



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
April 26, 2012 MINUTES*

5:04 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,  
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Sue Conley  
Jeff Holtzman

**Staff Present** Bill Keene, General Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiatives Manager; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Kathleen Marsh, Stewardship Coordinator; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Secretary

**Public Attendees** Dennis Rosatti, Bill Kortum, Susan Kirks, Donna Norton, Nancy Gruchacoka, Kathy Wilson, Stan Gold, Donna Spilman, Jason Merrick

**Announcement from the Chair**

No announcements from the Chair

**Public Comment**

No public comment on items not on agenda

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Orchard asked for comments on the minutes of March 22, 2012. Motion by Bill Smith to approve minutes and second by Suzanne Doyle.

**General Manager's Report**

- Staff has been working on Mitigation Policy draft and an outline will be presented to the Advisory Committee this evening.
- Fee lands strategy to come to Advisory Committee on June 28, 2012.

## **Mitigation Policy**

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, gave a brief PowerPoint presentation outlining the Mitigation Policy draft.

Chair Orchard opened the meeting for discussion of the Mitigation Policy, and District staff responded to questions.

Chair Orchard then opened the meeting to public comments, and then back to Advisory Committee for final comments and questions answered by District Staff.

Advisory Committee and District staff made the decision to bring back the mitigation policy on June 28 meeting rather than the May 24 meeting to allow more time to develop the Mitigation Policy draft and allow the committee to look it over before the next meeting.

### **Summarized Comments from Advisory Committee:**

- Question if there is any benefit to District participation in mitigation projects, though acknowledgement that in some cases mitigation funds could be helpful for District acquisition and fee land habitat enhancement projects.
- Concern about increase in workload for staff, public perception of District facilitation of development projects with habitat impacts, especially private projects. Concern that the District will be presented with an overwhelming number of mitigation project requests.
- Concern that a District mitigation policy as outlined would not have prevented the Roblar Ranch Easement issue. General Manager explained that in this particular case, the Board of Directors voted to interpret the easement to allow for mitigation.
- Asked for more detail, full draft of policy, adequate time to review and discuss. Feeling that the presented timeline was too abbreviated. General Manager stated that the timeline could be expanded to accommodate their input
- Concern that not allowing mitigation on easement lands, especially lands in agricultural use, will limit the ability of landowners to stay economically viable.

### **Summarized Comments from Public:**

- Prefer to see a policy that prohibits mitigation on District-protected lands.
- Public trust issue-Roblar Ranch Easement an example of this.
- Potential issue of competition with private sector mitigation bankers.

## **Economic Valuation of Conservation**

Chair Orchard, Karen Gaffney, Strategic Initiative Manager and Bill Keene, General Manager made the decision to postpone the Economic Valuation of Conservation item on the agenda until next meeting, May 24, 2012, due to lack of time and importance of the Mitigation Policy discussion

## **Projects in Negotiations**

Bill Keene, General Manager, did not have any updates on projects in negotiations.

## Announcements From Advisory Members & General Manager

### Kristen Thigpen

- Sonoma County Regional Parks Foundation is hosting Pasta Palooza for the Parks on Saturday, April 28 from 6:00 to 10:00pm at the Santa Rosa Vet's Building. There will be live music.

### Guy Wilson

- On Saturday, April 28 Geoffrey Skinner will lead a walk in Sebastopol to look at architectural styles and details around the historic downtown area. Meets at the plaza at 9:00am. Three hour walk.

### Laurie Gallian

- Jack London Park in Glen Ellen is holding a fundraiser to support the park at Benziger Winery on Sunday, April 29 from 5:30 to 7:30pm.

### Bill Keene

- The Parks Alliance has raised enough money to keep all five parks in Sonoma County that were slated to be closed, to stay open for at least another year. Many non-profit organizations, volunteers, consultants, and others helped to keep the parks open.

### Susan Kirks

- Bay Area Open Space Council in San Francisco will hold their 13th annual Open Space Conference on May 10, which is Bike to Work Day.

**Adjournment:** 7:30 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting date: May 24, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,  
Advisory Committee Secretary