



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
July 22, 2021 | 5:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Rabinowitsh	Jan McFarland	Brian Barnacle	John Nagle
Michelle Whitman	Bill Smith	Ariel Kelley	
Curt Nichols	Paul Martin	Sue Conley	
Tawny Tesconi	Doug Lipton	Cary Fargo	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kristina Tierney Neysa Hinton Don McEnhill

STAFF PRESENT:

Misti Arias, General Manager; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Jennifer Kuzmar, Acquisition Manager; Kathleen Marsh, Stewardship Supervisor; Jake Newell, Stewardship Specialist; Allison Schichtel, Senior Conservation Planner; Marina Davies, Stewardship Technician; Sara Ortiz, Administrative Aide; Lisa Pheatt, County Counsel

Call to Order

Chair Whitman called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

Public Comment

Chair Whitman asked for any public comments on items not on the agenda. Susan Sullivan had a public comment on Paula Lane, and was directed to say her comment during that part of the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2021

Chair Whitman asked for any comments or revisions regarding the June 24, 2021 minutes. There were none. The minutes were unanimously approved. There were no public comments on the minutes.

General Manager's Report

- Misti Arias, General Manager, reported that Ag + Open Space has received a grant from the State Coastal Conservancy for \$575,000 for high priority tree thinning and shaded fuel break work on Saddle Mountain, which burned in the Glass Fire. The SCC then contacted the Ag + Open Space and said that there was an additional \$80,000 in funds available. This is going to the Board on August 17, 2021 for approval of the grant and there will be a Request for Proposal process to pick a contractor for the tree work. The contract for this work will go to the Board on September 28, 2021.
- Calabazas Creek Open Space Preserve has been officially transferred to Regional Parks. Ag + Open Space hosted a media visit to the property last Friday in conjunction with the closing of the transfer. Attendees included Supervisor Susan Gorin; Misti Arias, General Manager; Leslie Lew, Stewardship Specialist; and Karen Davis-Brown, Regional Parks Planner.



Paula Lane Update

Ms. Arias, Jennifer Kuszmar, Acquisition Manager, and Jake Newell, Stewardship Specialist, gave an update on the Paula Lane Matching Grant Program project, providing background of the project, overview of terms of the matching grant agreement and conservation easement, and Ag + Open Space's role.

Advisory Committee members and the public had questions regarding the badgers on site, and Patrick Carter, City of Petaluma Senior Management Analyst and Dana Riggs, Sol Ecology CEO, Founder and Principal Biologist, answered them as they were able.

For more information, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request, or contact Ms. Kuszmar or Mr. Newell at Ag + Open Space.

Vital Lands Network Update

Ms. Arias, Ms. Kuszmar and Allison Schichtel, Senior Conservation Planner, gave a presentation on the Vital Lands Network.

For more information, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request, or contact Ms. Kuszmar or Ms. Schichtel at Ag + Open Space.

Projects in Negotiations

Ms. Arias pointed out that several projects have been moved to the active list in anticipation of upcoming work.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

Doug Lipton

Mr. Lipton announced that this would be his last meeting. He represents the Fourth District and had a conversation with Supervisor James Gore regarding finding a replacement. Mr. Lipton feels Ag + Open Space is in great hands with the current staff and members on the Advisory Committee. He has other projects he would like focus on at this point in his life. He encouraged Supervisor Gore to appoint a BIPOC member to the committee.



Adjournment

Chair Whitman adjourned the meeting at 6:47.

Next Meeting: September 23, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson
Advisory Committee Secretary

