



AG + OPEN SPACE
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPROVED MINUTES

**Virtual Meeting Due to Sonoma County's Shelter in Place Order
October 27, 2022 | 5:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Don McEnhill	Wendy Eliot	Thembi Borrás
Michelle Whitman	Bill Smith	Cary Fargo
Steve Rabinowitsh	Jesús Guzmán	Curt Nichols

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Oswaldo Jimenez	Josh Proctor	Brian Barnacle
Tawny Tesconi	Neysa Hinton	Paul Martin
Kristina Tierney	Jan McFarland	Sue Conley

STAFF PRESENT:

Misti Arias, General Manager; Jennifer Kuszmar, Acquisition Manager; Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager; Lauren Alpert, Community Relations Assistant; Lori MacNab, LS MacNab Consulting, 2022 Matching Grant Program Cycle Coordinator; Catherine Iantosca, Senior Stewardship Specialist; Verne Ball, County Counsel; Ceara McKetchnie-Stanley, Administrative Aide; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk.

Call to Order

Chair Michelle Whitman called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Chair Whitman took a roll call:

Jan McFarland, no; Sue Conley, no; Bill Smith, yes; Cary Fargo, yes; Wendy Eliot, yes; Thembi Borrás, yes; Steve Rabinowitsh, yes; Jesús Guzmán, yes; Kristina Tierney, no; Josh Proctor, no; Oswaldo Jimenez, no; Curt Nichols, yes; Brian Barnacle, no; Don McEnhill, yes; Tawny Tesconi, no; Neysa Hinton, no; Paul Martin, no; Michelle Whitman, yes.

Public Comment

Chair Whitman asked for any public comments on items not on the agenda and there were none.

Approval of Minutes from September 22, 2022

Chair Whitman asked for any revisions on the September 22, 2022 minutes. There were none. Cary Fargo and Wendy Eliot motioned to approve the minutes. Bill Smith seconded the motion. A vote took place and all were in favor. Curt Nichols abstained as he was not present at the September meeting.

General Manager's Report

- A workshop for Vital Lands Initiative Implementation is going to the Board on November 8, 2022.
- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program funding agreement for vital streams and forests is going to the Board on December 6, 2022.
- A Vegetation Management Program update on the proposed recommendations for the future PG&E settlement expenditures will go the Board on December 13, 2022.
- Matching Grant Program Recommendations will go to the Board on December 13, 2022.
- Sonoma Mountain Vernal Pools Fee Title and Conservation Easement Acquisitions will be scheduled to go to the Board on December 13, 2022.
- Ag + Open Space is currently conducting recruitments for a Stewardship Assistant and a Community Relations Specialist.
- Ms. Arias updated the Advisory Committee members on the Sonoma Developmental Center: Ag + Open Space is interested in the conservation of the open space lands and then transferring to different park entities at a later date. Ag + Open Space is happy to take the lead on this process and is in close contact with Regional Parks.

Chair Whitman opened the meeting for questions and comments from Advisory Committee members and members of the public. A discussion ensued and one member of the public, Teri Shore from Sonoma Valley, commented that she would like to see the SDC item be put on the next Advisory Committee agenda in December for a full briefing.

Chair Whitman suggested reviewing the Advisory Committee resolution and bylaws at the December meeting to provide clarity on the official duties of the committee. Steve Rabinowitch suggested including the Rules of Procedures as they could also be helpful to the committee members.

Matching Grant Program Project Recommendations

Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation for the Matching Grant Program Project Recommendations. Lori MacNab from LS MacNab Consulting has been working on this year's MGP cycle. Ms. Ricard discussed the history of the program, the eligibility and requirements, the evaluation criteria, and the 2022 MGP process and outreach, which was very robust. In spite of that, only two applications were submitted for this cycle. The Lower Colgan Creek project submitted by the City of Santa Rosa, requesting \$1.5 million, and the Putnam Park Extension submitted by the Earth Island Institute, requesting \$450,000. The MGP Staff committee reviewed the applications and recommended full funding for both projects. The MGP Subcommittee, which consists of members of the Advisory Committee and Fiscal Oversight Commission, reviewed the applications and the Staff committee's funding recommendations and approved those recommendations. Ms. Ricard shared that staff will recommend to the Board of Directors opening



up a second round of the cycle to provide potential applicants with another chance to apply for the remaining \$2,050,000. The recommendations will go to the Board on December 13, 2022.

Staff will take the recommendations to the Fiscal Oversight Commission for approval on November 10 and then to the Board of Directors in December. Chair Whitman asked for vote to have the MGP recommendations go forward. Curt Nichols motioned to approve with full funding and Wendy Eliot seconded the motion. All in favor with one abstention from Steve Rabinowitsh.

For more information, please feel free to contact Ms. Ricard at Ag + Open Space. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Landowner Outreach & Engagement

Lauren Alpert, Community Relations Assistant, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Landowner Outreach and Engagement. She discussed a survey that went to 150 landowners and the results of the survey and actions being taken by Ag + Open Space from the results of the survey.

Chair Whitman opened the meeting to the committee members for a discussion. The meeting was also opened to the members of the public for comment, but there were none.

For more information, please feel free to contact Ms. Alpert at Ag + Open Space. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Projects in Negotiations

Jennifer Kuzmar, Acquisition Manager, said that the Soda Springs appraisal was taken to the Fiscal Oversight Commission last week and was approved. An offer was made to the landowner and staff are waiting to hear back.

Sonoma Mountain Vernal Pools is going to the Fiscal Oversight Commission in November.

Several projects in the appraisal phase will be going to the Fiscal Oversight Commission soon and more movement will be seen on the Active Projects spreadsheet.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

Chair Whitman adjourned the meeting at 6:16

Next Meeting: December 8, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson
Advisory Committee Secretary

