



Attachment "A"

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

*April 26, 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
John Nagle	Neysa Hinton	Halei Trowbridge
Steve Rabinowitsh	John Dell'Osso	Cary Fargo
Paul Martin	Evan Wiig	

**Members Absent**

Jan McFarland	David Cook	Doug Lipton
Eddie Smith	Tawny Tesconi	

**Staff Present**

Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk; Sue Jackson, substitute 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 Roseland Park and the Roseland neighborhood and said that he would like to be helpful as a conservationist, and not seen as adversarial, and for that reason the other neighbors in his group did not attend the meeting this evening and sent Mr. DeWitt to represent them. Mr. DeWitt says the problem in Roseland is worse than ever, and that the Ag + Open Space understands this and he feels that they could be helpful to the City of Santa Rosa to make sure the conservation values are first and foremost.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the February 22, 2018 minutes. There were none, and John Nagle motioned to approve the minutes as they were. Don McEnhill seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval, with two abstentions.

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the March 22, 2018 joint meeting with the Fiscal Oversight Commission. There were none, and Steve Rabinowitsh motioned to approve the minutes

as they were. Curt Nichols seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval, with three abstentions.

Bill Keene, General Manager, announced there would be one change to the agenda this evening. On item #6, Vital Lands Initiative, the original presenter, Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, could not attend, so Mr. Keene will be the presenter in her place.

### **General Manager's Report Out**

- A new OpenRoad, episode will be aired on Sunday, May 6th at 6:30 pm on NBC Bay Area. This episode will discuss the impacts of the fires on our protected lands – Calabazas Creek Open Space Preserve, Cresta/McCullough, and Glen Oaks Ranch. Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Planner and fire ecologist, joins Doug McConnell to discuss the fires, their impacts, and lessons learned.
- Ag + Open Space is actively recruiting another youth member for the Advisory Committee for the next school year from August 2018 through June 2019. Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist, sent an email to the committee asking for help in the recruitment. The deadline is May 1, 2018 but position will stay open until filled. If there are any questions, you can contact Ms. Ricard.
- Ag + Open Space is sponsoring the Sonoma Environmental Education Collaborative (SEEC) Day of the Child/Día del Niño event. Environmental education organizations will host a variety of free events throughout the county to engage children with the outdoors such as hikes, crafts, and bird watching. This will take place on Sunday, April 29 from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm at various locations throughout Sonoma County. The Ag + Open Space properties that will host activities include the City of SR Farms (Laguna Environmental Center), the Steamer Landing Park (Friends of Petaluma River), and Healdsburg Ridge Open Space Preserve (LandPaths).
- The Matching Grant Program application deadline is extended to June 6, 2018.
- Ag + Open Space is moving out the Board date for the Vital Lands Initiative to August 2018.
- The McCullough 2 acquisition will go to the Board on May 22, 2018 as well as the NASA Grant.
- There will be an event in July for opening the Jenner Headlands Preserve. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening. The soft opening will occur in July 2018 and then the grand opening in late July or August 2018.

### **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. They focused on the Vital Lands Initiative. They will be forming an Ag Tech committee to focus on agricultural details, such as affirmative agricultural easements, the most important agricultural lands to protect, and collaborative work with agricultural corporations.

There was no update for Vital Lands Initiative as there were no meetings since the last Advisory Committee meeting.

Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator, announced that the next subcommittee meeting will take place in mid-July or early August. She will schedule the meeting soon.

### **City of Santa Rosa Roseland Creek**

Mr. Keene introduced this item as a follow up from last month's meeting regarding the Roseland Creek property. Last month we heard the Ag + Open Space staff and public's concerns. This evening the City of Santa Rosa reviewed the community planning process for the park and provided an overview of the draft master plan from 2010 to the present. Mr. Keene introduced Jason Nutt, City of Santa Rosa Interim Director of Recreation and Parks, and Jen Santos, City of Santa Rosa Deputy Director of Parks.

Ms. Santos gave a PowerPoint presentation on the property that included the history and map of the property and what the City owns.

Chair Dell'Osso opened the meeting for the members of the public and Advisory Committee members to discuss the presentation and ask questions of the City of Santa Rosa and Ag + Open Space staff. The Advisory Council asked that the District continue with its outreach to the citizens impacted by the project. There was also discussion about achieving balance between the need for places to recreate and the need for places to enjoy the land in its natural state.

### **Public Comment**

Duane DeWitt spoke on behalf of Roseland Action and reported that the neighboring public is opposed to the City of Santa Rosa's approach to the Roseland Creek Park and the Master Plan. The public would like to keep the park as a natural, untouched preserve, and the City would like to create a recreation area.

In response to the public comment, Mr. Keene offered to host and facilitate a meeting, or a series of meetings, wherein the City of Santa Rosa and the neighboring public can discuss the issues, with the goal of reaching some level of consensus. The Advisory Committee encouraged the District to move forward on this action as described by Mr. Keene.

### **Vital Lands Initiative**

Mr. Keene gave an update on the Vital Lands Initiative. The Sonoma County Farm Bureau asked that the Initiative go to the Board of Directors at a later date in order to hone in on the agricultural components in more detail. They would like a draft of the Initiative that is not so esoteric, but more detailed per components of the expenditure plan. The draft will go to the Board in September 2018. The final plan will go to the Board in October or November 2018.

### **Projects in Negotiations**

No discussion about projects in negotiations.

### **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:** 6:54 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: May 24, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,  
Advisory Committee Secretary