



Attachment "A"

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

February 22, 2018 MINUTES

5:06 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Don McEnhill	Bill Smith	Curt Nichols
Doug Lipton	Tawny Tesconi	John Nagle
Steve Rabinowitsh	John Dell'Osso	
Paul Martin	Evan Wiig	

Members Absent

Jan McFarland	David Cook	Elly Grogan	Halei Trowbridge
Eddie Smith	Neysa Hinton	Cary Fargo	

Staff Present

Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Jacob Newell, Stewardship Associate Planner; Catherine Iantosca, Stewardship Technician; Seamus Rafferty, Stewardship Technician; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

Public Comment

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

Duane DeWitt discussed Bayer Farm, a property Ag + Open Space acquired that has a conservation easement on it to preserve nature and the land. However, Mr. DeWitt feels the City of Santa Rosa turned it into a developed area that is not a farm, preserve or community garden and went against what the community wanted. He feels it is mostly an impermeable cement surface. Mr. DeWitt asked that the Advisory Committee and Ag + Open Space staff make sure that the strict enforcement of easements takes place in the future.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the January 25, 2018 minutes. There were none, and Paul Martin motioned to approve the minutes as they were. Don McEnhill seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval, with one abstention.

Announcement from the Chair

Next month's Advisory Committee meeting on March 22, 2018 will be a joint meeting with the Ag + Open Space Fiscal Oversight Commission. This meeting will take place at the Finley Center in the Person Senior Wing in Room 4. The address is 2060 College Avenue, Santa Rosa. The time will be the same, 5:00 to 7:00. The purpose of the meeting is to present on the Vital Lands Initiative and to receive input from both bodies.

General Manager's Report Out

- Bill Keene responded to the item brought up under public comments not on the agenda. The easement that Mr. DeWitt referred to covers 1.2 acres of impermeable surface and is a 6 acre farm. The City of Santa Rosa did go through a public process and received approval through the City Council. What was built was consistent with the easement and Ag + Open Space always enforces easement requirements. The property was a Matching Grant Project and not necessarily considered a natural area. It is a park and garden with community benefits.
- Ag + Open Space is reaching out to the community in regards to the Vital Lands Initiative. There have been several meetings with the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, and there will be community meetings held at the end of March all the way from Sea Ranch to Sonoma, and Cloverdale to Petaluma. We are interacting with the public and stakeholders in order to receive input before the draft goes to the Board on April 17, 2018, and then the final document will go to the Board on May 22, 2018.
- The County has created an Office of Resiliency and Recovery and the Ag + Open Space is funding half of the Natural Resources position with the Water Agency that will be part of this new office. This position will be developing a recovery plan for natural resources.

Subcommittee Report Out

The District currently has three active subcommittees:

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

John Nagle, Agriculture Subcommittee Chair, reported out on their meeting that was held this afternoon at 4:00. They reviewed the Farm Bureau comments on the Vital Lands Initiative presentation.

There was no update for Vital Lands Initiative as there were no meetings since the last Advisory Committee meeting. They will be meeting next Tuesday, February 27, 2018.

Matching Grant Program also did not have any meetings since the last Advisory Committee meeting, and thus no update.

Roseland Creek

Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager, provided an overview of Ag + Open Space's role in the Roseland Creek Preserve and Trail project in relation to the issues that have been raised by Mr. DeWitt at past Advisory Committee meetings during public comment. Two properties, one south and one north, were purchased at Roseland Creek through Matching Grant Projects. Ms. Arias presented maps of the area on the overhead projector. Ag + Open Space have acquired easements over the projects to protect the conservation areas and stewardship staff monitor the easements. The center piece between these two is now in the acquisition process, the McCafferty property. The City of Santa Rosa have come up with a master plan that the Ag + Open Space have not been formally asked to review and there is no easement on this portion yet. The community feels they have not been heard by the City to protect this portion from being overdeveloped and kept as a natural preserve.

Chair Dell'Osso opened the meeting for the members of the public to discuss Roseland Creek. Several members of the public spoke about the Roseland Creek project and the how they are not in support of how the City of Santa Rosa is handling the project. The following spoke at the meeting:

Judith Dehnert

Patricia Krueger

Trish Tatarian (who also submitted a letter to the Advisory Committee Chair)

Larry Hanson

Fred Krueger

Marsha Vas Dupre

Rick Coates

Gary Balcerak

Duane DeWitt

Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program

Ms. Arias informed and updated the Advisory Committee members on this program and what it means for Ag + Open Space. The Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program is part of AB32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 and provides funding for the protection of agricultural lands, currently approximately \$40 million per year. Ag + Open Space applied for funding for acquisitions and has been approved for \$1,750,000 in grant funding. We are in the process of acquiring conservation easements over two agricultural properties with these funds: The Mattos Dairy, a working dairy with 700 acres with a conservation easement over the entire property. We are presenting it to the Fiscal Oversight Commission in April and hope to complete it shortly thereafter. The other agricultural property is the Camozzi Dairy with 400 acres. \$1 million was awarded for this project and we have just begun project negotiations with the landowner.

The Ag + Open Space seeks to apply every year for this funding.

For more information, you can contact Ms. Arias.

Conservation Easement Standard Language to Reflect the Board-Adopted Mitigation Policy

Ms. Arias updated the Advisory Committee members on the conservation easement standard language to reflect the Board-adopted mitigation policy. The language was shared on the projector. The new language is more flexible than the old language. The Advisory Committee members had a discussion with Ag + Open Space staff, who let members know that they will always bring future proposed mitigation projects to the committee for input.

For more information, you can contact Ms. Arias.

Vital Lands Initiative

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, was not present at the meeting. This item was covered in the General Manager's report earlier in the evening.

Projects in Negotiations

The Matching Grant Program cycle is open now and there is an extended deadline until the end of April for fire-impacted properties to have time to apply. There is \$4 million in this cycle.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public

There were no announcements from the Advisory Committee members or members of the public

Adjournment: 7:06 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: March 22, 2018- Joint Meeting with FOC at Finley Center, Person Senior Wing – Room 4, 2060 West College Ave, Santa Rosa

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary