



**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Water District (EPCWD)**  
**Estrella-El Pomar-Creston Groundwater Sustainability Agency (EPCGSA)**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday June 26, 2024**

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 3:01PM by Dana Merrill

Directors Roll Call:

Dana Merrill – absent  
Lee Nesbitt - present  
Jerry Reaugh – present  
Hilary Graves – present

Others present:

Alan Doud  
Guests (in person and by teleconference)

**ITEM 2: REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND MAY 22, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING.**

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2024 REGULAR MEETING AND MAY 22, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

**ITEM 3: PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was presented.

**ITEM 4: REPORT FROM NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND SELECTION OF REPLACEMENT FOR VACANT DIRECTOR SEAT.**

The Nominating Committee's selected candidate, Ryan Scott, was introduced and gave a short biography.

MOTION TO APPROVE RYAN SCOTT TO FILL THE VACANT BOARD SEAT made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0

A request was made to take up Item 7b at this point in the agenda.

**ITEM 7b): SLO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETINGS (COMMENTS)**

During the June 18, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting, the item to approve the PBCC budget was deferred to the July 9, 2024 meeting. The Supervisors also considered approving the RFP for Provost & Pritchard regarding State Water, as well as the RFP for GSI to prepare the 5-year Basin GSP evaluation. An increase in the EPCWD’s annual assessments will reflect the increase in the PBCC budget to include these efforts.

**ITEM 5: DISCUSSION AND CONSIDER FINAL APPROVAL OF EPCWD 2024-2025 DRAFT BUDGET.**

MOTION TO APPROVE THE EPCWD 2024-2025 DRAFT BUDGET AS FINAL, INCLUDING RESERVING SENDING ANNUAL INVOICES UNTIL AFTER THE JULY 9, 2024 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING made by Jerry Reaugh, seconded by Lee Nesbitt, roll call vote:

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

Motion passed 3-0.

**ITEM 6: CONSIDER PROPOSAL TO PBCC TO INSTALL REAL-TIME MONITORING EQUIPMENT**

The proposal is to install equipment for continuous monitoring in four wells across the Basin, with an RPF to be developed specific to those four wells. The equipment, known as a “Bubbler” is self-contained with a solar charger and straightforward to install. MOTION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO PBCC TO INSTALL REAL-TIME MONITORING EQUIPMENT made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Hilary Graves, passed on a voice vote 3-0.

**ITEM 7: UPDATE ITEMS**

**a. Groundwater Levels Monitoring**

**1) Real-time Groundwater Monitoring**

Currently, two pumpless wells (Airport and El Pomar areas) show significant fluctuations, especially during irrigation season. The ongoing data shows the insufficiency of taking reading only two times per year. The equipment is slated to be reinstalled in two wells designated as part of the permanent network.

**2) EPCWD Groundwater Monitoring Network**

Jerry Reaugh presented slides showing readings using different technologies over time of six wells in the San Miguel, Estrella Hills, 46E, El Pomar and Creston area. Some show improvement in levels, some show bigger fluctuations, while some appear more stable over time. This data is enhancing the understanding of the Basin.

**b. SLO County Board of Supervisors meetings**

See above

**c. WRAC meeting June 5, 2024**

There was no report for the regular WRAC meeting, but Steve Carter provided a report on the Special meeting. It was well attended and allowed for County staff to report on State Water, including discussions of tendering surplus water which has often been lost in the past. It could be sold to Central Valley districts, at an estimated value of \$350 to \$450/AF. The rules for transfer of

State Water have been relaxed in recent years. Where would the proceeds from any sale go? Into the General Fund? The WRAC approved supporting staff's recommendation to sell surplus water as a one-time event. Hilary Graves asked the room to consider what the sale of surplus water in past years when it was instead spilled could have benefitted the Paso Basin, or have been refunded to County taxpayers. Jerry Reaugh compared the sale of untreated water (\$350 to \$450/AF) to post-treated water at \$1000/AF.

**d. Paso Basin Cooperative Committee update**

**1) PBCC meeting May 22, 2024**

Jerry Reaugh indicated there were no major items to report.

**2) PBCC staff report and PBCC RFPs and projects**

Staff is slated to meet the week of July 8, and every other month generally.

**4) Land IQ Project (taken out of order)**

Jerry Reaugh reported that a weather station has been installed in the Paso Robles Airport area to support ground-truthing the Land IQ data. It is intended to install five more throughout the Basin.

**3) Blended Water Project**

A contract with an engineering firm will be taken up by the Blended Water Technical Advisory Committee in the week of July 8.

Jerry Reaugh reported that the MILR program was presented to the PRWCA and may involve the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District. There may be some land use issues re following.

**ITEM 8: TREASURERS REPORT**

**a. Monthly Financial Status Report**

The report stands as presented. No comments. Jerry Reaugh reiterated that the assessment invoices are on hold pending the July 9 Board of Supervisors meeting and the outcome of the PBCC budget item there.

**ITEM 9: NEW BUSINESS**

Staff requested an agenda item at the next meeting to remove Al Webster as a signer on the checking account and replace with Ryan Scott. There was a brief discussion of cancelling the July 10 meeting with the consensus being to do so.

**ITEM 10: SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING - AUGUST 14, 2024**

**ITEM 11: ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Lee Nesbitt, seconded by Jerry Reaugh, voice vote, motion passed 3-0 . Meeting adjourned at 4:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jerry Reaugh, Secretary/Treasurer

Accepted:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

DRAFT