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# Attachment "A"

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# SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 24, 2014 MINUTES

5:10 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,

Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

 **Members Present**

Laurie Gallian Don McEnhill Curt Nichols

John Azevedo Cary Fargo Steve Rabinowitsh

Bill Smith Jeff Holtzman Janet Orchard

Shanti Edwards

**Members Absent**

Jan McFarland Kristin Thigpen

Gary Wysocky John Nagle

Sue Conley John Dell’Osso

**Staff Present** Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisitions Program Manager; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

**Public Attendees** Ken Wells, Duane Dewitt, Jenny Blaker, Patricia Tuttle-Brown, Eric Koenigshofer

**Public Comment**

Chair Gallian asked for public comments on items not listed on the agenda.

Duane Dewitt, from the Roseland area of Santa Rosa, thanked the committee and District staff for adding his comments from last month’s meeting to the minutes regarding the proposed demolition of two buildings in the Roseland area that are on conservation easements. Mr. Dewitt asked again for the Committee to put forward an idea to the City of Santa Rosa to help keep these buildings from being demolished and finding an alternative use for them.

Patricia Tuttle-Brown has been very active in the county and especially in helping to preserve Lafferty Ranch in Petaluma. There is a going to be a fundraiser to help the Friends of Lafferty Ranch on Tuesday, May 20 from 5:30 to 8:00pm at the Lagunitas Beer Sanctuary in Petaluma.

**Approval of Minutes**

 Chair Gallian asked for comments on the minutes from March 27, 2014. No comments on the

 minutes. Chair Gallian announced the approval of the minutes.

**General Manager’s Report**

* Bill Keene, General Manager, announced and introduced new Advisory Committee Member John Azevedo, who is representing Agriculture. Mr. Azevedo is currently vice president of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and is in the grape growing industry, as the Grower Relations representative for Kendall Jackson. Mr. Azevedo said he is looking forward to serving on the committee and is a fourth generation farmer in Healdsburg, with goats. Advisory Committee members introduced themselves.
* Mr. Keene received an email from Mary Nesbitt who is part of a group in Sonoma who are concerned about the project being proposed by the Water Agency on the Montini Ranch property. This item will be agendized in a future item if needed and Mr. Keene is going to send the email to the Advisory Committee Members for their review.
* Regional Parks submitted an application to the Matching Grant Program for the Andy Lopez Memorial Park project. The District has received seven applications for Matching Grants, totaling $3.6 million. The District has $3 million dedicated to the Matching Grant projects.
* The Eliot Trail easement is going to the Board on May 6, 2014. This trail will connect Jack London Park to Ted Eliot’s property. The ridge trail, as it is called, is 1.5 miles long and should be completed later this year. The easement was donated by the Eliot’s.
* The Cresta II project closed. This is a critical connection between the first phase acquisition of Cresta and McCullough and contains the confluence of Porter and Mark West Creeks.
* The Matching Grant Program applications are being reviewed by District staff and then by Advisory Subcommittee in July.
* The county-wide LIDAR project is complete and there will be an unveiling in the next two weeks. This will be very helpful in providing information regarding carbon sequestration, vegetation and habitat mapping, and groundwater and hydrologic information. It will have countless other applications to the District’s work and will benefit the county as a whole.

 **Certificate of Acknowledgement for AC Member**

 Dennis Murphy served on the Advisory Committee from 1995 to 2014. He has stepped down from

 the position due to scheduling conflicts. The Advisory Committee presented him with a certificate of

 acknowledgement. District General Manager Bill Keene thanked Mr. Murphy for being a steadfast

 supporter and for giving so much to the District. District Acquisitions Program Manager Misti Arias

 extended appreciation to Mr. Murphy for his guidance when she first became employed at the District

 in 1996 and over the years working together.

 Mr. Keene is working on a replacement for Mr. Murphy, who represented the fourth district, and

 hopes to have the position filled in the next month or two.

  **New Acquisition Projects**

Misti Arias, Acquisitions Program Manager, presented information on two new acquisition projects. One is an agricultural project on the urban edge and the other is a forestry project.

The first, Buttke Dairy, is being leased by a farmer who has operated the dairy facility on the property for several years. The District will purchase an agricultural conservation easement over three adjacent properties, which consists of 328 acres, and the Buttke family will simultaneously acquire fee title. The dairy and agricultural uses can continue and may be converted to other agricultural uses in the future. The current dairy farmer is thinking of expanding the operation. It is located on Blank Road in Sebastopol. There are some native trees to protect and grazing will be part of the easement.

The second project is the Howlett Tree Farm next to Buckeye Forest (formerly Preservation Ranch) and consists of 1395 acres. Save the Redwoods League has been helping to protect the redwoods on this land and may still be involved when the District purchases a conservation easement over the property. The land has been previously harvested but the present owner has designated areas not to be cut so there are significant amounts of old growth redwoods and Douglas fir that have been protected. The District would like to ensure protection of these trees in perpetuity through the purchase of a conservation easement over the property. This is a resources project however the conservation easement will allow sustainable timber harvesting to continue. The property has been kept intact with one owner. The Conservation Fund has been working on a restoration project on the adjacent property. There are healthy high functioning forests and creeks within an important watershed for endangered fish species. It has not been appraised yet and it still needs a project structure.

These two projects show the diversity of what the District protects, from an agricultural dairy farm to a sustainable forest and resource project.

**Revising AC Rules and Procedures**

Sue Gallagher, County Counsel, presented information on revising the Rules and Procedures for the Advisory Committee. The Executive Committee (Laurie Gallian, Chair; Steve Rabinowitsh, Vice Chair; and Cary Fargo, Chair Pro Tem) met with District staff and Sue Gallagher on March 6. There were some recommendations made for improvement that were put before the Advisory Committee for a vote. Chair Gallian asked the members to read through the attached draft resolutions. Rule 10, in regards to attendance, and Rule 14, in regards to an annual summary, were proposed to be changed as follows:

RULE 10: Due to the importance of Committee business, Committee members should make every effort to attend regular and occasional special meetings. Committee members should contact the General Manager if they are unable to attend. The Committee may report and recommend to the Board of Directors the removal of any member if, within any calendar year, (a) the member is absent from three or more regular or special meetings without prior notification to the General Manager, or (b) the member is absent from five or more regular or special meetings, with or without prior notification to the General Manager.

RULE 14 was proposed to be deleted, and the subsequent Rules be renumbered accordingly.

Members discussed the resolutions, asked for some language to be changed, and voted. The changes

included: second sentence, after General Manager, add ‘or designee’. Chair Gallian asked the

committee to vote. Jeff Holtzman made a motion, and Don McEnhill seconded the motion.

 Third sentence, ‘shall’ to replace ‘may’ after Committee. Chair Gallian asked the committee to vote.

 John Azevedo made a motion, and Don McEnhill seconded the motion.

The Committee considered recommending that paragraph 4 of Board of Directors Resolution No. 0962, dated July 20, 1999, be changed as well, if the above is voted in by the members, as follows:

4. Terms. Members of the Committee shall serve two year terms, provided however, that in the event of excessive unjustified absences from regularly scheduled meetings and upon recommendation of the Advisory Committee, a member may be removed by the Board of Directors and replaced in accordance with Paragraph 2.

Chair Gallian asked for comments from the public, but there were none. Chair Gallian then asked for comments from the members before the vote. There was a discussion and then a vote for these resolutions to be taken to the Board with above corrections. Motion by Cary Fargo and seconded by Don McEnhill. Vote: 9 in favor, Jeff Holtzman abstained. The item passed.

**Projects in Negotiations**

Cresta II closed. This is a critical connection between the first phase acquisition of Cresta and McCullough and contains the confluence of Porter and Mark West Creeks. The landowner, Mr. McCoullough, purchased two thirds of the property in 2009 and has been maintaining his own property as well as our property phase one himself. He contributed $1 million to phase one and would like to donate his equipment to the District to help in maintaining the property.

 **Announcements From Advisory Committee Members**

Laurie Gallian

The City of Sonoma is putting on an Arbor Day festival on Friday, April 25 in the plaza from 11:00 to 1:00. There will be a donation of trees, Supervisor Gorin will make a presentation, a local poet will speak and students will perform.

 **Adjournment:** 6:19 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: May 22, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

 Mariah Robson,

Advisory Committee Secretary