



Attachment "A"

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

September 22, 2016 MINUTES

5:08 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Cary Fargo	Bill Smith	Laurie Gallian
Jan McFarland	John Nagle	Kristin Thigpen
Steve Rabinowitsh	Jeffrey Holtzman	

Members Absent

Don McEnhill	Curt Nichols
Sue Conley	Gary Wysocky
Doug Lipton	John Dell'Osso

Staff Present

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Kim Batchelder, Natural Resources Planner; Alex Roa, Associate Planner; Judy Bellah, Marketing Specialist; Bob Pittman, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Rabinowitsh called the meeting to order at 5:08 pm.

The new Advisory Committee youth member, Annaleigh Nguyen, was in attendance and introductions were made.

Public Comment

Duane DeWitt from Roseland thanked staff, Ms. Gaffney, Ms Emerson and Mr. Keene for being involved in the efforts to save natural areas in Roseland. He would like to help save the taxpayers' money by pointing out that the two Burbank Avenue properties in Roseland have been appraised at a half million dollars and he feels that they are not that valuable. He does not want the District, via taxpayers' money, to spend that much to try and protect the Burbank properties. He would like to have a comparative appraisal done. He will be bringing the results of the comparable appraisal to a future Advisory Committee meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Rabinowitsh asked if there were any corrections to the minutes. Jeffrey Holtzman said that his announcement regarding the protection of 159 acres of biotic land that was approved by the Board was not in Graton, but rather Atascadero Creek. Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk, will make the correction. The minutes of August 25, 2016 were approved with the correction.

General Manager's Report (Karen Gaffney, on behalf of Bill Keene)

- The District will take the Estero Ranch Mitigation proposal by the Wildlands Conservancy to the Board on September 27, 2016. The funding would come from Caltrans to compensate for impacts due to the replacement of the Highway One bridge over the Estero Americano. The General Manager is recommending that the Board find the proposed mitigation to be consistent with the conservation easement.
- Stewardship Manager Sheri Emerson will be bringing a revision of the mitigation policy back to the Advisory Committee for consideration in December.
- A \$3 million dollar grant for acquisition of a conservation easement over the Stewart's Point property was approved by the Wildlife Conservation Board.
- The District was awarded a \$750,000 Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program grant for acquisition of an agricultural conservation easement over Mattos Dairy. The Mattos Dairy is nearly 900 acres in the Stemple Creek watershed and produces milk for St. Benoit yoghurt.

Presentation on Permissible Activities in Connection with Ballot Measures

Bob Pittman, County Counsel, presented a PowerPoint on Permissible Activities in Connection with Ballot Measures. The presentation included definitions of public resources and outlined what public officials can and can't do in regards to ballot measures. It is not permissible to use public resources to advocate or campaign for a ballot measure; however, a local government agency may adopt an official position on a ballot measure provided it is an open public meeting and is properly noticed on an official agenda. It was acknowledged that the Advisory Committee would be considering adopting an official position on two ballot measures in the meeting this evening and that both criteria had been met.

For more information on permissible activities in connection with ballot measures, the PowerPoint presentation and a handout are available at the District upon request.

Regional Parks Tax Measure J: Request to Take an Official Position

Caryl Hart, Regional Parks Director who is on leave to work on the campaign, directed the Advisory Committee members, staff and the public to go to the website for more information on Measure J: www.yestasonomacountyparks.org and stated that people can personally endorse the measure on the website. Ms. Hart explained that per the District's Expenditure Plan and Measure F, the District's funds are limited to 10% of the development of parks which only includes initial public access. Measure J will bring funds to Regional Parks to help maintain the parks once they are transferred from the District. Ms. Hart requested that the Advisory Committee take an official position on this measure. Jan McFarland motioned for an official position and Laurie Gallian seconded the motion. Chair Rabinowitsh asked for a vote. All in favor with no opposition.

Community Separators Measure K: Request to Take an Official Position

Teri Shore, North Bay Regional Director of Greenbelt Alliance and Campaign Manager of Measure K, thanked the Advisory Committee members and District staff for putting Measure K on the agenda. This measure is to renew what the voters already protected and is a renewal of Sonoma County Policy that was approved in 1996. It is the backbone of all nine urban growth boundaries in the cities. Since Ms. Shore's last presentation to the Advisory Committee, the Greenbelt Alliance has continued working with the Board of Supervisors to add additional community separators and to update the polices. In August, the Supervisors voted 5-0 to put the measure on a ballot. This will triple the acreage of community separators which was 17,000 acres to 53,000 if it passes. Measure K

also extends this additional acreage for another twenty years. This helps to ensure that development is not increased on separators without a vote of the people. There is no opposition filed and a growing list of endorsements for Measure K with over 200 people, as well as organizations and environmental groups, including the Sonoma County Alliance and the Environmental Commission. The business community is also behind the measure. The voters need to know about the measure and Ms. Shore asked the Advisory Committee members to talk with people about it. There is confusion from voters on the measure, some thinking that there is a tax or fee associated with it, but there is not. The measure only needs a 50% majority to pass. Ms. Shore started to pass around a petition for the members to sign during the meeting but Mr. Pittman, County Counsel, explained that it was not ok to sign the petition during the meeting but after the meeting in the parking lot would be acceptable. Kristin Thigpen motioned to take an official position and John Nagle seconded the motion. Chair Rabinowitsh asked for a vote. All in favor with no oppositions.

Update on Youth Advisory Committee Members

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, announced that there are two new youth Advisory Committee members. Regan Connell is a senior at Montgomery High School and plays soccer. She will join the committee in December. Annaleigh Nguyen is a sophomore at Montgomery High School and would like to be a pediatrician and plays badminton. Both are voting members. It was a long process to get them on board but Heath Action led the process and helped us find Regan and Annaleigh. John Nagle will mentor Annaleigh and Steve Rabinowitsh will mentor Regan. District staff will also be resources for the new members and Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist, will work with them for youth outreach in the community.

Comprehensive Plan Update and Discussion

The Comprehensive Plan was directed by the Board during the 2014 District Management Review. That review identified multiple plans at the District that were not well integrated and are now outdated. The Board of Supervisors gave the District direction to integrate our plans in a hierarchical planning framework that would tier off of one another so to help keep the District working toward our mission. The Comprehensive Plan is a framework that will provide easy access to data. The plan will include planning documents, biannual work plans, and budgets. The purpose is to gain clarity for District priorities and actions and to refine how best to execute the mission with clarity, increase community support and draw on outside resources. It will tier off of the expenditure plan and enabling legislature and will be transparent and well informed by policies. The goal is to have it be digital to save paper, and to make for ease of adding and deleting data as processes evolve.

The proposed process and timeline would be as follows: currently in the assessment and project management phase; there will be a public “kickoff” in early December 2016 to help foster community engagement; draft on-the-ground targets in late winter 2016; draft strategies in spring 2017; draft plan to the Board of Directors in June 2017; final (web-based) plan in August 2017.

The proposed role for the Advisory Committee would be giving input and advising for the duration of the project and as ambassadors of the plan for the District. The Comprehensive Plan will be a standing item on the agenda for each meeting in the next year so that the Advisory Committee members can be more involved. At the October meeting Ms. Gaffney would like the Advisory Committee to form a Comprehensive Plan Subcommittee. She would like the District management team to set the pace of the plan and for the decision making, the District staff will develop the content and the Advisory Committee will advise the process. The District also has a Conservation Plan subcommittee internally that meet often and report back to the rest of the District staff and managers. Having the Advisory Committee members more involved may result in longer meetings.

Ms. Gaffney introduced the Conservation Planning team that are assisting in the District Comprehensive Plan: Alex Roa, Associate Planner; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist;

Kim Batchelder, Natural Resources Planner; Judy Bellah, Marketing Specialist; and Allison Schichtel, Conservation GIS Analyst, who was not present.

Chair Rabinowitsh turned the meeting over to the Advisory Committee members for discussion. Comments by the members were in support of the plan, the process and the timeline.

For more information on the Comprehensive Plan Update, the PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request.

Projects in Negotiations

No report out.

Announcements From Advisory Committee Members

Laurie Gallian

There is a Festival of Lights at the Valley of the Moon Vintage Festival, their 119th year, on September 23, 2016.

Adjournment: 6:26 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: October 27, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary