

CRESTON ADVISORY BODY
Meeting Minutes
Creston Community Center Wednesday, September 20, 2023

1) **Call to Order** – Flag Salute at 700pm

All CAB members present: Thomas Edel, Mike Aarons, Roy Barba, Kurt Almond, Sheila Lyons, Matt Lynge, Don Clark, and CAB Area #1 alternate sitting in for vacant CAB position is Jim Wortner.

Matt Lynge was the recorder for these minutes.

2) **Minutes of the previous meeting(s)** (Aug. 19th, Jim Wortner drafted) motion to approve by Kurt Almond, seconded by Mike Aarons and approved unanimously.

Minutes from July CAB meeting prepared by Kurt Almond motion to approve by Mike Aarons, seconded by Kurt Almond and unanimously approved.

3) **Limited Public and/or CAB Member Comments for Items NOT on the agenda**

Roy Barba gave the results of the California Mid-State Cruiser Car Show. It was very successful and raised \$11K to give away to non-profits. Sheila Lyons asked if CATCH could apply. Roy indicated that they could but basically would need a champion because CATCH is not known to the organization.

Don Clark brings up Creston library being cleared out of select materials that were both property of the library and also donated materials from friends of the library etc. in Cookies absence.

Library director and county responded to PRA stating there is no record of the materials that were removed nor a location of storage of the seized materials. Residents are strongly encouraged to check out books to keep Creston library considered as active enough to stay open. See library hours attached (Attachment D).

4) **Public Safety** –

Cal Fire -

Rodeo went off smoothly.

23 calls including 1 medical, debris fire, vehicle fire and 2 accidents

Inspections for defensible space around houses is being conducted and is going well.

Sheila Lyons stated that Captain Ryan had asked about using Community Center as an Emergency staging area. Sheila asked that Captain Ryan give her a call.

Sheriff's Department - Deputy John McKenney

3 disturbing the peace calls and an CHP assist on 41

CHP - Lieutenant Chandler Stewart - Templeton Station

- See Attachment A – info shown here also

70 crashes investigated; 49 property damage only, 21 injury, 10 DUI involved, 1 fatal 1107 total enforcement contacts Resulting in 650 total citations issued.

485 max speed violations, 19 100+ mph violations, 38 DUI arrests.

5) **New Business** –

a. Visiting Cal Poly students – Sept Francesca Mclaughlin & Gianni Greco – discussion of their survey results of local rural residents of Creston

See Attachment B for flyer of questions and results. The survey shows that water, managing the PR Basin, is the number 1 issue for residents of the Creston area.

6) **Planning Department Update & Project Referrals** -

No updates per Lane Sutherland P&B Department liaison.

Jim Wortner states Oct 15th is the deadline for negative declarations and would like to submit RFI from CAB by Oct. 16th to obtain the CEQA MND filings from the County. There were no objections from the board.

Don Clark brings to our attention a property on 58 that just got approval for commercial cannabis Murray Powell shared his contact on behalf of TAAG with the new sheriff deputy in charge of cannabis Hank Abbas who replaced Ian Dowdy and can be reached at the same phone number.

7) **Fifth District Supervisor Report**—Supervisor Debbie Arnold or LA Kathleen Goble- Not present

8) **Unfinished Business** – Report from the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Special Meeting – Murray Powell (present) and Greg Grewall (not present)-
Murray is on well monitoring committee. The most problematic areas they are monitoring are Jardine, Ground Squirrel Hollow, Penman Springs, and El Pomar. They are focusing on an outreach to discover issues with residential wells to install well monitoring equipment. 5GSA make up committee. Grand jury suggested the committee needs to do more to address the overdraft of the PR Groundwater Basin.

9) **Committee Reports/Next Steps** –

- By-Laws – Sheila L. & Thomas E.- None
- Elections – Sheila, Susan S. & Judy Blankenship (public) No action at this time.
- Public Information — Roy Barba, Tom Edel & Mike Aarons, Kurt Almond A.
Kurt reports CAB website updated

10) **Treasurer's Report** – Roy Barba \$971 in CAB account
Requested \$1980 from county but expecting the usual \$1100

11) **Future meetings and agenda items**- Next meeting Oct. 18th, 2023
Susan Funk to come to CAB in Nov. 2023 and Heather Moreno in Jan. 2024, Sheila requested October visit from Congressman Panetta's (not Laird, mistake on meeting agenda).

Don Clark prepared a list of questions for us to use for each of the candidates for District #5. See Attachment C. Sheila added some additional questions. Sheila Lyons will review the list of questions and perhaps reorder them and we will review them again in October, prior to the candidates visits. We plan to give the candidates the questions ahead of their visits.

Kurt regarding PG&E new system for power distribution/billing 6 percent increase in rates
Currently struggling with switching supply between generation forms

12) Adjournment at 9:10 p.m.

Attachment A

CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL (CRESTON AREA)

Surveyed Date Range: 08/01 - 08/31 (1 Month)
Geographic Boundaries of Creston vs. Templeton CHP Area

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>CRESTON AREA</u>			<u>TEMPLETON CHP AREA</u>
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>AUGUST 2023</u>
CRASHES INVESTIGATED	5	6	-20%	70
PROPERTY DAMAGE ONLY	3	3	0%	49
INJURY	2	3	-50%	21
DUI INVOLVED	1	2	-100%	10
FATAL	0	0	0%	1
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TOTAL ENFORCEMENT CONTACTS	35	30	14%	1,107
TOTAL CITATIONS ISSUED	16	12	25%	650
MAX SPEED VIOLATIONS	9	8	11%	485
100+ MPH VIOLATIONS	0	0	0%	19
DUI ARRESTS	3	3	0%	38

Attachment B

Our research and findings regarding resident needs in Creston, CA

By Francesca McLaughlin and Gianni Grecco

A. First off, we would like to thank you all for your participation in our survey. Your input has been invaluable, and allowed us to further our understanding of your experience pertaining to access to resources here in Creston. In addition, we greatly enjoyed getting to know each and every one of you as we conducted our research. Finally, we would like to thank Sheila for her instrumental role in completing this project. This process has allowed us both to grow as students and better understand the obstacles our community faces.

1. **Our goal:** Our goal was to conduct and analyze research that would allow us to gain insight as to the issues affecting residents in rural areas near us, specifically, in Creston. We chose Creston in particular as we felt that many of its residents do not currently have adequate access to the resources available to us where we live in San Luis Obispo, such as child care programs, affordable housing, and public transportation.

2. **Our Process:** In order to begin our research, we created a survey that directly asked each of you to provide insight as to your access to various resources in Creston. After doing our own research, we decided these categories included:

- Community care/services
- Open bus routes & public transportation
- Reduce food and grocery costs
- Improve affordable housing options
- Expand homeless shelters & services
- Improve recreational opportunities (parks/field)
- Improve Child Care programs
- Current Water Rights/Laws
- Increased Tourism in Your Community
- Policy regarding cannabis use in your community
- The usage of rural event sites in your community

Our results: During the Plant Sale here in Creston, we were able to distribute many surveys and received various helpful responses. In total, we received 43 completed surveys. Therefore, we

felt that we had enough information to analyze for this report. While we surveyed many issues, we would like to start with those which you all indicated were most important to you:
felt that we had enough information to analyze for this report. While we surveyed many issues, we would like to start with those which you all indicated were most important to you:

First: Our research shows that the issue that Creston residents feel is most important to them was water rights issues. Water rights issues were the top responded issue with 88% of respondents marked these issues as either 'somewhat important' or 'very important'. More specifically, about 66% percent of residents stated that water rights are very important to them.

Second: Our research shows that Cannabis Production and cultivation issues were also amongst the top responded issues, with 77% of respondents marking either 'somewhat important' or 'very important' for these issues. Upon speaking to residents, it was clear that the importance of the issue was in regards to production and farming in Creston, rather than legalization and usage.

Third: Our research shows that improving access to adequate child care was a prominent issue for residents of Creston. More specifically, about 90% of residents responded that access to childcare was somewhat important, with the majority of respondents marking it as very important.

Fourth: The last issue that residents indicated was the most important to them was improving recreational areas such as parks or fields. In particular, about 70% of respondents indicated that this issue was either somewhat or very important to them. Upon speaking with residents, it became clear that one of these recreational areas of significance is the local pool, which we learned is maintained almost entirely from local donations and volunteers. Many residents expressed that the pool is essential to maintaining a sense of community as well as staying cool during summer months.

Other issues: The other issues we surveyed, such as increased homeless services or access to affordable housing were largely marked as 'not important' to residents.

We have concluded that the most prominent issues affecting residents of Creston and its overall community are water rights, cannabis production, childcare, and recreational areas. We hope that the results of our research will help you all to gain insight into the greatest areas of need in Creston. We would like to thank you all again for your participation and your time throughout our project.

Attachment C:

Creston Advisory Board

Candidate Questions

9/20/2023

- 1) Tell us about organizations or life experiences that have shaped your opinions about north county District ____.
- 2) What are the most important actions the Board of Supervisors should take to support residents of District ____?
- 3) Where do you stand on the following:
 - a. Property Rights
 - b. Williamson Act
 - c. Low Property Tax
- 4) Would you vote to put our roads and the rural infrastructure back into the budget priorities?
- 5) Water-What is your understanding of Governor Newsom's order to form groundwater agencies in each county?
- 6) County Planning is a source of frustration for this Creston Advisory Board and the rural community. What can be done to improve this problem?
- 7) What are your ideas on energy? Diablo Canyon? Brokered Electrical Supplier?
- 8) How would you address the vagrant population and the homeless problem?
- 9) AgriTourism-What are your thoughts on a new camping/vacation rental ordinance?
- 10) Candidate Closing Statement

Sheila's additional questions that she would like to see added:

1. What three items/issues are at the top of your list and that you would like to address if you are elected for District #5?
2. Code Enforcement issues have been a major source of frustration for CAB members. Built-in safeguards in ordinances and policies can't be enforced due to lack of Code Enforcement resources. Are you aware of this? What will you do to ensure that ordinances and policies are not created with rules/laws that are essentially false promises to the public because they can not be enforced?
3. Water – How familiar are you with the SGMA Act? Are you familiar with the Paso Robles Basin Cooperative Committee? Who do you feel should represent the County GSA interests on this committee? What management solutions are you in favor of for bringing the Basin into sustainability. Do you agree with allowing the Estrella-El Pomar Creston Water District a seat at the table?
4. What is your position on cannabis?

Creston Library Hours:

Address: 6290 Adams St, Creston, CA 93432

Hours:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	1–6 PM
Wednesday	12–5 PM
Thursday	12–5 PM
Friday	Closed
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	Closed