



Attachment "A"

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

August 24, 2017 MINUTES

5:03 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Curt Nichols	Doug Lipton	Bill Smith	Don McEnhill	Halei Trowbridge
Steve Rabinowitsh	John Nagle	Evan Wiig	Cary Fargo	Eddie Smith
John Dell'Osso	Paul Martin	Kristin Thigpen	David Cook	John McChesney

Members Absent

Jan McFarland	Tawny Tesconi
Elly Grogan	Neysa Hinton

Staff Present

Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Alex Roa, Associate Planner; Allison Schichtel, Conservation GIS Analyst; Indigo Bannister, Conservation Planning Technician; Bob Pittman, County Counsel; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Verne Ball, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Public Comment

Chair Dell'Osso asked for public comments on items not on the agenda and there were none.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the June 22, 2017 minutes. Don McEnhill motioned to approve the minutes as they were. John Nagle seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval, with three abstentions: Kristin Thigpen, Cary Fargo and David Cook.

General Manager's Report Out

- The District's request for letters of interest for the Young-Armos Incubator Farm only resulted in one letter from the Center for Land-Based Learning that was a recommendation from Advisory Committee member Paul Martin. However, the Center will not be able to make a proposal at this time. Bill Keene, General Manager, and Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, will meet with Leonard Diggs of Shone Farm later next month to discuss the project. The District will continue to seek partners to move this project forward.

- An article on the Sonoma Veg Map was in the Sonoma West Times, the Windsor Times, Healdsburg Tribune and Cloverdale Reveille this week, both online and in print.
- The Sonoma West Times and the Press Democrat featured an article on the bequest of Don Bradley's charitable contribution of over \$200,000 back in July to the District.
- This month the District participated in the Green Festival at the Sonoma County Fair and the Gravenstein Apple Fair and will participate in the Agribusiness BBQ at the end of the month as well as Agrarian Games in September.
- Mr. Keene discussed upcoming Board items: This week the Board, which will extend the contract for another year, approved the District's Outings and Education Contracts. Andy's Unity Park Matching Grant – a joint item with Regional Parks, will go to the Board on September 19, as well as a grant application for sustainable agricultural lands for the Joseph Camozzi Dairy. An Ag easement on the Hansen property will go to the Board in early October. The Mark West properties – Cresta and McCullough, will go to the Board on October 24. The Stewardship Update and Reserve Fund Calculation will go to the Board in November. The draft for the Vital Lands Initiative will go to the Board on December 5 and the final will go to the Board in mid to late January.
- Mr. Keene welcomed and introduced the newest Advisory Committee member, John McChesney, who will represent the first district on the committee and was appointed by Supervisor Gorin. Mr. McChesney has extensive experience with public broadcasting through National Public Radio. He introduced himself and shared that he is a journalist by trade but has not worked at NPR for eight years now. He still writes for Valley of the Moon and has been very involved in reporting on the the Sonoma Developmental Center. He first came to Sonoma County in 1955 to visit his uncle on Sonoma Mountain and was determined to make his way back to Sonoma County one day. He has lived here now for the past nine years. The Advisory Committee members welcomed Mr. McChesney.
- Mr. Keene introduced the two new youth representatives, Eddie Smith and Halei Trowbridge. Eddie is a senior at Healdsburg High School and is very interested in composting and recycling of waste. He helped start a composting project at the Healdsburg High School that has become very successful. Doug Lipton is his mentor. Halei is a junior at Santa Rosa High School. She has a background in FFA, and lives on a small farm. She is passionate about the environment, agriculture, and conservation. Neysa Hinton will be her mentor. The Advisory Committee members welcomed the youth representatives. Mr. Keene also wanted to acknowledge Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist, who put great effort into the recruitment of the youth for the committee and who will work closely with Eddie and Halei.
- Bob Pittman, County Counsel, introduced the new County Counsel staff who will be working with the District and the Advisory Committee. Aldo Mercado will be working with Stewardship and Acquisitions and will be working with the Advisory Committee. Verne Ball will be working with Stewardship and Acquisitions as well, and will be a back up to Mr. Mercado for the Advisory Committee when needed. The Advisory Committee welcomed the new County Counsel staff.
Members and staff went around the room and introduced themselves to the new Advisory Committee members and new County Counsel staff.

Joint Meeting in November with Fiscal Oversight Commission: Discussion

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, recommended that the District's Advisory Committee and Fiscal Oversight Commission have a joint meeting to hear input from the public on the draft Vital Lands Initiative and a follow up discussion based on that input. John Dell'Osso, chair of the Advisory Committee, and Todd Mendoza, chair of the Fiscal Oversight Commission, will co-chair the joint meeting. The date that the District suggested is Thursday,

November 16. The location still needs to be determined. John Nagle motioned to approve the meeting and the date, and John Nagle seconded the motion. A vote was taken and all were in favor with no abstentions.

Kristin Thigpen Resolution

Chair Dell'Osso presented Kristin Thigpen with a resolution of appreciation for serving on the committee since 2009. Ms. Thigpen spoke of her time on the committee and thanked the members and staff. Members and staff spoke as well and gave their farewells to Ms. Thigpen.

Subcommittee Report Out

The District currently has three active subcommittees:

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

The Matching Grant Program Subcommittee has not met recently and there was no report out.

John Nagle, chair of the Advisory Committee Agriculture Subcommittee, gave a report out. They met this afternoon before the meeting and last month. Much of the focus has been on the Vital Lands Initiative and future meeting topics. They have been looking at objectives, strategies, and performance measures in regards to the agricultural component of the VLI.

Vital Lands Initiative Subcommittee combined their report out with the Vital Lands Initiative Update which is the next item.

Vital Lands Initiative Update

Ms. Gaffney explained that the next two Advisory Committee meetings will be focused on VLI, with a detailed review of key elements of the VLI in September. Ms. Gaffney provided an overview of the schedule for completing VLI as well as upcoming and past community outreach. Alex Roa, Conservation Planning Special Projects Planner, described the goals and strategies of the VLI, and Allison Schichtel, Conservation Planning GIS Analyst, detailed the mapping data.

The PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request or you can contact Karen Gaffney or Alex Roa with any questions.

Projects in Negotiations

Mr. Keene stated that Andy's Unity Park will go to the Board in September and Hansen will go in October.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

Don McEnhill

September 16 is the California Coastal Clean Up Day. The clean-ups will be taking place all over Tomales Bay, the coast, and the Russian River watershed. There are 70 clean-up sites in total, and that doesn't include the creek week clean-ups in the cities.

Kristin Thigpen

The Parks Foundation and Regional Parks will have their annual Spring Lake Water Bark at the Spring Lake Swimming Lagoon on the following weekends: September 9-10, 23-24 and 30-October 1 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. It is \$5 per dog to get in for park members and \$7 per dog for non-members.

Steve Rabinowitsh

The Sonoma County Community Foundation gave a \$250,000 grant to the Sonoma Land Trust for purchase of the Southeast Greenway and the EIR for the Project has been released by the City of Santa Rosa. It will be reviewed on September 14 by their Planning Commission.

Adjournment: 6:47 pm. Chair Dell'osso adjourned the meeting in thanks to Kristin Thigpen's years of service to the Committee.

Next scheduled meeting date: September 28, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary