



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 22, 2015 MINUTES*

5:06 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Sue Conley	Janet Orchard	John Azevedo	Doug Lipton
Bill Smith	Jan McFarland	Kristin Thigpen	
Shanti Edwards	Curt Nichols	Laurie Gallian	
Don McEnhill	Gary Wysocky	Steve Rabinowitsh	

Members Absent

Jeff Holtzman Cary Fargo
John Nagle John Dell'Osso

Staff Present Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Mary Dodge, Administrative & Fiscal Services Manager; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Sorrel Allen, Public Engagement Specialist; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Public Comment

Chair Laurie Gallian asked for public comments on items not listed on the agenda. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Gallian asked for comments on the minutes from October 23, 2014. Gary Wysocky asked that one correction be made showing that he did attend the last meeting; he arrived late. Motion to approve the minutes with correction by Don McEnhill. Chair Gallian asked for a vote and all approved the minutes with the one correction.

General Manager's Report

- There was a public meeting today from 2:00 to 4:00 at the District to discuss a proposed update to the IPAOM Policy that was adopted in 2013 by the Board of Directors. Two members of the District's Fiscal Oversight Commission were in attendance as well as two members from the Advisory Committee. It was well attended with over 40 people. The initial public access consensus was that the public would like access to land protected by the District without

restrictions. The consensus described initial public access preparation as a trailhead, signage, and a portable bathroom. The big themes that emerged from the meeting were the need for flexibility in spending, ADA accessible facilities and open (dawn to dusk) access without restriction, above and beyond docent-led tours. The IPAOM Policy update will be presented to the Fiscal Oversight Commission on February 5, 2015 and to the Advisory Committee on February 26, 2015.

- There are two trail openings in March:
 1. The East Slope Sonoma Mountain Ridge Trail, which is part of the Bay Area Ridge Trail, extends along the eastern ridge of the mountain from Jack London State Historic Park ending at a loop at Ted and Pat Eliot's property. There will be a celebration and grand opening on Saturday, March 14, 2015 from 10:30 to 1:30 at the Jack London State Historic Park Winery Ruins.
 2. North Sonoma Mountain Regional Park and Open Space Preserve will also open in March and offers a 4.5 mile trail. A celebration/dedication will take place on Monday, March 23. More details will be sent out to Advisory Committee member in a few weeks.
- An item that the Board approved last week will allow the District to forgo the typical bid process when contracting with consultants and will ultimately save the District money.
- The Colgan Creek Matching Grant Project will be going to the Board on March 10, 2015 for approval of additional restoration.
- Next week, on January 28, 2015 from 4:00 to 6:00, there will be a public meeting at the Crane Melon Barn on Petaluma Hill Road in Santa Rosa to discuss the Young-Armos incubator farm concept proposal. Supervisor Zane will be hosting the event. Mr. Keene will be presenting as well as the UC Cooperative Extension. We will be getting input from the public on the concept.
- The District will be launching a new website in March and more information will be brought to the Advisory Committee regarding the progress at the March meeting.
- The District will bring the Initial Public Access, Operation and Maintenance draft policy to the next Advisory Committee meeting in February.
- Mr. Keene introduced the newest member of the Advisory Committee, Doug Lipton, to the Committee. Doug gave the group information about himself. He has lived in California for 35 years. He currently lives in the Dry Creek Valley area and for the past 19 years has raised his kids on a farm. He is a farmer, environmental scientist and is the owner of SHED in Healdsburg, a market, café and community gathering space. He has worked with several non-profits, including Sonoma Land Trust and the Russian Riverkeeper. Doug was appointed to the District Advisory Committee to represent the fourth District by former Supervisor Mike McGuire.

Committee Members introduced themselves and welcomed Doug to the Committee.

Advisory Committee Administration

a) Election of Committee Officers

Chair Gallian announced that she would like to step down as Chair. She nominated Steve Rabinowitsh as the new Chair, and Gary Wysocky seconded the nomination. There was a

vote and all were in favor, no oppositions or abstentions. Steve Rabinowitsh accepted the nomination, his second time as Chair for the Committee. Mr. Keene thanked Laurie Gallian for her service as Chair and welcomed Steve Rabinowitsh.

Chair Rabinowitsh asked for a nomination for Vice Chair. Janet Orchard nominated Laurie Gallian, and Kristine Thigpen seconded the nomination. There was a vote and all were in favor, no oppositions or abstentions. Laurie Gallian accepted the nomination.

Chair Rabinowitsh asked for a nomination for Chair Pro Tem. Laurie Gallian nominated Kristin Thigpen and Sue Conley seconded the nomination. There was a vote and all were in favor, no oppositions or abstentions. Kristin Thigpen accepted the nomination.

b) Advisory Committee Rules of Procedures

Chair Rabinowitsh asked for a review of the Advisory Committee Rules of Procedure. Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, explained that the Committee has been working under the previous rules of procedure and that the Youth Engagement and attendance items will be going to the Board in March to be approved. Laurie Gallian motioned to approve the Rules of Procedure as they currently are, and Curt Nichols seconded the motion. There was a vote and all were in favor, no oppositions or abstentions.

c) Ad Hoc Subcommittee Assignments

No new subcommittees were formed. The current Ag Subcommittee will continue. Laurie Gallian motioned to approve, and Kristin Thigpen seconded the motion. All were in favor, no oppositions or abstentions.

d) Committee Calendar and Roster

Chair Rabinowitsh asked the members to review the calendar dates for meetings in 2015. No changes were made at this time.

Implementation for Management Review

Mr. Keene and Mary Dodge, Fiscal and Administrative Services Manager, discussed the updated Management Review implementation. The Management Review Report dated June 16, 2014 includes multiple recommendations made as a result of a study done by Moss Adams Management. Mr. Keene highlighted the most critical recommendations of the review:

- Conduct a Class and Comp Study (which has not been done at the District since 1997)
- Hold a Fiscal Oversight Commission Workshop at the Board to Clarify the Role of the FOC
- Conduct an Easement Workshop at the Board to Demonstrate Efficiency and Effectiveness of Easements
- Finalize Development of Fee Land Transfer Procedures
- Develop a Standard Report to the Board that Highlights Key Performance Measures and Progress

A table of all items was included in the packet and is available upon request.

Laurie Gallian asked about the item relating to adopting a Code of Conduct as it mentioned the Advisory Committee and Mr. Keene explained that the recommendation was made specifically pertaining to the Fiscal Oversight Committee but it would be appropriate to take to both groups.

Urban Farm Update

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, updated the Advisory Committee members on the Urban Farm Project. The Advisory Committee formed an Ag Subcommittee and are interested in addressing the Urban Farm at their monthly meetings. The District has been evaluating properties that could possibly be the future site of the Urban Farm. These will be reviewed by the Advisory Committee before a decision is made. There are about 30 properties that will be analyzed for a possible site, and the 10 most promising will be visited by staff. The District will meet with the City of Santa Rosa to discuss this project. There will be fundraising, ongoing meetings with stakeholders, Board of Directors, Advisory Committee and Fiscal Oversight Commission, an internal advising committee has been created, and a draft business plan will be brought to the Board. The plan is to purchase the property by 2016. Members suggested that this be reported out on each month, and Sue Gallagher, County Counsel, suggested it be added as a standing item on the agenda.

Report Out from Washington, DC

Ms. Gaffney travelled two times to DC recently representing the District at a NASA conference and an Ecosystem Services conference. She reported out on both of these trips:

NASA awarded a million dollar grant to the District's partner – the University of Maryland – as part of their worldwide carbon monitoring system. NASA provided funds to obtain countywide LiDAR to map carbon stocks on agricultural and natural lands. These data are helpful for addressing climate change, documenting stream corridors and groundwater, and for the vegetation and habitat map. These data also support prioritization of acquisitions.

At the Ecosystem Services Conference, Ms. Gaffney received positive feedback about the work the District is doing on Natural Capital Valuation from a variety of agencies, academics and funders.

Members of the Advisory Committee expressed interest in hearing more about both of these events and the projects the District is involved in nationally. Ms. Gaffney was asked to present at the Mayor's and Councilmembers' meeting and she agreed to make that presentation.

Youth Engagement on Advisory Committee

Sorrel Allen, Public Engagement Specialist, presented an update on the Youth Engagement on the Advisory Committee. She provided a timeline to the Advisory Committee members as a guide for the District and the AC members through the next steps of the implementation process. The purpose of including youth on the committee is to increase civic engagement, leadership and career paths for young people in Sonoma County and to bring youth perspective to the Advisory Committee in order to further the vision and relevancy of the District's work. The plan is to have two youth committee members for a one year term, who will work with mentors on the Advisory Committee. The timeline is as follows:

- Outreach and Recruitment: March – May 2015
- Youth Membership Activities Begin: September 2015 (start of school year)
- Youth Term of Service: September 2015 – June 2016

This item will go to the Board of Directors in March and the Rules of Procedures will be changed to include Youth on the Committee. Pending approval by the Board of Directors, the Advisory Committee will elect two members to represent on the selection committee that will review youth applications, interview and recommend two candidates. Once the recruitment process is complete,

the recommended candidates will need to be approved by the Board of Directors. Once approved, the Advisory Committee will need to vote them in.

Projects in Negotiations

- Mr. Keene asked if there were any questions on the list of Projects in Negotiations that was included in the member's packets and there was none.

Announcements From Advisory Committee Members

Kristin Thigpen

Ms. Thigpen is on the Regional Parks Foundation Board and there will be a fundraiser to help build and maintain park trails, called Underfoot. There will be a 5k run on Saturday, April 11, 2015 at Spring Lake in Annadel and a 5k run on Saturday, May 30, 2015 at Riverfront Regional Park.

Laurie Gallian

Ms. Gallian suggested that this meeting be dedicated in the name of Bill Kortum who was a great local leader in conservation who passed away in December. All members agreed to dedicate this meeting in the memory of Bill Kortum, and the District will let the family know that this meeting was dedicated to him.

Adjournment in the Name of Bill Kortum: 6:37 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: February 26, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary