



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
February 23, 2012 MINUTES*

5:03 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Janet Orchard	Bill Smith	Shanti Wright
Sue Conley	Suzanne Doyle	Jeff Holtzman
Laurie Gallian	Jan McFarland	

Members Absent

Cary Fargo	Guy Wilson	Karen Bianchi Moreda
Steve Rabinowitsh	John Nagle	
Kristin Thigpen	Dennis Murphy	

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; DeAnna Kamber, Assistant Planner; Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager; Sue Gallagher, Deputy County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Secretary

Public Attendees Susan Kirks, Ken Wells

Announcement from the Chair

Chair Orchard introduced new member Jan McFarland, First District Representative. Each member introduced and spoke a bit about themselves and Jan spoke a bit about herself.

Public Comment

No public comment

Approval of Minutes

Chair Orchard asked for comments on the minutes of January 23, 2012; one correction needed to be made. Motion by Laurie Gallian and second by Bill Smith to approve corrected minutes.

Chair Orchard asked for comments on the minutes of the Joint Meeting with the FOC on February 9, 2012. Motion by Bill Smith and second by Shanti Wright to approve minutes.

Revised Rules of Procedures

Chair asked for comments on new Rules of Procedure, changing the start time from 5:30 to 5:00. No comments, new Rules of Procedure approved. Motion by Suzanne Doyle and second by Jan McFarland.

General Manager's Report

- Karen Gaffney and Bill Keene attended the State Coastal Conservancy meeting last week. Agenda: Regional Funding Discussion. Coastal Conservancy, Bay Area Program and other Resource Agencies are running out of money. Many alternatives were discussed, including bringing a measure before the voters for 2014 to fund the Bay Area Program via a parcel tax that would include nine Bay Area counties. This would bring \$9 to \$10 million a year and another water bond that would be smaller than the previous bonds.
- The District will be providing a financial update to the Board on March 13th prior to the Work Plan going to the Board on March 27th. These will be afternoon sessions that will start at 2:30 or later if anyone is interested in attending. The District is requesting any additional input from the Advisory Committee regarding the Work Plan to be delivered to the District via email by midnight on Monday, February 27th.
- There has been some tree cutting on PG&E power lines and the District has not been contacted. Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, has contacted PG&E and has not heard back yet.
- The District will bring a draft of the Mitigation Policy to the April Advisory Committee meeting to get advice and recommendations from members. There will be a presentation from staff on fee lands and conservation easements. The Policy will go to the Board in July or August.
- The Board Ad Hoc Mitigation Policy committee will meet with Supervisors Carrillo and Rabbitt. They will be discussing the option for the county to create mitigation opportunities on county lands. Grant Davis from the Sonoma County Water Agency is on the committee to represent the Water Agency, and Bill Keene will represent the District.
- The District will bring a draft of the Fee Lands Strategy to the Advisory Committee to receive advice and recommendations from members. This will go to the Board in late summer.
- There was a meeting with Supervisor Carrillo, District staff and local landowners regarding the Estero Americano and the Bordessa Ranch last week. There is a controversy regarding the trail easement; many neighboring landowners do not want public access to the Estero. This will go before the Board to consider on March 13th in an afternoon open session that will start at 2:30. Advisory Committee members can attend this Board meeting and can speak with Board members regarding this issue. There was discussion about the fact that Advisory Committee members did not hear about this advance to provide advice. Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager, will bring all preliminary projects in negotiations to the future Advisory Committee meetings for input.

- Chair Orchard asked for a Summary Report –the District’s accomplishments for 2011 – from General Manager Bill Keene. He will work on that and supply it to the Advisory Committee.

MGP Update & Request to Form Ad Hoc Committee for Matching Grant Program

DeAnna Kamber, Assistant Planner, asked for volunteers for an Ad Hoc Committee for Matching Grant Program. The members who volunteered at the January 26th meeting will be on this Ad Hoc Committee, which includes: Suzanne Doyle, Janet Orchard, Bill Smith, Jeff Holtzman, Laurie Gallian, and Steve Rabinowitsh. Jan McFarland also volunteered at this meeting. Some volunteers expressed concern regarding conflicts of interest and possible timing issues for meeting attendance. Sue Gallagher confirmed that once the application goes through our first two steps of review if a conflict of interest emerges, the member with the conflict would step down from the Ad Hoc Committee. Members do not need to be at every meeting.

Request made of Secretary: Please separate big documents from the Advisory agenda and minutes and add them as attachments.

Public Comment from Susan Kirks: She encouraged Advisory Committee members on the Ad Hoc Committee to schedule time to come in and makes notes and see the applications, blending staff perspective with members. She showed interest in attending the subcommittees as a member of the public.

Work Plan Next Steps

Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager, requested that input from Advisory Committee members be submitted to the District by Monday, February 27th, midnight. The Work Plan draft is on the District website and has been sent to stakeholders and the public as well for more input. If the Work Plan is accepted by the Board, it will begin July 1st 2012.

Projects in Negotiations

- Bordessa Ranch will go to the Board on March 13th in an afternoon open session that will start at 2:30. Advisory Committee members are welcome to attend.

Announcements From Advisory Members

Laurie Gallian

- Lynne Woolsey spoke in Sonoma on February 22, 2012, about Bodega Bay and the Gulf of the Farallones, Bill# H.R. 192.
- 9th Annual Cheese Conference at the MacArthur Place in Sonoma on Saturday, February 25th. Laurie and Sheana Davis will be cheese rolling again.

Jeff Holtzan

- Jeff was hiking at Jenner Headlands with the Over the Hill & Dale Club with Ralph Benson. They spotted bald eagles on the hike.

Bill Keene

- Sonoma County Restaurant Week is starting on February 27th until March 4th. Participating restaurants are offering \$19, \$29, and \$39 special three-course dinner menus. The sales tax goes to the District. More information can be found on the Economic Development Board website.

Adjournment: 6:15 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting date: March 22, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary