

CRESTON ADVISORY BODY MINUTES

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

- 1) Call to Order – Flag Salute 7:00 p.m.
Members present: Mike Aarons (alternate for Geraldine May), Sheila Lyons, Susan Souza, Steve Almond, Tom Edel and Roy Barba. Absent: Kurt Almond, Jan Morris
- 2) Minutes of the previous meeting July 17, 2019. No changes. Motion to approve Steve/2nd Roy. Vote to approve was unanimous.
- 3) Public and/or CAB Member Comments for Items NOT on the agenda
 - a. Tom – With Geneseo closed the residents along Stagecoach Rd (the alternate route through the area) are concerned about all the traffic. The residents in the area have put logs in the road that people would have to maneuver around, in an attempt to slow the traffic. Cal Fire said this a bad idea, as it would hinder their ingress and egress. The residents are seeking the County’s assistance in evaluating the safety of the road way in light of the increase volume of traffic.
 - b. Susan - followed up on the trash dumping issue at the Creston Post Office. Cal Trans responsible for space from middle of road out 40 ft. Penal code 374.43 forbids dumping so this is a law enforcement issue...but you have to catch the perpetrators.
 - c. Susan - inquired about the speed limit along the same stretch. It is set at based on a traffic study done in the past. Controlled by CA Vehicle Code 22347 & 22354. It is set at 40 mph to be able to do radar enforcement.
 - d. Steve – Rumsey project update. They are only filing one application at this time but changing from 20K sq ft building to a 60K sq ft building.

4) Public Safety –

Cal Fire Captain Ryan – Report on calls over the last month. Also mentioned they did 412 Defensible Space inspections (100 ft from residences) and had 16 citations. Still more to do.

Roy asked if there is less than 100 ft between you and your neighbor then what? A: You are only responsible for your property. You should ask the neighbor to take care of their property to reduce fire risk for everyone.

Sheriff - Deputy John McKenney reported that someone threw a spark plug part at Post Office and caused damage. Also, solar panel at Chandler Ranch gate was stolen. Suspicious car lingering along O’Donovan was reported and has since disappeared.

5) Fifth District Supervisor Report – Supervisor Debbie Arnold or LA Micki Olinger

Supervisor Arnold reported that she was at the CA Fire Safe Council this morning. There is \$6M of Fire Safety money available in County. Some fire prevention work will be done in Creston. She provided a handout on how to prepare your home in case of a wildfire.

Supervisor Arnold was also at the Paso Basin Cooperative Committee meeting today. It was announced that Gary & Steve Lohr (Lohr Winery & Vineyards) are going to do a purple pipe project to be able to water with unpurified water from Lake Nacimiento and they will be implementing best growing practices.

Hemp moratorium voted in by B of S (took 4 votes to accomplish). 25 other counties in CA have these as well. She said that to get Adam Hill to vote for the moratorium they had to agree that the Ag Liaison Advisory Board (ALAB) be able to help? draft the hemp ordinance. There was much concern from CAB attendees that the public did not get a chance to give input for the cannabis ordinance during the draft stages and we don’t want to see a repeat of that for hemp.

Many comments, questions & discussion about who should have input into writing the hemp ordinance. Rumors that the ALAB alone would be doing all the drafting. Murray Powell, from TAAG, had a letter from ALAB stating “hemp production should not have any land use regulation beyond any other legal crop.” This indicated ALABs position which seems fixed and therefore caused much consternation from CAB attendees. Discussion of who is part of the ALAB Board – a rep from each supervisor, environmentalists, academic agriculture experts are some of the members. Supervisor Arnold asked Jerry Diffenderfer to be her rep but he is erratic in attendance and she may have to find someone else. Supervisor Compton has some strawberry guy. Attendees at CAB felt that ordinary citizens, rural residents in particular, need to have a say. Supervisor Arnold said they will have input just like any other advisory, such as ALAB, CAB or TAAG however, Xzandrea Fowler, from Planning and Building, will be the person assembling the draft ordinance. Therefore, with all of this in mind, CAB needs to send their concerns and recommendations to Xzandrea.

It was suggested that parcel size and setbacks need to be a part of any hemp ordinance. Also, residences should be included as being “sensitive sites”.

Eric Hughes, from County Planning and Building was present. He works with Xanadrea Fowler and came because he saw on our agenda that we would be discussing a hemp ordinance. He listened to the concerns and made notes to take back to the County with him.

Leona Michaud said we should look into the restrictions placed on feed lots since hemp odor is a similar nuisance.

Sheila called for volunteers to draft a letter from CAB with our input on a hemp ordinance. Steve Almond stepped up. Sheila said she had heard from Don Wilson, a member of the public, and he is willing to assist.

A motion was made by Susan that we let Steve and Don draft a letter with all of CAB’s input. CAB’s input on hemp will be very similar to the cannabis concerns. Steve will run the letter past all the CAB members but due to time constraints we felt that we should send it in before our next meeting. Steve 2nd the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

6) New Business –

SLO County Water Resources Department, Ray Dienzo, presentation on Paso Basin Pilot Study Assisted by Kathy Martin. Handout: Paso Basin Aerial Groundwater Mapping Pilot Study (see attachment)A helicopter will be flying over parts of the basin in Oct. 2019 carrying a metal hoop structure that will hang at approximately 100 ft above ground. It will use electromagnetism to collect measurements down to 1000 feet below the surface. The results will aid in making future decisions on how to manage the Basin. It will avoid vineyards, powerlines and other metal structures as these interfere with the process. It was stated that this project does not pose any type of risk to health or safety. The study will take 3-5 days and will take place in two areas of the Basin, on the east side of the valley, and near Hwy 46 and Hwy 229 by Creston and Whitley Gardens. This is costing “us” about \$200K, significantly less than the actual cost of \$1M. Denmark has been doing this for 10 yrs. They are partnering with the state of CA in this study. Public Works is asking for geophysical well logs to help aid in the process, to compare results.

7) Planning Department–Project Referrals/Other permits in our area and an update on what is happening in the department – CAB liaison County Planner still TBD - (5 min) - Karen Nall, cannabis & hemp questions

8) Unfinished/ Continuing Business (15 minutes) –

- a. Report back from CAC Training and Chairperson’s Meeting that followed July 19th by attendees and CAB Vice Chair Kurt Almond

Six members of CAB attended the CAC training and felt it was very worthwhile. Roy mentioned that they said the Brown Act does not apply to CACs, unless as Sheila noted it is spelled out in the by-laws. County will cover liability for members of CACs at County level. Art Trinidad is apparently no longer with code enforcement. Lots of time was spent on “vacation rentals” as that seems to be a big problem in other parts of the County, including Nipomo.

Tom said that the CACs should generate a Top 10 List of the things we would like to see changed, that would basically make our jobs more effective.

Here at CAB there was much discussion on incomplete referral packages coming from the County. Eric Hughes, from the County, was taking notes on this subject to report back.

Kurt Almond was not present at CAB to report back on the CAC Chairperson’s meeting. Hopefully we can hear from him on this subject next month.

- b. Paso Basin Cooperative Committee Aug. 21, 4 pm, PR City Council Chambers – Supervisor Arnold reported on this during her report in #5 above.

Review of the final GSP available until Sept. 29th.

Sheila has read the whole thing, as has Steve Almond.

Sheila read some excerpts to the attendees and said she felt more optimistic about the plan than she has previously. The plan states that acreages and crop duty factors will be used to set pumping limits. This does not coincide with what we had heard before that historical usage was going to be used. Also, de minimis users will be ≤ 2 AF. There was no mention of Creston projects (injecting water) in the plan. There is a nice cross section of the basin which includes Creston in Vol. 1 pg. 77 (4-11). Only one monitoring well is shown for Creston and they have only collected data from this well since 2011. Calculation of the sustainable yield is only 20,400 AFY whereas the estimated pumping is 85,800 AFY, therefore the low sustainable yield for the current water budget period are not appropriate for long-term sustainability planning. They will collect data for five more years before they start imposing pumping cut-backs.

View water information in general at <http://www.slocountywater.org/sgma>

9) Committee Reports/Next Steps–

- a. By-Laws – Sheila L., & Jan M.- Nothing to report
- b. Elections – Sheila L. & Susan S. Judy Blankenship (public) - Nothing to report
- c. Public Information – Roy B., Tom E. & Mike Aarons w/ Website update – Kurt A
Need to change the agenda from Jen Caffee to Micki Olinger for DA’s LA.

10) Treasurer’s Report – Roy reported we have \$679.97 currently and we will be receiving an additional \$1000 for this year from Supervisor Arnold’s office once we return the signed paperwork to the County. PO Box fees were paid in July.

Other items/suggested future agenda items:

Kendra Santos, a member of the public who lives on La Panza, received a letter from Olivos de Oro saying that they were going to apply for a permit to grow cannabis. CAB has not seen a referral. Eric Hughes (County) and Roy Barba will see if they can find out anything on this.

Tom Edel said he will look into having the CHP attend CAB regularly and see if he can find any information regarding accident reports for Hwy 41 at Hwy 229 and at La Panza/Creston road, the second intersection being misaligned as of concern to many local residents.

11) Adjournment by 9:30 p.m. Motion by Roy/2nd by Tom. Unanimously approved.



Paso Basin Aerial Groundwater Mapping Pilot Study



Paso Basin to Utilize Electromagnetic Measuring Technique to Map Local Aquifer System

The San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District will conduct a survey of our local aquifer systems using the Aerial Electromagnetic (AEM) method starting mid-October 2019 in the Paso Robles Basin. This will provide a more complete picture of the groundwater basin for more informed decisions with our water in the future.

The surveying method uses instruments mounted on a helicopter, which will fly approximately 497 line-miles in a strategic pattern approximately 100 feet above the ground to collect measurements down to 1,000 feet below the land surface. The survey will send and receive signals that maps out the subsurface geology and groundwater locations in the Paso Robles Basin. The 3 to 5 day study will take place in two areas of the Paso Robles Basin, on the east side of the valley, and the area near Highway 46 and Highway 229 by Creston and Whitley Gardens.

Informational Presentations

- 8/13/2019, 9:00 AM:** Board of Supervisors Meeting
- 8/21/2019, 4:00 PM:** Paso Basin Cooperative Committee
- 8/21/2019, 7:00 PM:** Creston Advisory Body
- 8/28/2019, 7:00 PM:** San Miguel Advisory Council
- 9/4/2019, 7:00 PM:** Shandon Advisory Committee



Current Status and Next Steps

- In August and September 2019, the District is providing an informational overview on the Pilot Study, meeting dates and times are listed above.
- The flight path will avoid metallic structures (causes interference in the data set); hence the flight areas will avoid urban areas, vineyards, powerlines, etc.
- This project does not pose a risk to health or safety.
- The very low magnetic field is comparable to standing 1 foot away from your toaster for a few seconds, as the helicopter flies over.
- Survey results will be presented in 2020. Stay tuned!

To get involved please visit: SLOCounty.ca.gov/PW/PasoBasinPilotStudy