



**AG + OPEN SPACE**  
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**APPROVED MINUTES**

**747 Mendocino Avenue – Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401**  
**May 23, 2019 | 5:00 pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bill Smith	Curt Nichols	Steve Barbose	John Nagle
Neysa Hinton	Evan Wiig	Cary Fargo	Leah Gold
John Dell’Osso	Taj Hittenberger	Jennielynn Holmes	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Tawny Tesconi	Paul Martin	Doug Lipton
Jan McFarland	Steve Rabinowitsh	Don McEnhill

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

**Call to Order**

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

Change in the Agenda: Chair Dell’Osso asked that the order of the agenda be changed. Agenda item five moved to agenda item six.

Chair Dell’Osso welcomed the newest Advisory Committee Member, Leah Gold, Vice Mayor of Healdsburg. She introduced herself to the committee members and staff.

**Public Comment**

Duane DeWitt spoke about Roseland and stated that Ag + Open Space helped the City of Santa Rosa save 2.4 acres with tax payers’ dollars. Now the City of Santa Rosa would like to demolish six houses and buildings that were on the property when purchased. Mr. DeWitt would like them to reconsider and not tear the buildings down but use them for something else, perhaps moving them instead of demolishing them. Mr. DeWitt would like the Ag + Open Space to support the movement and use of the buildings rather than tearing them down.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Bill Smith motioned to approve the minutes as is, and John Nagle seconded the motion. All in favor, with abstentions from Taj Hittenberger and Leah Gold who were not in attendance at the April meeting.

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

- Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager, reported out for Bill Keene, General Manager. Two conservation easements closed, Weeks Ranch North and South, totaling 1200 acres adjacent to Hood Mountain and Sugar Loaf. This is a family owned property that has been in cattle grazing for many years.
- Monica Delmartini, Associate Planner, and Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist, are participating in a community information session at the Kenwood Depot tonight regarding potential upcoming controlled burns being planned by the Sonoma Valley Wildlands Collaborative. Residents living in the immediate vicinity of potential burn sites were invited to hear from the Collaborative and CAL FIRE about how the controlled burns will be operated.
- OpenRoad aired last Sunday and we've received a lot of great feedback about the episode. Ms. Ricard sent the link to all of the Committee members, and it also can be found on the OpenRoad with Doug McConnell website.
- We issued a press release this morning announcing the grand opening celebration of the Graton Green on June 2, 2019.
- An email was sent to Committee members with recruitment materials for two new youth members. Ms. Ricard will also be looking for adult allies to help mentor each of our new youth members.

### **Subcommittee Report Out**

The Advisory Committee currently has one active subcommittee, the Matching Grant Program. The subcommittee has not met since the last Advisory Committee meeting and has no update.

### **Matching Grant Program Mayors and Councilmembers Letter**

Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator, updated the Advisory Committee on the Mayors and Councilmembers letters. 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. At the last Advisory Committee meeting, staff presented the Subcommittee recommendations to the full Advisory Committee, staff, and members of the public. Chair Dell'Osso was directed to write a response



letter to the Mayors and Councilmembers. The Committee members and the members of the public discussed Chair Dell'Osso's response letter this evening and made some slight changes. John Nagle made a motion to approve the letter with the changes and send the letter to Mayors and Councilmembers. Steve Barbose seconded the motion. All were in favor.

For more information, contact Ms. Kuszmar at Ag + Open Space.

#### **Vital Lands Initiative Update**

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, gave an overview and update on the Vital Lands Initiative. This is a comprehensive plan to guide all of the work of Ag + Open Space through 2031. The draft is almost completed and will be sent out in the next couple of weeks for feedback from Committee members. Small group meetings will also be set up with Committee members and Ag + Open Space staff to discuss the draft and to get further input from members. There will also be community meetings that will take place before the VLI is taken to the Board in October. Committee members are invited and encouraged to attend the Board meeting.

For more information on the Vital Lands Initiative, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request, or contact Ms. Gaffney at Ag + Open Space.

#### **Projects in Negotiation**

No updates on projects in negotiations Announcement from Advisory Committee Members

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

Chair Dell'Osso | Halei Trowbridge is no longer on the Advisory Committee. Chair Dell'Osso will purchase a card and have members sign at the next meeting and will send it to her

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Next Meeting: July 25, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson  
*Advisory Committee Secretary*

