



Attachment "A"

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

February 28, 2019 MINUTES

5:01 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Bill Smith	Curt Nichols	Halei Trowbridge	Steve Barbose
Neysa Hinton	Steve Rabinowitsh	Doug Lipton	Cary Fargo
John Dell'Osso	Taj Hittenberger	Jan McFarland	

Members Absent

Evan Wiig	Don McEnhill	Paul Martin
David Cook	John Nagle	Tawny Tesconi

Staff Present

Bill Keene, General Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Associate Planner; Allison Schichtel, Conservation GIS Analyst; Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Catherine Iantosca, Stewardship Technician; Verne Ball, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.

Public Comment

There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Bill Smith motioned to approve the minutes, and Curt Nichols seconded the motion. All in favor, with abstentions from Steve Barbose and Halei Trowbridge who were not in attendance at the January meeting.

Chair Dell'Osso introduced the Advisory Committee's newest member, Jennielynn Holmes. She spoke and introduced herself. Members welcomed her to the committee.

General Manager's Report Out

- Several Ag + Open space properties have been effected by the recent storms. Regional Parks reported that a portion of Cresta Road has fallen away and is impassible and will need to be fixed. The State has a declared a State of Emergency.
- Jen Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator, reached out to the City of Santa Rosa to get an update on the Roseland Creek property. The City has experienced staffing shortages and turnovers the last few years. These capacity issues, along with those created following the fires in 2017 have contributed to the City's inability to meet originally proposed timelines, including the completion of the final environmental review of the proposed draft master plan. According to the City, they anticipate that the CEQA document will be circulated in late March for public review and comment. The City anticipates final master plan approval by the City Council this summer. The City also stated their intent to update their website information as soon as possible to reflect this updated timeline. Ag + Open Space will review the CEQA document and associated master plan to ensure compliance with existing conservation easement provisions. Ag + Open Space followed up with the City on their statements last summer about conferring with concerned neighbors on design elements of the proposed master plan. It is our understanding that no such has meeting has occurred to date. However, the City has not yet started to prepare options for specific design elements and have been focused more on completing the environmental review of the draft master plan. The City has told Ag + Open Space staff that they intend to engage the community on the elements of the plan they plan to construct with available funding.
- The Ag + Open Space adopted a strategy on fee lands several years ago that involves transferring fee lands to parks, cities or other entities that will take care of the properties. Healdsburg Ridge is currently still with Ag + Open Space, but it is going to the Board on March 12, 2019 to be transferred to the City of Healdsburg. Later in 2019 Carrington Ranch out on Coleman Valley and Highway 1 will be transferred to Regional Parks.
- The SMART path from Hearn to Bellevue matching grant project is going to the Board on March 19, 2019.
- The Stewardship Workshop (update) will go to the Board in late summer or fall of 2019.

Subcommittee Report Out

The Advisory Committee currently has one active subcommittee, the Matching Grant Program. Chair Dell'Osso, who sits on this subcommittee, said there is a meeting scheduled next week on March 8, 2019 from 9:00 to 11:00. They will be reviewing the matching grant program guidelines to see what needs to be updated or changed. The goal is to bring the recommendations to the Board this fall before the 2020/2021 cycle. Ms. Kuszmar asked the new member, Jennielynn Holmes, if she would have interest in joining the subcommittee and she said she does have interest and will let Ms. Kuszmar know at a later date.

Vital Lands Initiative Update

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, updated the Advisory Committee on the Vital Lands Initiative. At this time the draft is being refined and finalized data is being incorporated into the document. The draft will be brought to the Advisory Committee over a series of meetings in April and May as Ag + Open Space brings the draft out to the public for more community input.

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

Fire Update: Planning & Stewardship

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, introduced the fire update from Stewardship and Conservation Planning. Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Associate Planner, discussed the immediate actions taken by Ag + Open after the fires, the impacts on different properties, and how they are doing now. Allison Schichtel, Conservation GIS Analyst, discussed the Sonoma Veg Map and the NASA grant and how they contribute to Ag + Open Space and the County as a whole. There will be a NASA/Veg Map Public Workshop on March 14 2019 at the Steele Lane Community Center from 1:00pm to 4:30pm. Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, concluded the presentation stating that the NASA grant will be incorporated into the Vital Lands Initiative. She asked for comments and questions from members of the Advisory Committee and the public. There were comments made by both.

For more information, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request, or contact Ms. Emerson, Ms. Delmartini, Ms. Schichtel or Ms. Gaffney at Ag + Open Space.

Projects in Negotiations

Projects in negotiations were discussed during the General Manager's report out.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public

There were no announcements.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: March 28, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary