



Attachment "A"

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

December 13, 2018 MINUTES

5:05 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Bill Smith	Curt Nichols	Don McEnhill	John Nagle
Neysa Hinton	Steve Rabinowitsh	Steve Barbose	
John Dell'Osso	Taj Hittenberger	Halei Trowbridge	

Members Absent

Evan Wiig	Doug Lipton	Jan McFarland	Cary Fargo
Paul Martin	David Cook	Tawny Tesconi	

Staff Present

Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Jen Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Alex Roa, Special Projects Planner; Bob Pittman, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Public Comment

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

Duane DeWitt discussed a potential Sonoma County Water Agency project on Roseland Creek. He also said that US Congressman Mike Thompson wrote a letter of support for a trail to the veteran's grove and healing garden in the Roseland Creek Park.

A short discussion was held regarding the recusal of members, which is addressed later in the meeting, and Susan Kirks, who is a past Advisory Committee member from the 2nd District 2008-10, was a member of the Matching Grant Subcommittee and said she was required to recuse from the committee as head of a nonprofit that was a co-applicant with the City of Petaluma for the Paula Lane open space application.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dell'Osso asked for approval of the October 25, 2018 minutes. Don McEnhill motioned to approve the minutes, and John Nagle seconded the motion. All in favor, with an abstention from Halei Trowbridge who was not in attendance at the October meeting.

General Manager's Report Out

- There was an article in the Press Democrat about the last phase of the acquisition of the Mark West properties, which closed in November. The properties have been transferred to Sonoma County Regional Parks. Possibly the Advisory Committee can take a tour of the properties next year.
- Mr. Keene attended the California Economic Summit in November that was held in Santa Rosa. The Ag + Open Space presented on the Healthy Lands, Healthy Economies at this event, which features the value of protecting land. The Healthy Lands, Healthy Economies was released in November. There was a wonderful article in the Press Democrat and in the CA Water E-News.
- The Ag + Open Space's Land Acquisitions Specialist and Program Manager is retiring this month, Stuart Martin. He has been with the department since 1995. The Fiscal Oversight Commissioners Clerk is also retiring in January, Sue Jackson and the Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager, Mary Dodge, will retire in March.
- Mr. Keene has been following the Farm Bill and has been working with Dave White, the former Natural Resources Conservation Services Director under Obama. White has been working on crafting the Farm Bill that passed yesterday and is now on the President of the United States' desk waiting for a signature. Mr. Keene will be at a conference in Washington DC and will meet with federal staff in order to promote Sonoma County and Ag + Open Space.

Subcommittee Report Out

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

Vital Lands Initiative Update

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, updated the Advisory Committee on the Vital Lands Initiative.

For more information, contact Karen Gaffney at Ag + Open Space.

Update on Work of the Ag Advisory Team

Mr. Keene updated the Advisory Committee on the work of the Ag Advisory Team.

For more information, Contact Mr. Keene's Executive Secretary, Mariah Robson, at Ag + Open Space.

Mayors and Councilmembers' Letter

Chair Dell'Osso introduced this item as an opportunity to discuss the Matching Grant Program cycle regarding the conflict of interest and recusal processes currently in existence. There was no vote but Chair Dell'Osso asked to hear from each member. Each member took turns and spoke around the room. The Advisory Committee by-laws may or may not be changed, and this item may or may not be taken to the Board for a decision to make a change to the recusal policy currently in place regarding the conflict of interest of a member on a specific project. This can be a

decision that comes in the next year as the cycle won't start again for two years and the decision was not made at tonight's meeting.

The Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers are waiting to hear from the Advisory Committee and Ag + Open Space staff after January 31, 2019 on how we will handle this item in the future. Mr. Keene will report to them the conversation that took place this evening.

Projects in Negotiations

Acquisition of the Weeks Ranch conservation easement was approved by the Board on December 11, 2018. This is a property near Hood Mountain and Alamos Road off Highway 12. There is a 100 year old historic ranch on the property, with cattle grazing and natural resources

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public

There were no announcements.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: January 24, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary