



Attachment "A"

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 24, 2013 MINUTES

5:08 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Laurie Gallian	Gary Wysocky	John Dell'Osso	Shanti Edwards
Don McEnhill	Jeff Holtzman	Steve Rabinowitsh	Kristin Thigpen
Bill Smith	Cary Fargo		

Members Absent

Dennis Murphy	John Nagle
Jan McFarland	Sue Conley

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager;; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Sorrel Allen, Public Engagement Specialist; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Kim Batchelder, Conservation Associate Planner; Hannah Spencer, Stewardship Technician; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Public Attendees Ken Wells, David Bannister, Susan Kirks, Donna Norton, Mike & Debbie Potmesil; Donna Spilman, Nancy Summers, Jason Merrick

Public Comment

No public comments on items not on agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gallian asked for comments on the minutes of September 24, 2013. Motion by John Dell'Osso to approve minutes; Kristin Thigpen seconded. Nine members were in favor, Gary Wysocky abstained due to absence.

General Manager's Report

- The General Manager's recommendation regarding the District O & M Policy was approved by a 5-0 vote on October 15, 2013 during the O & M Workshop convened by the Board. The Board directed the General Manager to move some tier two fee land properties to tier one and to prepare them for transfer to Regional Parks next year.

The District will meet with Regional Parks next week to discuss how to make the transfers of the properties happen smoothly and efficiently, and to map out strategies for ongoing collaboration.

- Forever Forestville Matching Grant was approved by the Board on October 22, 2013, and will close on October 31, 2013. The project protects 8 acres in downtown Forestville and was controversial. Some residents wanted it retained for commercial use and others preferred to have it be protected. There have been several meetings that have brought the community members together and currently there is strong community support. The Forestville Association will take the title.

Volunteer Program

Sorrel Allen, Public Engagement Specialist, presented information on the District's current and evolving volunteer program. She has been gathering information from staff and other organizations to find innovative ideas to engage the public in the work that the District does. She asked the Advisory Committee members to give advice on how they think the District could best deploy this program..

After the presentation, the Advisory Committee members gave their ideas and input. Sorrel and Sheri will integrate these ideas into the current draft program strategy and will bring a revised program strategy to the Advisory Committee at a future meeting. . The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request at the District offices.

Mitigation Policy

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, presented information on the progress of the District's Mitigation Policy. Ms. Emerson summarized the May 9, 2013 draft of the policy and the May 23, 2013 Advisory Committee Meeting discussion. She asked for more input from the members before moving forward with broader distribution of the draft policy for additional review and comments, scheduling a public workshop sometime in January or February of 2014, and then bringing the policy to the Board of Directors for their consideration.

Ms. Emerson expressed that the goal of the District is to have a balanced policy. Chair Gallian opened up the discussion for member comments and questions, and then the public.

Committee Members initial input:

- Private vs. public mitigation projects
- Total program cost including overhead; need to be sure cost it out in order to get reimbursed
- Report back after two year to see how it is working out
- What about having a super majority?
- The policy is moving forward too quickly
- The policy is stricter then the last, with public only and not private, so there may be less of a need for a super majority
- Super majority could be seen as punitive; better to not be contentious
- This is a different document than what the District started with

Public comments:

- Some parts of the document are confusing. Are easements allowed or not? What kind of private shifting around?
- There will be a need to cost out the total cost for full reimbursement
- This policy draft is not ready for next steps
- The taxpayers are voting for District to protect more land
- Removes possibility for private mitigation banks
- Is it cost effective for the District to be in the business of mitigation?
- Mitigation projects are a huge amount of effort
- It is more cost effective for private entities
- Public projects should go out to bid
- Should disallow private mitigation and have it only for public projects
- This draft has stricter language
- Enhancement is in the eye of the beholder

Additional input from Committee Members:

- Still struggling to understand public versus private mitigation banks
- Would the AC be brought the project/ proposals before going to the BOD?
- District is not seeking out mitigation projects, but need a policy for when they are proposed to us
- Could Roblar Road happen again?
- New easements would be bound by this policy
- But there will be no tightening of old easements?
- Policy will be more consistent with better clarification
- If a project can't pass the first few questions, then it doesn't go forward; very simple and clear before even getting involved.
- Would like Mitigation Policy to come back as an item on the AC agenda after the public workshop before going to the Board; members want to hear what citizens have to say.
- Costs must be recovered.

District Staff:

- The Public Workshop will be in January or February but no date is set yet.
- Ms. Emerson will make changes to the Policy before the Public Workshop takes place.
- Mitigation Policy will come back as an agenda item to the Advisory Committee meeting before going to the Board.

Projects in Negotiations

- Pole Mountain is moving forward. This property is near Jenner Headlands and it is the highest point on the Sonoma Coast. The property will have public access. It is slated to close by the end of this year.

Announcements From Advisory Committee Members

Laurie Gallian

There will be no Executive Committee meeting in November or December, and no Advisory Committee meeting in November. The next meeting will be December 12, 2013.

Adjournment: 7:06 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: December 12, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary