what the study shows will fit in a post-COVID 19 environment.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

Staff requested revisiting the resolution to set the day and time of the regular Board meetings to change the existing 3:30PM start time to 3:00PM.

ITEM 11: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – JULY 8, 2020

The next regular Board meeting will be on July 8, 2020

Alan Doud inserted that he had no objections or changes to the proposed following letter in Item #5.

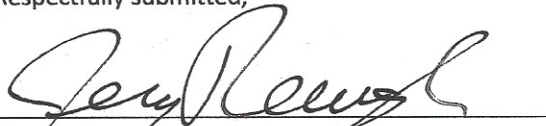
ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

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

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

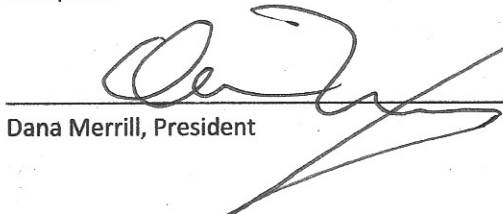
Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:02PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

8/24/20
Date