



Attachment "A"

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

*April 25, 2019 MINUTES*

5:00 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	Paul Martin	Jan McFarland	Don McEnhill

**Members Absent**

Evan Wiig	Tawny Tesconi	Taj Hittenberger
Jennielynn Holmes	John Nagle	

**Staff Present**

Bill Keene, General Manager; Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Julie Mefferd, Administration and Fiscal Services Manager; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

**Public Comment**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Jan McFarland motioned to approve the minutes, and Steve Rabinowitsh seconded the motion. All in favor, with abstentions from Paul Martin and Don McEnhill who were not in attendance at the February meeting.

**General Manager's Report Out**

- Bill Keene introduced Julie Mefferd as the new Admin and Fiscal Services Manager. She spoke and introduced herself to the committee members.
- An item is going to the Board next Tuesday, April 30, 2019 approving contracts with three land surveyor firms. These contracts will support our surveying and mapping needs. Another item, Creative Services Contracts, will go to the Board on May 14, 2019. The Stewardship Workshop will go to the Board October 15, 2019.

- Next month instead of an in-office meeting, the Advisory Committee will visit two greenbelt properties. One property, Dogbane, is a three acre preserve that supports a healthy population of the dogbane plant, used by local native Americans to make baskets. The other property, Oken, is a 76 acre property leased for grazing and a stream restoration project is planned for this property. More details on the site visit will be sent out prior to the meeting.
- Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative, that consists of Ag + Open Space, Sonoma Land Trust, Regional Parks, State Parks, Sonoma Mountain Preservation and Audobon Canyon Ranch, received a \$1 million CAL FIRE grant to undertake fuel reduction work on the 18,000 acres of land we collectively own in Sonoma Valley. Among the treatments being planned are controlled burns, targeted thinning and reduction of ladder fuels where appropriate, installation of shaded fuel breaks, and clearing vegetation along roadways to improve access for emergency personnel. We'll be focusing on Calabazas Creek Open Space Preserve, with the possibility of a controlled burn managed by CAL FIRE in mid-May if conditions allow.
- Porterfield Creek Open Space Preserve's official opening celebration will be on Saturday, May 11, 2019. Jennifer Kuszmar will be there to speak on behalf of Ag + Open Space.
- On Sunday May, 19, 2019 at 6:30pm on NBC Bay Area, OpenRoad will air an entire episode featuring the history, legacy and vision of Ag + Open Space. Ted Eliot will be interviewed, as well as Halie Trowbridge who sits on the Advisory Committee as a youth representative. We will send an email reminder ahead of the air date, as well as promote in our e-newsletter, on our website and through social media.

### **Subcommittee Report Out**

The Advisory Committee currently has one active subcommittee, the Matching Grant Program. The report out will be part of item #6 on the agenda.

### **Budget Update**

Bill Keene, General Manager, updated the Advisory Committee on the budget for the Ag + Open Space, which he presented to the Board on April 9, 2019. He focused on the challenges and opportunities for Ag + Open Space and issues related to fire recovery. He will take this back to the Board in June when the budget will be finalized. The sales tax revenue has increased and will continue to increase in the next several years. The Board was interested in looking at what has been accomplished so far and what Ag + Open Space might accomplish in the future through the lens of recovery.

For more information, contact Bill Keene at Ag + Open Space.

### **Matching Grant Program Overview, Guidelines Update and Mayors and Councilmembers Letter**

Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator, gave an overview and update on the Matching Grant Program and guidelines, and the Mayors and Councilmembers letter. Ms. Kuszmar overviewed recent project accomplishments and the schedule for updating the Matching Grant Program guidelines. The Matching Grant subcommittee has met twice to discuss Program Updates, including the matter of Matching Grant Subcommittee recusal. Ag + Open Space has received correspondence from the Sonoma County Mayors and Councilmembers Association on the issue of recusal of members from Matching Grant Program funding application review, evaluation and recommendations. The Matching Grant Subcommittee developed recommendations regarding recusals when there are conflicts of interest with members of the subcommittee during the Matching Grant Program cycle. Staff presented the Subcommittee recommendations to the full Advisory Committee, staff, and members of the public. A motion was offered to approve and adopt the recommendations from the subcommittee by Steve Barbose, and seconded by Curt Nichols. All in favor with one abstention from Neysa Hinton.

Direction was given to Chair Dell'Osso to write a draft letter responding to the Mayors and Councilmembers letter. The draft letter will come to next month's meeting for review and discussion.

For more information on the Matching Grant Program overview and guidelines update, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request, or contact Ms. Kuszmar at Ag + Open Space.

**Projects in Negotiations**

State legislation proposes that the Sonoma Development open space lands remain protected.

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

Steve Barbose

Mr. Barbose is now on the City of Sonoma Planning Commission.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:44 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: May 23, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,  
Advisory Committee Secretary