



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
June 28, 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
Laurie Gallian	Cary Fargo	
Steve Rabinowitsh	Kristin Thigpen	

Members Absent

Guy Wilson	Sue Conley	Suzanne Doyle	
Dennis Murphy	John Nagle	Jeff Holtzman	Jan McFarland

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Sara Press, Associate Open Space Planner; Kathleen Marsh, Stewardship Coordinator; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Secretary

Public Attendees Susan Kirks, Elizabeth Tyree, Donna Norton, Stan Gold, Ken Wells, Jason Merrick, Donna Spilman, Rosemary Laird

Announcement from the Chair

No announcements from the Chair

Public Comment

No public comments on items not on agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Orchard asked for comments on the minutes of May 24, 2012. Motion by Laurie Gallian to approve minutes and second by Cary Fargo.

General Manager's Report

- The Board of Directors approved the 2012/2013 District Budget, which includes the first year of the Work Plan.

- The Community Alliance with Family Farmers held an event on Tuesday June 26 at the Front Porch Farm in Healdsburg. The event's topic was *Adapting to Climate Change on North Coast Vineyards and Farms; Building Resilience and Increasing Crop Diversity*. It was a one day seminar that included a local foods lunch, a presentation from the United States Global Change, and consultants from the Sonoma County Water Agency. Grape crops were discussed, as they are the biggest crop in California. Climate change may affect changes in the types of grapes grown in Sonoma County.
- The conservation carbon sequestration mapping and policy program being conducted in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy was approved by the Board. The District's economic valuation program is gaining potential funding support from other foundation and agency partners, the Coastal Conservancy and the Bechtel Foundation.
- PG&E's marking of trees near power lines is focused mainly in Cooper's Grove in Bennett Valley and the Saddle Mountain area. The District cannot keep PG&E from removing trees, but can make sure they only remove the trees that need to be removed. Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, is working with PG&E who are being responsive to the District's requests. Hopefully this is helping to minimize the impact to habitat connectivity. The trees need to be twenty feet from the lines. The District is contacted by PG&E every year; there were more trees marked for removal this year, however, than other years.

Fee Lands Strategy

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the District's Fee Lands Strategy. The District owns 7,500 acres of fee lands, and a detailed strategy is required for each one. It is more challenging to transfer the properties now due to the economic situation with the State and Regional Parks systems. These lands need to be managed responsibly while at the same time minimizing the costs to the District.

Mitigation Policy Draft

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, presented the draft Mitigation Policy to the Advisory Committee. Chair Orchard led the discussion of the draft that was supplied a month ago to committee members and the public. Bill Keene, General Manager, introduced the policy advising the Committee Members and the public that the District is looking for comments, advice and opinions. District staff presented the policy, the Committee commented, followed by public comments and then responses from staff. Final comments were then made by the Committee. The public was limited to three minutes per person.

Sheri Emerson added that comments will be accepted by the District until July 15, 2012 as well and will be included in the revised version of the policy. The District would like to bring the policy to the Board by the end of 2012.

District staff will send revised draft mitigation policy to Advisory Committee Members and the public in later part of August.

The policy will come back to the Committee in September meeting.

Projects in Negotiations

- Bordessa closed and no lawsuits have been filed.
- Paula Lane closed.

Announcements From Advisory Members

Laurie Gallian

- Join us in Sonoma for the 4th of July celebration: parade, activities on the Plaza and fireworks at 9:30

Adjournment: 7:35pm

Next scheduled meeting date: July 26, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary