

**Attachment "A"**

***SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
May 26, 2011 MINUTES***

5:40 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,  
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

**Members Present**

Kristin Thigpen	Janet Orchard	Bill Smith
Cary Fargo	Guy Wilson	Andy Rodgers
Sue Conley	Douglas Hanford	Steve Rabinowitsh

**Members Absent**

John Nagle	Dennis Murphy	Suzanne Doyle
Karen Bianchi Moreda	Laurie Gallian	Jeff Holtzman

**Staff Present** Bill Keene, General Manager; Maria J. Cipriani, Assistant General Manager; Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager; Janet Christensen, Advisory Committee Secretary; Carrie Johnson, Receptionist.

**Public Attendees** Donna Norton, Susan Kirks

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Orchard called for comments on the minutes of April 28, 2011. Hearing none she called for the question. Motion by Kristin Thigpen and second by Sue Conley to approve the minutes.

**Public Comment**

Susan Kirks attended the "Everybody Profits Sonoma" conference and congratulated Mayor Laurie Gallian for delivering an eloquent speech on carbon sequestration and habitat enhancement.

Donna Norton requested clarification on an issue related to mitigation.

**General Manager's Report**

- The Board of Directors approved the Clover Springs fee title transfer to the City of Cloverdale at its May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the Van Steyn parcel donation will go to the Board of Directors for approval.
- On June 14<sup>th</sup>, the Giorgi Park Phase 2 Matching Grant Project will go to the Board of Directors for approval.
- County of Sonoma budget hearings will be held in June.

- As a cost-cutting measure, five CA State Parks in Sonoma County have been slated to close in 2012: Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Annadel State Park, Austin Creek State Recreation Area, Jack London State Historic Park and Petaluma Adobe State Historic Park. A mountain-bike race to be held in Annadel State Park on June 5 hopes to raise \$50,000 to help keep Annadel open.

### **Subcommittee Updates**

At their meeting on May 19<sup>th</sup> the Stewardship / Resource and Land Management subcommittee discussed the future challenges of fee lands. A summary of the District's fee lands with location and size was requested by the group.

The Conservation Planning and Acquisition subcommittee also met on May 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed the criteria for selecting projects. The subcommittee will work on draft ranking criteria.

### **Proposed Budget FY 11-12**

Bill Keene, General Manager, gave a brief overview of the District's budget for staffing and services and supplies for the coming year. Committee members asked questions and commented on the information presented.

### **Public Access on Conservation Lands**

Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager, gave the committee members a brief history of public access on District lands through its voter-approved measures and adopted acquisition plans. The District strives to complete projects which achieve multi-benefits to maximize the use of public dollars for open space conservation. However, the diversity of the mission means that not all values are compatible or complementary. (e.g. agriculture and recreation or resource protection and recreation). The District does strive to have a balanced program with demonstrated success in all categories. Recreation and education is also provided through outdoor education, permit programs, and outings. Easements allow for recreational use and several trail easements are on District conservation easements. 39 conservation easements have recreation purposes, and nearly 7,000 acres of fee lands are being considered for public access.

### **Announcements from Advisory Members**

#### **Janet Orchard**

John Dell'Osso, Cotati's mayor from 1995 to 1996 and a National Park Service ranger, was appointed Wednesday night to fill a vacant council seat.

**Adjournment:** 7:20 p.m.

Next scheduled meeting date: June 23, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Christensen,  
Advisory Committee Secretary