

## **CRESTON ADVISORY BODY**

### Minutes

Creston Community Center

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 7:00 – 9:30 PM

Meetings scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month except December..

- 1) Call to Order – Flag Salute 7:05 pm
- 2) CAB Recorder for this meeting – Kurt Almond
- 3) Minutes of the previous meeting prepared by Don Clark. Motion to approve Steve Almond, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kurt Almond, unanimous vote to approve.
- 4) Limited Public and/or CAB Member Comments for Items NOT on the agenda ;  
SLO Bicycle Club President Mary Ann Gustafson briefed us on the Wildflower Century 2023
  - 2 new routes of 30 and 63 miles, plus the traditional 50 miles loop we've dropped the 100 mile route that used to go up to Shandon, It'll start at 8 Am. 50 miles are 9 A. M. And 30 miles are 10 Am. All routes go from Creston elementary school in a ride to Poso and back to Creston
- 5) Public Safety
  - Sheriff's Department - NONE
  - Cal Fire - Fire Captain Ryan
  - a. 17 medical calls, 10 traffic, 3 structure, and 2 vehicle fires, 36 call last month. Power outage was due to sheared power pole.
  - b. Questions answered regarding fire hazard zones. Most properties in Creston are now in LRA (Local Responsibility Areas). No one understands what O'Donovan is considered a High Severity Zone. Topography not a lot different than other areas.
  - c. Houses that sell must have a valid LE-100, to be passed by Cal Fire. They try to do these quickly. Sellers are responsible parties.
  - d. Any EOS – Emergency Plan – may be a blanket plan. Not specific to any given area. Voluntary Compliance for opening and closing gap gates.  
CHP - Lieutenant Chandler Stewart - Templeton Station;NONE
- 6) New Business - Blaine Reely, Director SLO County Groundwater Sustainability –
  - a. PR Basin - Reversal of Land Use Management Planting Ordinance. We are back to the original Offset Planting Ordinance. Late last year the county replaced the offset which brings new irrigated agriculture in the past, based on with a planting, hit some of the same elements, and then it also really focus on trying to restores the rights to small, basically to the smaller land owners that had lost. They really had lost the right to irrigate their properties under the old ordinance. So the planting ordinance providing some kind of a correction for that, as opposed to other things. This was one of the bigger elements of the of the change. After the election, and the new set of supervisors were seated, there was there was a push to repeal the recently approved planting ordinance and go back to the offset ordinance for now.
  - b. GSP accepted by State. Latest changes to GSP that will help bring the basin back to sustainability. Blaine talked about some of the proposals that may be introduced to meet the objectives. Staff to prepare amendments – Miller Plan. 1) Voluntary following with 5 yr look back if you enroll in the Miller Program. You would be incentivized by paying

you with fees collected from irrigators. 2) Mandatory pumping reduction & allocation program – could trade with other irrigators. Sheila asked if there were examples where this has worked. In the past the cost of Ag water has been so cheap that it had no impact on usage. Blaine believes this worked in the San Jacquin Valley. The price of water per AF is going to be high enough, especially in the higher tiers that it will be significant. Really expensive.

- c. \$3.5M from the County and \$9.5 M from the State will go to Paso Robles for reclaiming sewer water. Noted that the Naci water allocations have never been fully used by PR. They could blend the recycled water with the Naci water and put it into the Basin, meaning there would be less water pumped from the PR Basin.
- d. Blaine mentioned that they are collecting satellite evapo-transpiration data that can tell how much water is being used on a parcel
- e. Catch basins may be an option. No filling of these basins with groundwater.
- f. Technical Advisory Committee to expand monitoring. Data resides with GSA's, but it is shared and warehoused with the County. New well monitoring data have shown wells in some locations actually up as much as 3-40 ft.
- g. Shandon-San Juan Water District applied to the State for "excess" water from Santa Margarita Lake. DWR asked what they will do with the water?? SSJ developed a plan. SSJ as a state recognized entity could do eminent domain if approved. This would be a very long process.
- h. SGMA very specifically does not allow GSAs to have land use authority.
- i. Suggestion that some 3<sup>rd</sup> party non-profits may help folks whose wells have gone dry.

7) Fifth District Supervisor updated Report–Supervisor Debbie Arnold Zoom

- a. Many things are changing/being reversed with the newly elected Board of Supervisors.
- b. Concern over the make up of the committee of GSA's that oversee the PR Groundwater Basin GSP. Both Supervisor Arnold and Peschong, the elected supervisors who represent the residents who live over the PR Basin have been removed and Supervisor Gibson, who has never been to any of the water meetings in the past, in stepping in. The SGMA process was designed to have all stakeholders involved. At this time, we are no longer represented by anyone elected by us.
- c. B of S to Declare Emergency status tomorrow due to recent storms.
- d. Campaign finance rules changing – Supervisor Arnold believes there will be less transparency.
- e. Two more hearing officers are being approved.
- f. Blaine Reely responsible for getting the County more grant money for water management.
- g. More money for repairing park systems.
- h. Trash collection fees across the County likely to increase due to rising prices of fuel and labor.
- i. Reintegrated Waste Management – are getting back into the trash collection. Supervisor Arnold believes they are getting into legislation over the whole County, not elected officials.
- j. Former company Monterey Bay Community Power (middleman for power) is not regulated versus PG&E which is heavily regulated. They use PG&E lines for power transmission. There is an opt out for individuals but she believes it is an onerous process.

8) Planning Department Update & Project Referrals - CAB Liaison-Lane Sutherland

- a. Cannabis projects update – Jim Wortner no updates
- 9) Unfinished Business –

- a. No Update from Thomas Edel regarding camping ordinances, contact with Supervisor Peschong. Code enforcement issues including Jhelium and other violations to be investigated.

10) Committee Reports/Next Steps

- a. By-Laws – Sheila L. & Thomas E. Further discussion of the use of alternates and whether we need to modify the by-laws. This will be considered and any action needed will be implemented at the next CAB meeting.
- b. Elections – Sheila, Susan S. & Judy Blankenship (public) All candidates for CAB seats for this election cycle, except Steve Almond, returned completed Conditions of Service forms tonight and are therefore the newly elected/re-elected representatives from their areas of CAB. Sheila mentioned that the elected members will be “reseated” and officers, starting with Chair, will be elected first thing at the April meeting.
- c. Public Information — Roy Barba, Tom Edel & Mike Aarons, Kurt Almond  
Has Mike been able to acquire the remaining equipment needed? Cameras? Lockable storage cabinet? (\$220 on Amazon 6’Hx3’W, or \$110 for 42”Hx3’W) Other? Steve to donate cabinet

11) Treasurer’s Report – (5 min) Roy Barba

- a. CATCH dues to increase to \$200/yr to help cover basic costs – keep the lights on, security system and liability insurance (Totals \$5700/yr). CAB to approve that we pay \$200/yr going forward. We paid for 2023 already (\$100) we need to add an additional \$100. A motion to approve was made by Sheila, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roy and approved by unanimous vote.

12) Item of note with deadline prior to the next CAB meeting:

- a. Sheila mentioned that the SLOCOG Transportation Plan for 2023-2045 has a deadline for comments prior to our next CAB meeting Per the CAB by-laws if the CAB members are unanimous in their vote for discussion at this meeting we may discuss and take action, again if the vote is unanimous. Both votes were unanimous. The vote was to send a letter from CAB to SLO-COG mentioning two intersections in Creston, Hwy 41 and Hwy 229, and Hwy 41 and La Panza/Creston Rd, that we believe should be studied due to many near miss accidents that many have witnessed. Draft letter was provided as prepared by Roy Barba and Sheila Lyons. Letter will be sent in advance of close of public comments.
- b. Discussion the Future meetings and agenda items- Next meeting April 19<sup>th</sup>.

13) Adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.