



Attachment "A"

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 25, 2012 MINUTES

5:01 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Janet Orchard	Bill Smith	Guy Wilson	Suzanne Doyle
Laurie Gallian	Cary Fargo	Kristin Thigpen	John Nagle
Steve Rabinowitsh	Shanti Wright		

Members Absent

Jan McFarland	Jeff Holtzman
Sue Conley	Dennis Murphy

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Kathleen Marsh, Stewardship Coordinator; Tom Robinson, Associate Planner-Conservation; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Public Attendees Arthur Slater, Donna Spilman, Nancy Summers, Donna Norton, Sue Buxton

Announcement from the Chair

No announcements from the Chair

Public Comment

No public comments on items not on agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Orchard asked for comments on the corrected minutes of September 27, 2012. Motion by Laurie Gallian to approve minutes with the correction and seconded by Steve Rabinowitsch. All were in favor.

General Manager's Report

- There are several vacancies on the Advisory Committee. Three current and two that will be coming up in the near future: Guy Wilson and Chair Janet Orchard will not be

able to seek reappointment through Mayors' and Councilmembers'. The District will be working with the Mayors' and Councilmembers' to replace them.

- Suzanne Doyle, Environment, will not seek reappointment, however, Don McEnhill of the Russian Riverkeeper, will be taking her place if appointed by the Board in December 2012 or January 2013.
- The Second District, Agriculture and Business are currently vacant, and the General Manager, Bill Keene, will be doing outreach to the Agriculture and Business communities to help fill these vacancies.
- The new chair will be elected at the first Advisory Committee Meeting in 2013.
- Graton Rancheria in Rohnert Park is mitigating for impacts of the casino to the city of Rohnert Park and the County of Sonoma. There will be funding as high as \$25 million a year going directly to parks and open space that will depend on the revenue of the casino. Much of this funding will go towards operations and maintenance of parklands and may include recreation, organic food farms and gardens, education, outings, the Environmental Discovery Center, land management costs and cultural heritage of Native Americans in Sonoma County. The County will coordinate with the tribe regarding how the money will be spent. The District is working with the Director of Regional Parks, Caryl Hart, to discuss the highest priorities for parks and the District, and Regional Parks will meet with the Tribal Chairman. The money cannot be used by the District for acquisitions. This will be a future agenda item for the Advisory Committee and there may be a joint meeting between the Advisory Committee, the Fiscal Oversight Commission, and the Parks Commissions to help the District and Regional Parks to decide how to prioritize distribution of the funds.

Vegetation & Habitat Map

Tom Robinson, Conservation Planner, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the Vegetation and Habitat Map. Mr. Robinson explained that the Vegetation and Habitat map is in its early phases and will be a three to five year project. There will be a kick-off meeting on December 13 from 9:30 to noon, and the Advisory Committee is invited. The meeting will provide an in-depth description of the program and next steps for stakeholder and map user involvement. District staff will provide regular updates on the progress of the mapping project.

Mitigation Policy

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation on the revised Mitigation Policy. Ms. Emerson received several varied and diverse public comments that were integrated into the policy as much as possible. The Mitigation Policy will go to the Fiscal Oversight Commission next week, the District will then speak with the County-created Ad Hoc Mitigation Committee, and the policy will be taken to the Board of Directors in January.

The Advisory Committee shared their thoughts and concerns regarding the revised policy:

There was much appreciation for the changes that have been made to the policy, but there were some concerns as well, in summary as follows:

- No private mitigation
- Would like language to be tightened up
- Concern regarding flexibility of the policy versus little flexibility
- Concern that the policy gives the General Manager too much final say in what happens
- Would like the Board of Directors to have to come to a super majority
- Would like each property/project to have more review from Advisory Committee

The public also shared their thoughts and concerns, in summary, as follows:

- Concern that the Board of Directors can change anything at any time
- There was concern that there are too many gray areas in policy that can be interpreted in many different ways
- Opposition to the District being involved with mitigation in any way
- Also would like the language to be tightened up to avoid different interpretations
- Concern that the District has a weakness with the public's trust and the policy needs to help build public trust not destroy it further

The discussion ended with three recommendations that the Advisory Committee will take to the Board of Directors:

- Incorporate wording
- Advisory Committee have more review of properties/projects
- Super majority from Board of Directors on projects

Projects in Negotiations

The Board approved the Matching Grant Project recommendations and the new Matching Grant Projects are now added to the Projects in Negotiations list. (See spreadsheet attached, second page).

Announcements From Advisory Members

Guy Wilson

- Announced this was his last meeting and that he did not run for reelection with the Mayors' and Councilmembers'.

Janet Orchard

- Announced this was her last meeting and that she did not run for reelection with the Mayors' and Councilmembers'
- There will be a groundbreaking for train depot in Cotati on Tuesday, October 30, 2012.

Suzanne Doyle

- Announced this would be her last meeting and she is not seeking reappointment as Environmental representative.

Bill Keene

- Acknowledged and appreciated Guy Wilson, Janet Orchard and Suzanne Doyle for their contributions to the Advisory Committee over the years. There will be a celebration to honor them at the next Advisory Committee meeting on December 13.

Kristin Thigpen

- Announced that Shanti Wright had just gotten married. Congratulations Shanti!

Adjournment: 6:50pm

Next scheduled meeting date: December 13, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary