



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE  
DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE*

*October 25, 2018 MINUTES*

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

**Members Present**

Bill Smith	Curt Nichols	Jan McFarland
Neysa Hinton	Cary Fargo	Steve Barbose
John Dell'Osso	Taj Hittenberger	Tawny Tesconi
John Nagle	Steve Rabinowitsh	

**Members Absent**

Evan Wiig	Doug Lipton	Don McEnhill
Paul Martin	David Cook	Halei Trowbridge

**Staff Present**

Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Sara Press, Land Acquisition Associate; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Kathleen Marsh, Stewardship Coordinator; Kim Batchelder, Conservation Planning Associate Planner; Allison Schichtel, Conservation GIS Analyst; Seamus Rafferty, Stewardship Technician; Catherine Iantosca, Stewardship Technician; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm.

**Public Comment**

Chair Dell'Osso asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

Caryl Hart proposed to the Chair to pass out a flyer to the Advisory Committee members regarding an industrial marijuana operation along the West County Trail in Graton. She asked the committee members and Ag + Open Space staff to follow this development and perhaps purchase the property to keep it from becoming a marijuana operation.

Duane DeWitt announced that there will be a Roseland Beautification Project on Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 9:00 to 1:00 pm at the Bayer Parks and Gardens. This is a clean-up event with a BBQ to follow later in the day. He passed out a flyer to the Advisory Committee members and staff.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Dell'Osso asked for approval of the September 27, 2018 minutes. Tawny Tesconi motioned to approve the minutes, and Curt Nichols seconded the motion. All in favor, with two abstentions from Steve Rabinowitsh and Steve Barbose who were not in attendance at the September meeting.

## **General Manager's Report Out**

- Tawny Tesconi, who is a member of the Ag + Open Space Advisory Committee and Sonoma County Farm Bureau Executive Director, will be kicking off the first meeting tomorrow of the Ag Advisory Team being held at the Farm Bureau. This team will give advice to the Ag + Open Space staff on the Vital Lands Initiative. Bill Keene, Ag + Open Space General Manager, will report back to this Advisory Committee in future meetings on the progress of the team.
- On December 11, 2018 the Recovery and Resiliency Plan, which consists of 250 actions that have come out of the fires from last year and will help the county to prepare for the next disaster, and for long-term recovery, will go the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- Wilroth conservation easement, a matching grant project, will go the Board on November 13, 2018, for approval of the installation of a fire camera on the Fairfield Osborne Preserve to help catch fire activity early.
- The Graton Green matching grant project is also going to the Board on November 13, 2018.
- A Stewardship Workshop will go to the Board on December 4, 2018.
- On December 11, 2018 Weeks Ranch Conservation Easement on Los Alamos Road will go to the Board.
- Rips Redwoods will go to the Board on January 8, 2019 to approve a trail easement on the Gualala River.
- Mr. Keene passed out a letter to the Advisory Committee members from the Mayors and Councilmembers referring to the managing of the Ag + Open Space Matching Grant Program Subcommittee. Neysa Hinton, Advisory Committee Member appointed by the Mayors and Councilmembers, made a presentation to the Mayors and Councilmembers regarding the long standing practice of recusing oneself from the subcommittee if there is a conflict of interest. Mayors and Councilmembers would like this practice reconsidered. Mr. Keene will meet with Mayors and Councilmembers at their January meeting to discuss the policy and will report back to the Advisory Committee.

## **Subcommittee Report Out**

The Advisory Committee currently has one active subcommittee, the Matching Grant Program, and there was no report out.

## **RCPP Projects**

Sara Press, Land Acquisition Associate, spoke about the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, which is an \$8,049,000 grant with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. It is a five year program from 2017 to 2021 and Sara explained what we have been doing with the funds for the first two years. The grant's purpose is to offer new opportunities for the NRCS, conservation partners and agricultural producers to work together to increase the restoration and sustainable use of soil and water resources, and wildlife habitat in Sonoma County.

For more information, contact Sara Press at Ag + Open Space.

### **Stewardship Update and Reserve**

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Stewardship and the Stewardship Reserve. This same presentation will go to the Board on December 4, 2018, and the Fiscal Oversight Commission on November 1, 2018.

Ms. Emerson explained that this presentation is intended to explain what stewardship means and what happens with properties once they are acquired by the Ag + Open Space. She asked for any input the Advisory Committee had in regards to the presentation.

Chair Dell'Osso asked that comments from the Advisory Committee be sent to Ms. Emerson no later than November 2, 2018.

For more information on the stewardship update and reserve, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

### **Projects in Negotiations**

Cresta 3 closed, the Graton Green project is going to the Board November 13, 2018, Weeks Ranch is going to the Board December 11, 2018, and Rips Redwoods will go to the Board January 2019.

### **Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public**

There were no announcements.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: December 13, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,  
Advisory Committee Secretary