



Attachment "A"

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

*December 14, 2017 MINUTES*

5:02 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,  
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

**Members Present**

Don McEnhill	Jan McFarland	Bill Smith	Neysa Hinton
Halei Trowbridge	Elly Grogan	Tawny Tesconi	
Steve Rabinowitsh	Cary Fargo	John Dell'Osso	

**Members Absent**

Doug Lipton	John McChesney	David Cook
Curt Nichols	Eddie Smith	Paul Martin
John Nagle	Evan Wiig	

**Staff Present**

Bill Keene, General Manager; Mary Dodge, Administrative & Fiscal Services Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Alex Roa, Associate Planner; Indigo Bannister, Conservation Planning Technician; Amy Ricard, Conservation Planning Community Relations Specialist; Sara Press, Land Acquisition Associate; Kim Batchelder, Conservation Planning Associate Planner; Bob Pittman, County Counsel; Jessica Mullan, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

**Public Comment**

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

No public comments were made.

**General Manager's Report Out**

- Bill Keene, General Manager, spoke about the recent Sonoma County fires. Highlights: After 48 hours all staff were accounted for; 20 employees out of 27 were evacuated; one employee lost her home; one employee's home was damaged; staff worked 12,000 hours in volunteer positions around the county; 7,000 acres of District land and 35 properties were affected; 110,000 acres burned in Sonoma County; data from the District through the LiDAR system was used to locate structures in the fires and helped save homes and lives; the Watershed

Emergency Response Team (WERT) was formed post fire; District Stewardship staff are responding to immediate needs on District lands; managers and other agencies and non-profits in the County are working on long-term response and resiliency for the County, called the Watershed Collaborative.

- The Vital Lands Initiative will resume in January 2018 and will be taken to the Board for approval in April 2018.
- The Matching Grant Program cycle for 2018 will have a kick off meeting on January 31, 2018 from 10:00 to 12:00 at PRMD. The update to the guidelines will be postponed due to recovery from the fires. In response to the fire recovery, \$4 million will be allocated to the program, which is an increase of \$2 million. The application period is being extended to allow people more time to apply. There will be some priority toward fire-recovery projects.
- The County Board is setting up an Office of Recovery and Resiliency that will be housed at the CAO's offices. This office will focus on housing, economic recovery, watershed protection, fire recovery and long term resiliency. The District, along with the Water Agency, will be the leads for the watershed section of the office and will help fund the position. The Board is passing a resolution at next week's Board meeting on December 19, 2017 to set up that office.

### **Approval of Minutes**

- At the beginning of the meeting, there was no quorum; however, a seventh member arrived and Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the September 28, 2017 minutes. There were none, and Jan McFarland motioned to approve the minutes as they were. Bill Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval.

### **Subcommittee Report Out**

The District currently has three active subcommittees:

1. Matching Grant Program
2. Agriculture
3. Vital Lands Initiative

There were no report outs for subcommittees as no meetings took place in the last two and half months.

Chair Dell'Osso announced a change in the agenda order. Item 6 will go before item 5.

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program Overview**

Sara Press, Land Acquisition Associate, presented a PowerPoint for this item. The Natural Resources Conservation Service awarded the District and its partners a grant through its Regional Conservation Partnership Program in the amount of \$8,049,000 to be used over a five-year period to plan for, improve, and protect water, soil and fish and wildlife habitat on agricultural lands. It is the first phase of a county-wide collaboration called "Sonoma County Venture Conservation." The RCPP Steering Committee consists of the District, NRCS, Sonoma and Gold Ridge Resource Conservation Districts, Sonoma County Water Agency, Sonoma Land Trust, Pepperwood Preserve and the Russian River Confluence.

For more information, the PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request.

### **Program Update: Administration & Fiscal**

Mary Dodge, Administration and Fiscal Services Manager, presented a PowerPoint to update the Advisory Committee on the duties of the Administration and Fiscal program of the District.

For more information, the PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request.

### **Watershed Collaborative**

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, presented a PowerPoint on this item. The Watershed Collaborative was created a week after the fires in order for groups in Sonoma County to know how to respond to the disaster, and to plan for recovery and resilience actions for the long term, especially focusing on watersheds. It is made up of 150 people and 60 different groups which have been broken into interest groups. A report will be prepared and brought before the Board in late January 2018.

For more information, the PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request.

### **Projects in Negotiations**

Cresta is being reevaluated due to the fires. Wendle will probably not be a project any longer. McCullough will go to closed session at the Board on Jan 9, 2018. This property will complete the park in the Markwest area.

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

#### Don McEnhill

The Russian Riverkeepers will be co-hosting with UC Berkeley in all day workshop on Jan 26, 2017 regarding the state of the waterways.

#### Tawny Tesconi

Tawny is becoming the interim Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

**Adjournment:** 6:52 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: January 25, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,  
Advisory Committee Secretary