

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes**

**April 13, 2022**

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

**ATTENDANCE**

Directors Present:

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

Others present:

Brett Stroud  
Nate Page  
Guests (by phone and videoconference)

**ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER**

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

**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 APPROVE RESOLUTION 2022-003 INVOKING THE CONTINUED USE OF REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS UNDER AB 361 made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

**ITEM 3: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 9, 2022 MEETING**

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 9, 2022 MEETING made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

**ITEM 4: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was presented.

**ITEM 5: CONSIDER ELECTION FOR ALTERNATE SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER SEAT ON LAFCO**

MOTION TO DECLINE TO SUBMIT A BALLOT FOR THE ALTERNATE SPECIAL DISTRICT MEMBER SEAT ON LAFCO made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

**ITEM 6: UPDATE ON REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING APRIL 6, 2022**

This item was tabled until later in the meeting.

**ITEM 7: UPDATE ON STATE WATER CONSULTING PROJECT**

Jerry Reaugh reported that there is continuing contact and discussions with Stephanie Hastings. It has been suggested to consider consulting with an investment specialist and engineering firm to determine the best possible approaches and initial conversations are taking place.

**ITEM 8: PRESENTATION BY NATE PAGE OF GSI ON THE GROUNDWATER LEVELS MONITORING PROGRAM**

Nate Page presented a map showing the various wells in the Basin that are being monitored by multiple agencies; EPCWD's monitoring network has helped to substantially fill in the data gap areas. Wayne Cooper Ag Services conducted four reading sessions to date and as more readings are made, trends will develop. It is too early yet to draw any conclusions, or to try to correlate the data.

**ITEM 9: CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL BY GSI BY TO ESTABLISH CONTINUOUS MONITORING PROGRAM ON SPECIFIC WELLS IN THE BASIN**

A general discussion opened by Jerry Reaugh centered on the concept of establishing continuously-monitored wells in the monitoring network. These would not be actively pumped wells or wells that have no pumps and would provide data about water levels over time. GSI is encouraging the effort due to the fact that the County's data is the only data used for the Annual Report and this kind of monitoring could enhance that. The data download responsibility would be contracted to Wayne Cooper Ag Services.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED PROGRAM WITH A MAXIMUM COST OF \$9,000 made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

**ITEM 10: CONSIDER SUBMISSION OF A LETTER TO THE PASO BASIN COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE DISTRICT SUGGESTIONS ON TOPICS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GSP UPDATE**

Jerry Reaugh opened the discussion of the DWR's assessment of the GSP as being "incomplete" and that it must be amended by July. The District's State Water consultant, Stephanie Hastings, as suggested that the District ask the GSAs to include a more in-depth discussion of State Water in the amendments. The District-sponsored Economic Study should also be considered for inclusion. Jerry Reaugh has suggested a formal letter to be submitted to the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee staff via Blaine Reely for consideration at the next PBCC meeting where amendments will be discussed.

MOTION TO DRAFT AND SUBMIT A LETTER FROM EPCWD TO BLAINE REELY AND THE PBCC FOR CONSIDERATION OF THESE ITEMS IN THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE GSP made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

**ITEM 11: TREASURERS REPORT**

- a. Monthly financial status report – accepted as submitted, no discussion
- b. Review preliminary budget analysis of current spending  
Jerry Reaugh's preliminary budget analysis showed that the District underspent its 2021 budgeted amounts. The preliminary figures indicate that this year's assessments may be set at lower levels than 2021. Jerry Reaugh will bring a 2022 budget to be considered at the next meeting.

**ITEM 12: NEW BUSINESS**

Hilary Graves asked if there has been any update on the Governor's executive order regarding regulating well drilling in medium- and high-priority basins. Jerry Reaugh spoke with Blaine Reely regarding the issue and there is much clarification needed. Brett Stroud confirmed that there are some "big clarity holes" such as replacement wells. The District will ask Blaine Reely to attend the next regular meeting (May 11) to update the Board on what updates/information is available.

**ITEM 15: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING MAY 11, 2022**

**ITEM 16: ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

  
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Dana Merrill, President

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Date 1-23-22