

**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**September 14, 2022**

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Directors Present:

Dana Merrill (by videoconference)  
Lee Nesbitt (by videoconference)  
Jerry Reaugh (by videoconference)  
Hilary Graves (by videoconference)  
Herb Rowland (absent)

Others present:

Brett Stroud, Young Wooldridge  
Blaine Reely, SLO County  
Tom Berg, DWR  
Nate Page, GSI  
Lee Knutson, GSI  
Matt Turrentine, SSJWD  
Willy Cunha, SSJWD  
Brent Burchett, Farm Bureau  
Presenters  
Guests (by phone and videoconference)

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM by Dana Merrill.

**ITEM 2: CONSIDER MOTION TO INVOKE AB361 TO CONTINUE HOLDING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) FOR THE REASONS STATED IN RESOLUTION 2022-003.**

MOTION TO INVOKE AB361 TO CONTINUE HOLDING TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS (GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e) FOR THE REASONS STATED IN RESOLUTION 2022-003 made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2022 MEETING**

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 13, 2022 MEETING made by Hilary Graves, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

Dana Merrill – yes

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

Motion passed 4-0.

**ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was presented.

**ITEM 5: PRESENTATION BY JOEL KIMMELSHUE OF LAND IQ ON GROUNDWATER USAGE BASED ON EVAPOTRANSPIRATION (“ET”) MEASUREMENTS**

(Note: Complete video recording of the presentation can be found on the landing page of the District website at <https://epcwd.org>)

Joel Kimmelshue, Land IQ, discussed multiple topics regarding groundwater usage estimations/calculations based on measurement of evapo-transpiration (“ET”) on a field by field basis. The Department of Water Resources intends to map all agricultural fields in California, a total of 9.6 million acres, with ground truthing of fields greater than 2 acres. Currently, crop mapping data is available at the DWR website for 2019 (<https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/CADWRLandUseViewer/?page=home>). Mr. Kimmelshue estimated that a Basin-wide mapping and ET measurement effort could be up and running in 3 to 5 months.

**ITEM 6: PRESENTATION BY BLAINE REELY, COUNTY DIRECTOR OF GROUNDWATER SUSTAINABILITY, ON DIRETION OF SLO COUNTY PASO BASIN GSA**

(Note: Complete video recording of the presentation can be found on the landing page of the District website at <https://epcwd.org>)

Blaine Reely updated the Board and attendees on information/programs being brought before the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee staff in early October and the full PBCC board on October 26. Fall groundwater level measurements will occur late September into October with approximately 100 wells in the County system. He hopes to include data from the EPCWD and SSJWD well networks. Todd Groundwater has been retained by the County to study the interconnection between ground and surface water in the Basin, per the revised GSP submitted in July. The County has an outside service provider working with Monterey County and the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Nacimiento water. The County is looking at a Basin-wide well registration program. He discussed Santa Margarita Lake topics, and the County is looking for stakeholder input on those and on the potential demand management program. In response to a question, he touched on the structural governance that the Basin needs in order to provide answers to questions such as “Who would pay for data measurement programs such as Land IQ?”

**ITEM 7: REPORT FROM TERRY ERLEWINE OF PROVOST & PRITCHARD (STATE WATER CONSULTANT) ON STATE WATER OPTIONS**

(Note: Complete video recording of the presentation can be found on the landing page of the District website at <https://epcwd.org>)

Terry Erlewine of Provost & Pritchard presented information on how the State Water program works in general and in SLO County specifically. He outline multiple approaches to obtaining and utilizing State Water with the attendant cost estimates for the various options.

#### **ITEM 8: UPDATE ITEMS**

a. **Water Neutral New Development ordinance status (Paso Basin Land Use Management Area Planting Ordinance"**

1. SLO County Ag Preserve Committee meeting 08/15/2022 – will be considering special meeting to discuss PLUMA, was a receive and file information presentation, can only look at impacts on Williamson Act program. Paul Clark, Randy Diffenbaugh, all members participated in a straw poll to hold a special meeting to prepare comments.

Brett Burchett, Farm Bureau, reported that we are awaiting the final EIR, then presentation to the Planning Commission October 27 and the Board of Supervisors in December.

Staff reported that there will be no special meeting of the Ag Preserve Committee to discuss/submit comments.

b. **Groundwater Levels Monitoring program**

Jerry Reaugh reported that the August 17 measurements are complete (24 wells) and that November 16 is the next measurement round scheduled. Going forward, measurements will be taken in February, April, August and November.

c. **Continuous Monitoring program status**

No update submitted

d. **State Water Consulting project**

See presentation under Agenda Item #7 above.

e. **Paso Basin Cooperative Committee meeting 07/27/2022**

No update submitted

f. **Board of Supervisors meeting 08/09/2022**

No update submitted

g. **RWMG Working Group meeting 09/01/2022 and RWMG meeting 09/07/2022**

No update submitted

#### **ITEM 9: REPORT ON LOHR-CONVENED MEETING 07/26/2022**

Place of Use questions are being pursued in Sacramento and the Blended Water Project is pending answers to those questions.

#### **ITEM 10: TREASURER'S REPORT**

a. **Monthly Financial Status Report**

Jerry Reaugh presented the report for August and September and no comments or questions arose.

#### **ITEM 11: NEW BUSINESS – REQUESTS FOR ITEMS TO BE PLACE ON NEXT AGENDA**

Dana Merrill asked to consider an ad hoc committee to investigate a potential demonstration project using State Water (see Agenda item #7 above).

**ITEM 12: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING – OCTOBER 12, 2022**

**ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT**

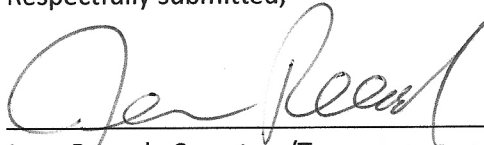
MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

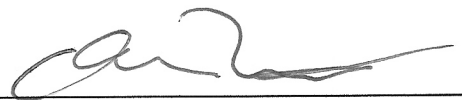
Motion passed 4-0.

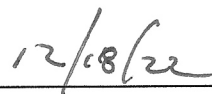
Meeting adjourned at 5:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date