



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 15, 2011 MINUTES*

5:30 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Janet Orchard	Bill Smith	John Nagle	Karen Bianchi Moreda
Steve Rabinowitsh	Sue Conley	Suzanne Doyle	Shanti Wright
Kristin Thigpen	Laurie Gallian	Jeff Holtzman	

Members Absent

Dennis Murphy
Cary Fargo
Guy Wilson

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Kim Batchelder, Natural Resources Planner; Leslie Lew, Open Space Planner; Sue Gallagher, Deputy County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Secretary

Public Attendees Susan Kirks

District Staff Carrie Johnson

Announcement from the Chair

Chair Orchard announced Advisory Committee Member Doug Hanford's resignation from the Advisory; a resolution to honor Doug's service will be awarded at the next meeting, January 26 2012.

A new Third District member was announced and introduced, Shanti Wright of the Sonoma Land Trust. Bill Keene welcomed her and Shanti introduced herself, provided background on her conservation work and thanked the Advisory Committee for the opportunity to serve.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Orchard requested any revisions to the minutes of October 27, 2011. No requested revisions. Motion by Laurie Gallian and second by Kristin Thigpen to approve the minutes. Unanimous.

Public Comment

No public comment.

General Manager's Report

- The District has been approached for several mitigation proposals on fee and easement lands. District staff are developing a revised mitigation policy and will place this issue on the CAC agenda for future meetings.
- Memo will be going out to the Advisory and Fiscal Oversight Committee members to announce the joint meeting on Feb 9th to review a draft of the District's 3-year Work plan. The meeting will take place at the Glaser Center at the Unitarian Church on Seventh and Mendocino Ave. at 5:00 pm.
- Taylor Mountain's fourth public meeting took place on December 6th at the Santa Rosa Veteran's Hall. Approximately 100 people attended. Received good public input. Possibly one more public meeting before taking to the Board sometime in summer. Improvements and raising money are progressing.
- Revised Matching Grant guidelines were approved by the Board for fiscal year 11/12.
- Klesko project closed.
- Sonoma Garden Park project will be reimbursing the funds as work on the project is completed.
- Bordessa Conservancy grant approved and moving forward with negotiations, hopefully going to the Board in January or early February.
- Taylor Mountain additional permits approved by Board.

Stewardship Update: Montini, Healdsburg Ridge & North Slope Projects & Fee Land Strategy

Kim Batchelder, Natural Resources Planner, and Leslie Lew . Open Space Planner, presented PowerPoint presentations for the Montini, Healdsburg Ridge & North Slope projects

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, discussed fee land strategy. Several properties are being addressed in one strategic document to take to Board for approval. The public involvement process will include gathering input from the committee members, the public, stakeholders and other partners.

Meeting Length

Chair Orchard opened up discussion of increasing the Advisory Committee's meeting length. Members decided to increase meeting length by starting at 5:00 instead of 5:30. Motion by Laurie Gallian, second by Jeff Holtzman. Unanimous. The January 26, 2012 meeting will begin at 5:00pm.

Binder Updates

Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager, in lieu of Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Secretary, discussed the Advisory Committee binders. We have eliminated bios of committee members, and information on the Fiscal Oversight Committee. The Advisory decided they

would like the bios added back in but Fiscal Oversight information can be left out to shorten the length of the binder and make it more concise and easier to find information.

Projects in Negotiations

- Paula Lane project looks very promising with a lot of support; the City of Petaluma and the Paula Lane Action Network are currently reviewing the draft conservation easement we sent them. We're currently drafting the Matching Grant Agreement for their review.
- Bordessa property has controversy regarding possible 5 miles of trail which would give public access to the Estero. There is concern that Bordessa would no longer be available for agriculture, and that public access would be disruptive. The trail project has not been approved yet, but if it is, there would be limitations as to where the trails would go. Agriculture is still an allowed use on the site, and grazing is intended to continue.

Announcements from Advisory Members

Laurie Gallian

- Laurie Gallian spoke of the Springs Alliance Meeting and the Arnold Drive roundabout construction happening in Sonoma and feels that it will make traffic run more smoothly and will reduce emissions

Janet Orchard

- Chair Janet Orchard spoke about the reorganization of committee in January
- Chair Janet Orchard also spoke about the marathon council meeting to adopt a roadway design for possible roundabouts being constructed to transform the corridor of Cotati and that it would hopefully reduce speed and add social and environmental benefits to downtown Cotati

Adjournment: 7:09 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting date: January 26, 2012

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary