

**El Creston**  
**Mutual Domestic Water Consumers' Association**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Saturday, April 21, 2018    3 :00 pm    Sheridan Fire Station, 15 Ojitos Frios Rte**

**Present:** Gene and Linda Solyntjes, Cheryl Zebrowski, Crystal and David Gallegos, Eugene & Gertrud Johe, Liz and Ricardo Valenzuela, Mitch Barker, Frank Hager, Carmen and Kyle Rose, Lidia Atencio, Andrea Mauldin-Garduno, Chris Baca, George Calagna, Frances Casey, Anna Aragon. Guests: Ramon Lucero (Souder/Miller Project Director)

1. Meeting was called to order at 3:01 p.m. with a quorum of members present.
2. Notice of meeting was mailed to all members and posted in the usual places.
3. Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda (Crystal/Gene). Motion passed.
4. Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.
5. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes from last year's meeting (Crystal/Gene). Motion passed.

**6. Reports of officers and committees**

**a. President's report –**

- i. Anna Aragon reported on the legal issues.
  1. Corn Lawsuit – mediation is scheduled for May 24th and the trial set for August 23. She anticipates that the issues will be resolved at mediation.
  2. Water Rights
    - a. The transfer of 12 individual ¼ acre feet of water rights was approved, so we can begin operating the system. There are several other tasks which must be accomplished for the OSE, including individuals to cap or meter their wells.
    - b. Our proposed 3 acre feet had been protested, but the protestant never appeared before the OSE. Anna will be filing a motion to dismiss.
- ii. Financial issues
  1. Thanks to Ken King for being our legal counsel pro-bono for many years. Due to health issues, we have had to hire an attorney, Mr. Chico Gallegos. He has graciously agreed to fees of only \$50 per hour.
- iii. Water Hauling
  1. Thanks to Ric Valenzuela who built and ran the service for many years. Charles Weber is the newest driver who is very conscientious.

**b. Ramon Lucero**

- i. Now that we have our water rights transfer approved, there are several steps that need to be taken before starting operations. El Creston needs a contract with a Certified Water Operator. The operator will need to drain the tank and lines and fill with fresh water, since the water has been sitting for over a year. He/she will need to test a water sample and send the results to the drinking water bureau. The New Mexico Environment Department Drinking Water Bureau would then be notified that we are activating the system. Finally, people may hook into the system.

- ii. The proposed contract with El Valle will include the certified water operator who will collect monthly samples for both the water hauling operation and our system. They will also do our bookkeeping and compliance services.
- iii. There were several permit conditions the OSE sent with regards to our water rights transfer, including that people who will be using water for outdoor use need to attach a meter to their well. Those people not using water for outdoor use need to cap their well.
- iv. El Creston received \$45,000 in capital outlay. This will most likely be used for line extension.
- v. The NMED wants the Preliminary Engineering Report to be updated every 5 years. Last year El Creston received funds to do that, and Sauder Miller submitted it with the same recommendations from the original.

**c. Treasurer's report is attached**

**d. Membership report** – Cheryl Zebrowski reported that 6 members were dropped since the new property owners never transferred their membership. We now have 61 members.

**7. New business**

- a. **Financial Needs** – We need to find a way to pay for legal and auditor fees. Some suggestions included a special assessment, asking for donations, Go Fund Me, etc. If we need to raise \$4,500 the assessment would be \$75 per member.
  - b. **Membership assessment** –The current assessment remains at \$60. At this time there is no proposal to raise that.
8. The proposed by-law amendments were passed by a vote of 13 to 2 to expand the board to 7 members should we choose to do so, and shall read:
- Article VI – Board of Directors  
Section 1 – Functions of the Board of Directors  
*A board of not to exceed seven (7) directors (with a minimum of three (3)) will manage the business and affairs of this Association. The functions of such board include:*
- Section 2 – Election and Term of Board Members  
*Proposed – The business and affairs of this Association shall be conducted and managed by a board of directors, consisting of not more than seven (7) members (with a minimum of three (3)), all of whom shall be members of the Association.*
9. Public comment: Lidia Atencio asked about how the fire hydrants would be dealt with. Gene asked her to send him the specifications and questions the fire department has, and we will consult with the water operator.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Zebrowski, Secretary