



Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)
Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPCGSA)
Regular Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 8, 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 3:00PM by Dana Merrill.

Directors Roll Call:

Dana Merrill – present
Lee Nesbitt - present
Jerry Reaugh – present
Hilary Graves – present
Ryan Scott - present

Others present:

Alan Doud
Guests (in person and by teleconference)

ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2024 AND DECEMBER 11, 2024 MEETINGS

MOTION TO APPROVE NOVEMBER 13, 2024 AND DECEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING MINUTES made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, voice vote, motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was presented.

ITEM 4: DISCUSS AND APPROVE RECOMMENDATION(S) FOR MILR PROGRAM

Jerry Reaugh covered the history of the development of the Multibenefit Irrigated Lands Repurposing Program. Responses to the recent MILR questionnaire have been received at the County. It was suggested that the Program focus on 1) Developing a fallowing program; and 2) Developing a Basin management structure. The question of whether individual GSAs could develop their own fallowing programs was asked. Modification of the 5-year lookback, part of the Ag Offset Ordinance, might be necessary to support fallowing farmers to be able to come back into production at a later time. Questions arose such as whether a fallowing program should be Basin-wide or by individual GSAs, whether fallowing should be temporary or permanent, could engaging LandIQ to assist in program development be possible, and how would the Program fit with the potential Joint Powers Authority (JPA) currently in development.

MOTION TO SEND A LETTER TO THE PBCC TO SUGGEST USE OF GRANT FUNDS TO HAVE LANDIQ DEVELOP A FALLOWING PROGRAM AS WELL AS TO DEVELOP A BASIN MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE made by Hilary Graves/seconded by Dana Merrill, voice vote, motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 5: DISCUSS AND CONSIDER RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED JAP GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Jerry Reaugh reported that the December 16, 2024 version of the JPA has been publicly distributed. A proposed 4/5 voting structure was proposed and the returned version includes a 3/5 structure, with 4/5 required such items as: budget approval and amendments to the budget over \$200,000; decisions related to imposition of mandatory limitations on groundwater extractions; and decisions related to Member contributions to cover any budgeted costs not covered by extraction fees. Counsel for the District, Alan Doud joined the discussion and answered various questions including how other GSAs are handling this – his example was Cuyama uses a weighted vote. The concept that EPCWD and Shandon-San Juan WD will be responsible for the bulk of the fees and whether that supports a voting structure that acknowledges that was discussed.

ITEM 6: DISCUSS SAN MIGUEL CSD/GAS AND GRANT MONEY FOR RECYCLED WATER PROJECT

It was noted that San Miguel CSD/GSA has withdrawn from its grant-funded recycled water project was noted. No discussion followed.

ITEM 7: DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND MOVING BOARD MEETING PERMANENTLY TO A NEW LOCATION

MOTION TO MOVE FUTURE MEETINGS TO J LOHR ADMINISTRATION BUILDING START DATE TO BE DETERMINED made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote, motion passed 5-0.

ITEM 8: UPDATE ITEMS

a. Groundwater Levels Monitoring

1) Real-time Groundwater Monitoring

Four years of four times per year readings have been completed.

2) EPCWD Groundwater Monitoring Network

No update

b. SLO County Board of Supervisors meetings

No update

c. WRAC meeting

No update

d. Paso Basin Cooperative Committee

1) PBCC meeting December 16, 2024

The meeting was well attended and followed by the PBCC Town Hall Meeting.

2) PBCC Town Hall meeting December 16, 2024

Many stakeholders and other interested parties participated with attendance exceeding expectations.

3) PBCC Staff report

a) Outreach RFP – no update

b) Expanded Monitoring Network RFP – no update

c) PBCC budget

Five alternatives of the Rate Study has been brought forward with the PBCC asking staff to return with three scenarios and combinations of administrative and project funding.

d) Evapotranspiration extractions methodology – no update

e) Update on contract for GSP Water Year 2024 Annual Report

To be taken up at next PBCC meeting

4) Blended Water Project

No update

5) Update on contract for GSP Water Year 2024 Annual Report

6) Next PBCC Meeting January 22, 2024

ITEM 9: TREASURER'S REPORT

The GSP 5-year Update and the 2024 Water Year Annual Report are both due to be completed soon. The reports may not require the total \$200,000 allocated to their production.

ITEM 10: NEW BUSINESS

No new business presented.

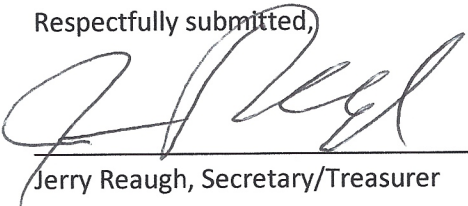
ITEM 11: NEXT MEETING – FEBRUARY 12, 2025

ITEM 12: ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, voice vote, motion passed 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:



Dana Merrill, President

2-25-25

Date