



AG + OPEN SPACE
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

APPROVED MINUTES

**Virtual Meeting Due to Sonoma County's Shelter in Place Order
May 28, 2020 | 5:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Smith	Tawny Tesconi	Evan Wiig	Paul Martin
Curt Nichols	Taj Hittenberger	Steve Barbose	Doug Lipton
John Dell'Osso	Cary Fargo	Austin Maners	Michelle Whitman
Jan McFarland			

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jennielynn Holmes	Leah Gold	John Nagle
Don McEnhill	Neysa Hinton	

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Manager; Julie Mefferd, Admin & Fiscal Services Manager; Kim Batchelder, Conservation Associate Planner; Allison Schichtel, Senior Conservation Planner; Stephanie Tavares-Buhler, Senior Acquisition Specialist; Sara Ortiz, Administrative Aide; Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Alex Young, GIS Coordinator; Taylor Acosta, Stewardship Technician; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Curt Nichols motioned to approve the minutes from February 27, 2020 as is, and Bill Smith seconded the motion. All were in favor, with eight abstentions from Steve Barbose, Austin Maners, Michelle Whitman, Tawny Tesconi, Jan McFarland, Evan Wiig, Doug Lipton, and Paul Martin who were not in attendance at the February meeting.

General Manager's Report Out

- Bill Keene, General Manager, introduced the newest member of the Advisory Committee, Michelle Whitman, who is representing the third district. Ms. Whitman introduced herself to the Advisory Committee members and staff.
- A prescribed grazing contract for Calabazas is going to the Board on June 9, 2020.
- The transfer of Carrington Ranch to Regional Parks is also going to the Board on June 9, 2020. This is a 300 acre property off of Coleman Valley Road.
- Mr. Keene acknowledged staff on all they have accomplished during the COVID-19 pandemic. Several staff have been devoted to disaster service as runners, working on public information, press releases, contact tracing, the emergency hot line, and sewing face coverings. Most staff are sheltering in place and working from home if they are not participating in disaster services and have been very productive. All meetings are being conducted remotely.

Subcommittee Report Out

The Advisory Committee currently has one active subcommittee, the Matching Grant Program. The configuration of members may change once applications have been received in August.

Program Updates

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Manager, Misti Arias, Acquisition Manager, Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Manager, and Julie Mefferd, Admin & Fiscal Services Manager, updated the committee on the highlights of their program during COVID19 and shelter in place. Committee members asked questions and made comments after each update.

Advisory Committee Round Robin

Advisory Committee members took turns giving an update on what they have been doing during the COVID19 pandemic personally and professionally.

Plan for Future Meetings

Chair Dell'Osso discussed future plans for the Advisory Committee meetings. It was decided to have another zoom call for the next scheduled meeting on June 25, 2020. Some thoughts were discussed to possibly have the meeting include video next time. Chair Dell'Osso asked members to email him with any other ideas for future meetings.

Projects in Negotiation

Gloeckner Ranch is in escrow and will be closing in the next week or two.

The Fiscal Oversight Commission approved the appraisal for the Torr project which will go to the Board in July 2020.



Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public
No announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 pm.

Next Meeting: June 25, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson
Advisory Committee Secretary

