



Attachment "A"

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

June 28, 2018 MINUTES

5:12 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Bill Smith	Curt Nichols	Evan Wiig	Jan McFarland
Halei Trowbridge	Don McEnhill	Paul Martin	Steve Barbose
Steve Rabinowitsh	John Dell'Osso	Taj Hittenberger	

Members Absent

David Cook	Doug Lipton	Cary Fargo
Tawny Tesconi	John Nagle	Neysa Hinton

Staff Present

Bill Keene, General Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Seamus Rafferty, Stewardship Technician; Catherine Iantosca, Stewardship Technician; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:12 pm.

Chair Dell'Osso announced that item #6 would switch with item #8 in order of presentation.

Public Comment

Chair Dell'Osso asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

Duane DeWitt played a one and half-minute video for the Advisory Committee members on Roseland Creek. He also spoke about a meeting that took place right before the Advisory Committee meeting that Bill Keene, General Manager, who facilitated between the City of Santa Rosa and some neighbors from Roseland regarding Roseland Creek Park. Mr. DeWitt spoke in favor of keeping the park as natural as possible.

Larry Hanson also attended the Roseland Creek Park meeting with the City of Santa Rosa and spoke in favor of keeping the park as natural as possible as well.

Susan Kirks spoke about taking a walk with the community group on the Roseland Creek property, seeing a large Red-shouldered hawk active nest and noting a Barn Owl flew overhead while they were walking. She encouraged support of conservation and a best

approach to any planning. She stated the Paula Lane Matching Grant open space project in Petaluma has sensitive habitat and planning considered that.

Approval of Minutes

Susan Kirks requested an amendment to the minutes of May 24, 2018 to take out what was written last month and add the following: Susan Kirks passed out the Leaves newsletter of Madrone Audubon Society. She spoke in support of wildlife corridors, Paula Lane, and keeping urban lands that are wild such as the Roseland Creek Preserve in their natural state.

Chair Dell'Osso also asked for an amendment to the minutes. Under Projects in Negotiations, it was written that the Ag + Open Space has protected over 13,000 acres of land, and it should be 113,000.

Chair Dell'Osso asked for approval of the May 24, 2018 minutes as amended. Curt Nichols motioned to approve the minutes with the amendments, and Paul Martin seconded the motion. All in favor, with three abstentions from Steve Barbose, Taj Hittenberger and Don McEnhill, who all were not in attendance last month.

Chair Dell'Osso introduced the two new Advisory Committee members, Steve Barbose and Taj Hittenberger. They both spoke a little about themselves and were welcomed by the members.

General Manager's Report Out

- Mr. Keene announced that Advisory Committee member Don McEnhill had his picture and an article about him and others titled The Water Warriors of California in the June 2018 issue of Vanity Fair magazine. The magazine article was passed around to members to read.
- The Ag + Open Space's budget was approved at the Board of Directors two weeks ago.
- Roseland neighbors and the City of Santa Rosa staff had a positive meeting this afternoon for bridge building between the neighbors and the City. Mr. Keene hopes to continue these meetings and will report back to the Advisory Committee.
- As of today McCullough phase 2 has closed. A future acquisition that will also be included in the Markwest Creek Regional Parks Preserve will be Wendle, which will go to the Board of Directors on July 10, 2018. This will bring the total acreage of the park to almost 1,100. Mr. Keene would like to take the Advisory Committee members on a tour of this property at a future time.
- Ag + Open Space hosted a meeting of resources that included interested groups regarding regional natural and working lands. Attendees included California RCD's, the Department of Conservation and Ag + Open Space. The topic discussed was how the State will invest in natural and working lands for the future. Mr. Keene will report back to the Advisory Committee on this topic.

Subcommittee Report Out

The District currently has three active subcommittees:

1. Matching Grant Program
2. Agriculture
3. Vital Lands Initiative

The Matching Grant Program will be meeting soon.

Paul Martin from the Ag Subcommittee reported out that this subcommittee just met, and they discussed relations with the ag community and how to get a positive dialog going. They also discussed the implementation plan in the Vital Lands Initiative and that there will be meetings with the Farm Bureau and that they will be convening a working group ag advisory team that will be focused on vital lands.

The Vital Lands Initiative subcommittee have not met, but there is a process that is taking shape with communications with the Farm Bureau and the ag community. The goal is to take VLI to the Board of Directors sometime in December 2018 or January 2019 after this work is completed.

Budget

Mr. Keene presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the Ag + Open Space's budget.

For more information, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Advisory Committee Support Letter for Regional Parks

Aldo Mercado, County Council, spoke about the Advisory Committee writing a letter of support for Regional Parks. This is allowed per the Advisory Committee by-laws but it will need to be an action item added to the next Advisory Committee agenda. It will need to be notified and sent out to the public. Mr. Mercado recommended that the letter be in close to final form by the time the members meet again so it can be reviewed by the members and the public. It was agreed by the members to put this on August's agenda as an action item in order for the members to vote on the letter of support.

Impacts of the October Fires to District-Protected Properties

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation on fire-impacted properties protected by Ag + Open Space. 7,500 acres of easement and fee properties were affected by the fire. The ecological effect was minimal; however, invasive species are coming back aggressively. Ag + Open Space is actively working on recovery and resiliency and working to minimize fire damage in the future.

For more information, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Projects in Negotiations

There were no updates.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public

There were no announcements.

Adjournment: This meeting adjourned in memory of John McChesney, who was a member of the Advisory Committee for six months and recently passed away. The meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: August 23, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary