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# Attachment "A"

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# SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 23, 2014 MINUTES

5:07 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,

Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

 **Members Present**

Laurie Gallian Gary Wysocky Jan McFarland

Jeff Holtzman Sue Conley Bill Smith

Cary Fargo Steve Rabinowitsh John Nagle

**Members Absent**

Dennis Murphy Don McEnhill John Dell’Osso

Kristin Thigpen Shanti Edwards

**Staff Present** Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisitions Program Manager; Kristine Acquino, Assistant Planner; Alex Roa, Assistant Planner; Mary Dodge, Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

**Public Attendees**  Ken Wells, Lana Russell-Hurd

**Public Comment**

No public comments on items not on agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

 Chair Gallian asked for comments on the minutes for October 24, 2013. Motion by Steve Rabinowitsh to approve

 minutes; Bill Smith seconded. Six members in favor; there were three abstentions. Chair Gallian asked for comments

 on the minutes for December 12, 2013. The Committee accepted with two abstentions. The members have decided to

 adopt rule 8 of the Advisory Committee Rules of Procedures that states:

 ***A quorum shall consist of seven members, but no action of the Committee shall be taken without the concurrence of at least a majority of the quorum; provided, however, that the Committee’s minutes may be approved by the Committee Chair after receiving any comments offered by the Committee’s members.***

The members will no longer be voting on minutes.

**Advisory Committee Administration**

1. Election of Committee Officers

Chair Gallian asked for a nomination for Chair. Steve Rabinowitsh nominated Laurie Gallian and Jeff Holtzman seconded. All in favor, vote was 9 to 0. Laurie Gallian accepted the nomination.

Chair Gallian asked for a nomination for Vice Chair. Cary Fargo nominated Steve Rabinowitsh and Laurie Gallian seconded. All in favor, vote was 9 to 0. Steve Rabinowitsh accepted the nomination.

Chair Gallian asked for a nomination of Chair Pro Tem. Laurie Gallian nominated Cary Fargo and Jeff Holtzman seconded. All in favor, vote was 9 to 0. Cary Fargo accepted the nomination.

1. Advisory Committee Rules of Procedures

Chair Gallian asked for a review of the Advisory Committee Rules of Procedure. Committee Members discussed adding a new rule of attendance: if a member does not attend on a regular basis they will be asked to step down. This topic will be brought to a future Advisory Committee Meeting and the Advisory Clerk will add this item to the agenda.

1. Ad Hoc Subcommittee Assignments

Chair Gallian and General Manager Bill Keene asked that the Matching Grant Program Ad Hoc Subcommittee that was created in 2013 be carried over into 2014 with the same people that volunteered from last year (Sue Conley, Jeff Holtzman, Bill Smith, Laurie Gallian and Jan McFarland) with any additional Advisory Committee members who would like to volunteer, as well as one volunteer from the Fiscal Oversight Commission, Jeff Owen. Gary Wysocky volunteered to join the five previous members and Jeff Owen on the subcommittee during the meeting, bringing the total subcommittee membership to seven. Chair Gallian asked for a vote. All in favor, vote was 9 to 0.

1. Committee Calendar and Roster

Chair Gallian asked the members to review the calendar dates for meetings in 2014. There was a decision to take June 26th off for the summer, but be in attendance for July and August. There was also a decision to combine the November and December meeting and have it on the second Thursday in December. Gary Wysocky made a motion to approve and Jan McFarland seconded. All in favor, vote was 9 to 0.Chair Gallian had members look over the roster and asked that members email the Advisory Committee Clerk any address, phone number or email changes that need to be made.

**General Manager’s Report**

* The General Manager introduced two new staff members to the District. Alex Roa, coming from the Mid-peninsula Regional Open Space District, was hired as an Assistant Planner and will work in the Stewardship and Planning departments at the District. He is currently working on the East Slope Trail project.
* Kristine Acquino, coming from the Sonoma Land Trust, was hired as an Assistant Planner and will work in the Acquisitions department, as the Matching Grant Program Coordinator.
* Three additional members have been appointed to the Advisory Committee:
	+ Janet Orchard, former Advisory Committee Member, Second District
	+ John Azevedo, Jackson Family Wines and Sonoma County Farm Bureau’s Board of Director and next President, Representing Agriculture
	+ Curt Nichols, who sits on the Santa Rosa Groundwater Committee and Principal with Carlile and Macy, Representing Business
* The District is taking the Cresta property, phase two, to the Board Tuesday, January 28, 2014. This important acquisition provides a critical link between the District-owned Cresta I and McCullough I properties as well as the confluence of Mark West and Porter Creeks, and potential public access to the properties from Porter Creek Road.
* The transfer of the Wright Preservation Bank will go to the Board on March 11, 2014. The BOD will consider transfer of the District’s 50% interest in the property to the State Department of Fish and Wildlife. At the time of transfer, the District will retain a conservation easement over the property.
* District staff will be submitting two applications to request grant funds through the USDA’s Farm and Ranchland Protection Program to assist with the purchase of conservation easements over the Foppiano and Jones Dairy properties.
* Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, is presenting the Economic Valuation of Conservation project at the League of Women Voters annual convention in Oakland on February 1, 2014. There is expected to be over 150 elected and community members in attendance.
* There will be a public meeting to discuss the City Watersheds of Sonoma Valley project in Sonoma next Wednesday, January 29, 2014. This project is led by the Sonoma County Water Agency, and has received State grant funds. The primary goal of the project is to reduce flood risks and enhance groundwater recharge in the City of Sonoma.  Fryer Creek and Nathanson Creek are two focus areas that have been identified in this project.  Besides addressing flood risks and groundwater recharge, this project includes a component to accomplish public education on storm water management.  A portion of the Montini Preserve is proposed as a location for a wetland enhancement/groundwater recharge area.  As such, the District is a partner on the project.  This project would improve the habitat quality on the Preserve, while retaining the aesthetic and scenic character of the landscape.  Grazing on the property will continue.
* Bill Smith, Advisory Committee Member, brought up an article in The Healdsburg Tribune called “Tasting Room Approved Despite Open Space Protection”. Bill Keene, General Manager, said he would address this article with Bill Smith in a separate phone call and would have this item agendized for the next Advisory Committee Meeting to discuss this situation and Open Space Easements in general.
* The Advisory Committee Members also asked for an update on the Andy Lopez Park. Mr. Keene explained that he had attended a meeting with Supervisor Carrillo and that the Board had directed Regional Parks to submit a Matching Grant Program application to acquire the site for the park. Still not sure who will take on the property. There is nothing that the District is committed to at this point. The Matching Grant application cycle is coming up. Mr. Keene will bring another update to the next Advisory Committee Meeting on February 27, 2014.

 **Matching Grant Program Update**

 Kristine Acquino, Assistant Planner, presented information on the Matching Grant Program. It will

 be a bigger program this year due to new revenues and savings, increasing the amount to $3 million

 compared to $2 million for the last cycle. There will be a public workshop on Thursday, February 27 at the Permit and Resource Management Department, 2550 Ventura Avenue in Santa Rosa, in the Hearing Room, from 9:00 to 11:00 am. Applications will be accepted and evaluated by District staff and the Matching Grant Program Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Funding recommendations will be evaluated by the Advisory Committee which will then send funding recommendations to the Board. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request at the District offices.

  **Update on Collaboration with Ag Community**

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, updated the committee on the District’s collaboration with the agricultural community. The District is taking many steps to strengthen that relationship including meetings with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and the Community Alliance with Family Farmers. The District has added nine new agricultural projects to their properties in negotiations. Ms. Gaffney discussed the many tools and strategies that the District is utilizing for agricultural land protection. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request at the District offices.

 **Announcements From Advisory Committee Members**

Steve Rabinowitsh

On February 8th, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm the Southeast Greenway Campaign will have a community update. The meeting will focus on the status of the Greenway preservation efforts, and host a panel of Open Space and Parks leaders, including Bill Keene, SCAPOSD, Caryl Hart, SC Regional Parks, Craig Anderson, LandPaths and Nanette Smejkel, City of Santa Rosa Parks. The event will take place at the Glaser Center, 547 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa.

Laurie Gallian

Work was completed by the Transportation Committee for the Highway 101 tree project, planting trees along 101 where construction was done.

Water is a concern and cities are going by stages to urge citizens to reduce water use. February 3, 2014 there will be a meeting with Santa Rosa Utilities Water Advisory Committee and they are asking for a voluntary reduction of up to 25% of water use. The Committee is also enforcing against pot growers in Mendocino County.

 **Adjournment:** 6:42 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: February 27, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

 Mariah Robson,

Advisory Committee Secretary