

Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2020

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

ATTENDANCE

Directors Present: Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference))
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)
Hilary Graves (by videoconference)
Herb Rowland (by teleconference)
Others present: 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 JULY 8, 2020 MEETING

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Hilary Graves – yes

Jerry Reaugh – yes

Lee Nesbitt – yes

Herb Rowland - yes

Motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment submitted.

ITEM 4: CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER TO THE SLO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FROM THE DISTRICT REGARDING THE NEED FOR A FALLOWING PROGRAM FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION AS PART OF THE WATER NEUTRAL NEW DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE UPDATE

Jerry Reaugh addressed the letter (which is the same letter from the District to the Planning Commission with a few minor edits) and the Board of Supervisors agenda item, the staff report for which addresses four main points: 1. Whether to revise the boundary that the County uses to define the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin (the “Fugro boundary”); 2. Whether to revise the boundary of the “Area of Severe Decline”; 3. The definition of “de minimis user”; and 4. Consideration of a fallowing program. The discussion centered the need for an independent fallowing program which would endure beyond the expiration of the WNND ordinance, currently January 2022. Without a fallowing program in place which would allow farmers to fallow land and resume irrigation at a later date, farmers may feel the need to continue irrigating in order to preserve irrigation rights. Supervisor Peschong has indicated his support for a fallowing program. Visitor and District member Kathleen March presented several questions, included whether a fallowing program would pay farmers to fallow in order to lessen the economic impact of fallowing. Hilary Graves pointed out that any fallowing program would need to be voluntary and

emphasized that when the ordinance sunsets in January 2022, there will be no protection for the Basin against widespread increases in pumping.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE LETTER AND SENDING IT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Hilary Graves, roll call vote:

Hilary Graves – yes
Jerry Reaugh – yes
Lee Nesbitt – yes
Herb Rowland - yes

Motion passed 4-0.

A short, post-motion discussion ensued which pointed out that the current ordinance includes the ability for farmers to fallow and then instigate pumping again, as long as it is within the lookback period of 5 years, but that this will expire with the ordinance. Willy Cunha indicated that the Board of Supervisors may want the GSAs to step up and create a protection beyond the ordinance sunset date.

ITEM 5: TREASURER'S REPORT

Jerry Reaugh reported that the District has currently collected approximate 63% of its 2020 assessments. There is still approximately \$7,000 in delinquent accounts which includes detachees and both 2018 and 2019 past due accounts. The GSI Recharge Study project had a cost overrun of approximately \$2,200 due to the request for an interim update report.

ITEM 6: UPDATE ON ECONOMIC REPORT AND SOLTERRA STRATEGIES WORK ON ROLLOUT

Hilary Graves presented a written update from Dana Merrill. At the upcoming Central Coast Insights series of webinars, Solterra Strategies will review the study report with the Cal Polly team, Randy Diffenbaugh and Randy Heinzen participating. Solterra will also coordinate publication in the Wine Business Monthly, the main event sponsor. The study should be published at the Cal Poly website by September 1. There will be some informational summary which the District will distribute to its membership.

ITEM 7: NEW BUSINESS

GSI has a proposal in process for expanding the well monitoring network project.

ITEM 8: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

The next regular Board meeting will be on September 9, 2020 at 3PM.

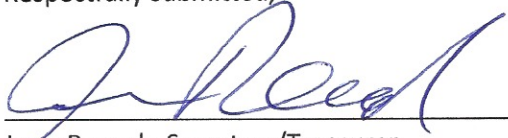
ITEM 9: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

Hilary Graves - yes
Jerry Reaugh – yes
Lee Nesbitt – yes
Herb Rowland - yes

Motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:46PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

9/14/20

Date