

EI Creston Mutual Domestic Water Consumers' Association
Board Planning Meeting
Tuesday, May 15, 2012 5:30 pm 89 Roadrunner Road

Present: Mitch Barker, Ken King, Ramon Lucero (Souder/Miller Project Manager), Karyl Lyne, Carol Macomber, Brigido Ortega, Jim Peters, Gene Solyntjes, Blanca Surgeon (Rural Community Assistance Corporation), Ric Valenzuela, Joe Zebrowski

Joe called the meeting to order and explained that this would be a working dinner meeting and we would eat and discuss funding options and next steps for EI Creston. **It was determined that adequate notice of the meeting had been given and a quorum was established.**

Blanca reminded us that with the \$1 million Water Trust Board (WTB) project which was proposed this spring and for which we were awarded \$100K, a 10% match is required and that monies from other funders like USDA, NMED Rural Infrastructure Program (RIP) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) can be used for that match. Blanca informed us that monies previously awarded by WTB, but unused by projects in the time frame allotted are recalled by the WTB. These monies can be re-awarded to projects that are ready for construction. Therefore EI Creston needs to put ourselves in line to receive some of these recalled monies.

There was discussion about what could be done with the WTB \$100K to further the project. In looking at the cost breakdown of the project provided by Ramon it was determined that the \$100K would fund the planning and design phase (\$69,442) and the bidding and construction phase services (\$21,066). Joe feels that it is important for us to push forward on the project in light of the momentum created by the WTB award and that we should try to find funding to proceed with the full project. We all feel that moving forward with this initial phase of the project would help increase association membership and community support.

Joe also said he had learned that Governor Martinez just today declared a water emergency in the state of New Mexico and that this declaration would open avenues for funding not previously available to us. Blanca said that we can request up to \$500K of USDA Emergency finding which is 100% grant, must fund an entire project and is allowed 5 years to complete the project. CDBG Emergency funding also requires a complete project, is 100% grant and we could apply for up to \$500K. As we know, CDBG also requires a public meeting and public input. EI Creston held a public meeting on May 3 for the purpose of public input and this meeting was appropriately advertised to qualify for a CDBG public meeting.

Blanca said that the DWSRF monies are 75% grant with a 0 - 2% and 25% forgivable loan. This funding source wants to see \$1.25 to \$1.50 in net revenue for every \$1 of loan they give. This also has to be a full project which is funded. Blanca recommended that we complete a project interest form for the DWSRF.

It was decided that El Creston should apply for all of these programs. **A motion was made and seconded (Gene/Jim) that El Creston MDWCA apply for the USDA emergency funding up to its maximum allowable amount. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made and seconded (Gene/Jim) that El Creston MDWCA apply for the DWSRF funding up to its maximum allowable amount. The motion passed unanimously.**

Blanca suggested that El Creston also apply for a RIP Loan at 3% which requires a very rigorous six month process, but if obtained prepares El Creston well to compete for other funding opportunities. "If you can get a RIP loan, you can get any loan," was Blanca's comment. Further, RIP loans can be applied to non-complete projects. In applying for RIP loans it is necessary to provide each item requested and if we don't have that item or that item doesn't apply to us we must indicate that and say why we don't have it or why it doesn't apply.

A motion was made and seconded that (Karyl/Jim) El Creston MDWCA apply for a RIP loan for \$20K. The motion passed unanimously. Another motion was made and seconded (Karyl/Jim) that the El Creston signatories for all RIP related contracts be the President and Vice President of the Board. The motion passed unanimously.

It was also decided that it would be prudent to get a meeting with representatives from all of the programs to which El Creston will apply for funding together to discuss the plan and the various parts of the project. Persons recommended to be at the meeting are San Miguel County Manager Les Montoya and Senator Phil Griego who will be contacted by Ramon. Others are Martha Torres (USDA), Dolores Gonzales (CDBG), Rick Martinez & Jana Amacher (NMFA/DWSRF), Jim Chaisen (RIP), Andy Edmondson Drinking Water Bureau. Blanca will contact these people. She will try for the week of May 29 or the week of June 4.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

The next regularly scheduled El Creston Board Meeting will be Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Karyl Lyne, Secretary
El Creston Mutual Domestic Water Consumers' Association