



Attachment "A"

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 28, 2013 MINUTES

5:07 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Laurie Gallian	Kristin Thigpen	Jan McFarland
Shanti Edwards	Steve Rabinowitsh	Gary Wysocky
Don McEnhill	Bill Smith	John Dell'Osso

Members Absent

Dennis Murphy	Cary Fargo
Sue Conley	John Nagle
Jeff Holtzman	

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Public Attendees Susan Kirks, Stan Gold

Chair Gallian introduced two new members to the Advisory Committee, Gary Wysocky from the City of Santa Rosa, and John Dell'Osso from the City of Cotati, both appointed by Mayors' and Councilmembers'.

Public Comment

No public comments on items not on agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gallian asked for comments on the minutes of February 28, 2013. Motion by Steve Rabinowitsh to approve minutes with added information regarding a recommendation for the County supervisors to amend the county codes to not allow any required mitigation of private developments to be allowed on District properties. Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk, will make changes to minutes. Don McEnhill seconded the approval of the minutes with the change. Seven members were in favor; two abstentions.

General Manager's Report

- The Preservation Ranch project is moving forward rapidly. Will be taken to the Board of Directors in May and hopefully closing by the end of May. There is great potential for forest and watershed restoration. The District is working with the Conservation Fund, the California State Coastal Conservancy and Sonoma Land Trust to purchase the property. The property extends from south to north for 28 miles and, when combined with existing Conservation Fund lands, will comprise more than 58,000 acres.
- Grant funding for Mark West properties will be received by end of summer or end of the year.
- The transfer of the Montini Open Space Preserve to the City of Sonoma went to the Board and was approved. Construction of new trails is moving forward. The transfer to the City of Sonoma is scheduled to take place in 2014.
- PG&E is working with the District on the line clearance/tree removal issue and will be looking at how they manage and compensate for loss of trees in their right of ways. They are acting as partners with the District on this issue and it has been positive.
- Since Taylor Mountain opened to the public, grazing cattle caused an injury to one of the volunteers. Regional Parks is putting up fencing and moving the cattle to the fenced area to avoid this happening in the future. This is not a long term solution and Regional Parks is evaluating grazing as a tool as well as providing public safety.
- There have been some encroachment issues with the Fitch Mountain acquisition. The District will be meeting with the landowner this week. Hopefully the issues will be resolved and this will be closing in the summer.

Conservation Planning Program Update

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Advisory Committee on Conservation Planning. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request at the District office.

Field Trip in June

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, discussed an upcoming field trip scheduled for the June 27 Advisory Committee meeting. It was decided to hike the North Slope Sonoma Mountain Trail. Members should bring sturdy shoes, sunscreen and dress in layers. Refreshments will be provided as well as a rented van and everyone will meet at the District at 4:00 pm that afternoon instead of the usual 5:00 meeting start time. It is a half hour drive to the trail and the hike will begin at 5:00 and end around 7:00. This will be a joint field trip with the Fiscal Oversight Commission and the public will be invited.

Bill Keene, General Manager, also informed the members that they are welcome to join our monitoring staff at anytime. They would just need to email Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Secretary, and let her know what type of property they would like to monitor and Mariah will set it up with the monitoring staff.

Projects in Negotiations

- There will be a new Matching Grant cycle that begins later this year, which is a two year cycle. Applications will be due next spring. We have already formed a subcommittee of six members to work on this. The Matching Grant application due date will be announced publicly.

Announcements From Advisory Committee Members

John Dell'Osso

Announced that he will need to miss next month's meeting.

Shanti Edwards

There are several Sonoma Land Trust hikes, workdays and outings in the month of April and May. See the District Website for details www.sonomaopenspace.org

Adjournment: 6:12 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: April 25, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary