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# Attachment "A"

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# SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

July 24, 2014 MINUTES

5:02 p.m. Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,

Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

**Members Present**

Sue Conley Jan McFarland John Nagle Cary Fargo

John Azevedo John Dell’Osso Bill Smith Gary Wysocky

Kristin Thigpen Janet Orchard Shanti Edwards Jeff Holtzman

Don McEnhill

**Members Absent**

Curt Nichols

Laurie Gallian

Steve Rabinowitsh

**Staff Present** Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Tom Robinson, Conservation Associate Planner; Sue Gallagher, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

**Public Comment**

Cary Fargo, Chair Pro Tem, sitting in for Chair Gallian and Vice Chair Steve Rabinowitsh, asked for public comments on items not listed on the agenda. There were no public comments on items not listed on the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Fargo asked for comments on the minutes from May 22, 2014. There were no

comments on the minutes. Mr. Fargo announced the approval of the minutes.

Mr. Fargo was asked by the General Manager to move item 5 to 4, item 6 to 5 and

item 4 to 6 on the Agenda. All members were in agreement of this change.

**General Manager’s Report**

* The Management Review will be brought to the Board on August 19, 2014. It originally was going to the Board on June 10, 2014, but was postponed due to scheduling conflicts. Bill Keene, General Manager, invited Advisory Committee members to attend the Board meeting. The recommendations to the District from this review process, as well as any changes that will be made, will be brought to the Advisory Committee for review.
* The transfer of North Slope Trail is also going to the Board on August 19, 2014.
* Mr. Keene went on a monitoring visit to the Jenner Headlands to take a tour of the area with Wildlands Conservancy about a month ago. The trail construction is looking good. The District would like to take the Advisory Committee on a tour of this area as well in the future.

**Forming an Agricultural Subcommittee**

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, spoke of forming an Agricultural Subcommittee that would be focused on agricultural strategy and the urban farm concept. Members who volunteered at the last Advisory Committee meeting and via email are: Kristin Thigpen, Jan McFarland, John Dell’Osso, John Azevedo, John Nagle and Sue Conley and are all still interested. Janet Orchard also showed interest in volunteering for the group but six members are the maximum needed and she will be notified if anyone steps down from the list above. Chair Pro Tem Fargo asked for a motion for the formation of this subcommittee. Gary Wysocky motioned and Kristin Thigpen seconded the motion. All were in favor, no oppositions and no abstentions.

**Youth Representation on District Advisory Committee**

Mr. Keene attended a meeting with Sonoma County Health Services and Ms. Gaffney on including youth on County boards and commissions. Health Services would like to have youth representatives to sit on boards and commissions for one year terms. There would be an application process, as they would be voting members on the committee. The Advisory Committee Rules and Procedures previous changes regarding attendance have not been taken to the Board yet, and Mr. Keene would like to add this item to it when it does get taken to the Board. The Board would have to approve a change in the by-laws in order to allow youth to participate on the Committee. Mr. Keene feels this would be a great way to reach the youth in our community and is interested in their viewpoints. Many committee members were supportive of this idea, however, some members have some reservations on the process, and if going through Health Services would be the best route for the District. Mr. Keene explained that at this point he only wanted to find out interest from the Committee on this idea so that the bylaws that need to be changed in the Rules and Procedures can be taken to the Board for approval. Staff will bring to the Committee with recommendations on how to proceed that can be voted on at the next meeting and forwarded to the Board.

**Climate Change Activities**

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, and Tom Robinson, Conservation Associate Planner, informed the Committee on Climate Change Activities and how the District is involved in this pressing issue. Ms. Gaffney introduced the topic and how the District is currently working in collaboration with other organizations. Mr. Robinson explained a joint project of the District and The Nature Conservancy called Climate Action Through Conservation that is aimed at quantifying the climate benefits of land conservation. The project will illustrate the critical role conservation plays in mitigating the effects of climate change by avoiding conversion of forests, woodlands, and grasslands that take up and store atmospheric carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. Mr. Robinson also explained the District’s collaboration with Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department and Stanford University’s Natural Capital Project to use newly collected LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) data for modeling sea level rise and identifying where wetlands and other natural coastal habitats can improve resilience to the effects of climate change. He concluded with a brief update on other District climate change adaptation efforts including a study of wildlife corridors, riparian corridors and groundwater recharge potential with the Water Agency to identify areas that may be more important for groundwater recharge than others. To see the Climate Change Activities item in more detail, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request at the District offices.

**Projects in Negotiations**

* Mr. Keene attended the ribbon-cutting for the East Washington Park Matching Grant project. The park is located east of highway 101 heading toward Adobe Road in Petaluma. It is a recreational park.

**Announcements From Advisory Committee Members and General Manager**

Jeff Holtzman

There was a public meeting on May 8th regarding the Bordessa Ranch that the Advisory Committee did not know about ahead of time. The Advisory Committee members would like to be notified ahead of time for any future public meetings that the District is involved in so members are better informed of District activities and can act as ambassadors for the District.

Bill Keene

Mr. Keene made an apology for not informing the Committee members of the May 8th meeting explaining that it was not a District-led meeting. However, in the future Mr. Keene will inform the members of any public meetings that the District is involved in.

There is no update on the Andy Lopez memorial park.

Kristin Thigpen

The Southeast Greenway passed through the Board of Supervisors and now fundraising activities will get underway.

**Adjournment:** 6:09 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: August 28, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,

Advisory Committee Secretary