



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
October 27, 2011 MINUTES*

5:37 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Janet Orchard	Bill Smith	John Nagle
Steve Rabinowitsh	Cary Fargo	Guy Wilson
Kristin Thigpen	Laurie Gallian	Jeff Holtzman

Members Absent

Dennis Murphy	Andy Rodgers	Karen Bianchi Moreda
Douglas Hanford	Sue Conley	Suzanne Doyle

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager; DeAnna Kamber, Assistant Open Space Planner; Sue Gallagher, Deputy County Counsel; Sara Press, Associate Open Space Planner; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Secretary;

Public Attendees Susan Kirks

District Staff Carrie Johnson, Sara Press

Approval of Minutes

Chair Orchard called for comments on the minutes of September 22, 2011. Hearing none she called for the question. Motion by Steve Rabinowitsch and second by Bill Smith to approve the minutes.

Public Comment

No public comment.

General Manager's Report

- District Management and Staff are continuing work on the Work Plan: There will be a joint meeting of the Fiscal Oversight Committee and Citizens' Advisory Committee January 26th 2012 and the Work Plan will go to the Board of Directors for their review in March/April 2012. The Work Plan will begin July 1, 2012.
- Mark West Coho Celebration on Nov 12th at Pepperwood Preserve. Karen Gaffney will send an invitation to Advisory Committee members. Field tour of riparian habitat restoration project on Cresta property (Karen will lead field tour), followed by presentations at

Pepperwood Preserve by NOAA, UCCE, CDFG and Bill Keene to discuss Coho life cycle, habitat needs, recovery strategy and release of hatchery Coho onto Cresta property.

- Land Trust Rally – Bill Keene, Jake Newell, Shirlee Zane and Karen Gaffney all attended Rally – over 2,000 attendees. Bill, Shirlee, and Karen presented a workshop on the economic value of conservation. Karen presented a workshop on science based habitat restoration. Both were very well attended (45-65 participants) and received very positive evaluations.
- Waiting to hear about two large grants with the Moore Foundation – one for conservation valuation and one to develop a greenprint for Sonoma County (TNC as the lead) to document and map carbon potential in forests and rangelands. Should know by end of November.
- November 10th--Coastal Conservancy grant funding for easement and trail for public access to the Estero de Americano on the 495-acre Bordessa property. Will be closer to a deal by the end of the year.
- Construction contracts have been awarded for both the North Slope Sonoma Mountain and Healdsburg Ridge trail projects. Both trails are on track to be complete by summer 2012.
- Laguna trail will not open until next summer, due to concerns about the safety of the trail surface.
- Continuing to work with City of Sonoma on transfer of Montini Preserve.
- Continuing to work with Regional Parks on transfer of recreational fee lands
- Continuing to develop Taylor Mountain Master Plan – public meeting on Dec 6th at Santa Rosa Veteran's Hall, 6:30 pm to present the draft Resource Management Plan and provide a CEQA scoping session.
- East Slope trail--will be working with VMHA on construction and operation of trail.

Brown Act Training, Fair Political Practices Commission (FPCC) Requirements

Sue Gallagher presented information and facilitated discussion of the Brown Act, and the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPCC) requirements.

Matching Grant Program Update: Responses and Staff Recommendation

DeAnna Kamber, Assistant Planner, provided Matching Grant Program guideline revisions and responses to input based on comments from Citizens' Advisory Committee Members as well as three city entities, one non-profit and two members of the public. The proposed guidelines will go before the Board of Directors on November 15, 2011.

Subcommittees: Discussion of Objectives, Criteria and Staff Recommendations

Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager, discussed challenges with current subcommittees and the most effective way to garner valuable subcommittee expertise. Staff proposed that subcommittees be ad hoc and focused on short term single policy or program issues that require specialized input and advice. Decision was made to disband the on-going stewardship subcommittee and other standing subcommittees in favor of the ad hoc approach. Discussion of increasing the length of the regular committee meeting to begin

meetings at 5:00 instead of 5:30. This proposal will be on the next meeting agenda. The next meeting will begin at 5:30 until the change is made official.

Holiday Meeting Date: December 15, 2011

Decision was made to skip November meeting due to Thanksgiving Holiday and the next meeting will be early in December to avoid Christmas Holiday.

Review Upcoming Six Months of Agenda for the CAC

There was a discussion of having a standing agenda item to review the next six months of meetings. It was decided to just include the six month calendar as an attachment to the agenda instead of discussion.

Projects in Negotiations

- Pryor Ranch going to the Board on November 8, 2011
- Early negotiations of adjacent property to Pryor Ranch has begun

Announcements from Advisory Members

Jeff Holtzman

- Jeff Holtzman and the Over the Hill Hiking Club hiked on Taylor Mtn and it was beautiful. Jeff shared his interest in visiting different Open Space protected properties, perhaps quarterly field trips, with the members of the Citizens' Advisory Committee.

Kristin Thigpen

- The unveiling of Highway 12 report will take place on Saturday, December 3rd from 10 – 12. An email will be sent.

Laurie Gallian

- Laurie Gallian met with Richard Dale of Sonoma Ecology Center and he is interested in taking over services at Sugarloaf.
- Biochar will be presenting at the national conference in July being held at Sonoma State.

Adjournment: 7:15 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting date: December 15, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary