



**AG + OPEN SPACE**  
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**APPROVED MINUTES**

**747 Mendocino Avenue – Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95401**  
**September 26, 2019 | 4:00 pm**

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Bill Smith	Neysa Hinton	John Nagle
Alex Wood	Leah Gold	Steve Rabinowitsh
John Dell’Osso	Taj Hittenberger	Tawny Tesconi

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Evan Wiig	Jan McFarland	Paul Martin	Doug Lipton
Steve Barbose	Don McEnhill	Cary Fargo	Curt Nichols
Jennielynn Holmes	Austin Maners		

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Bill Keene, General Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Stephanie Tavares-Buhler, Senior Acquisition Specialist; Louisa Morris, Acquisition Specialist; Fraser Ross, Stewardship Specialist; Catherine Iantosca, Stewardship Technician; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

**Call to Order**

Chair Dell’Osso called the meeting to order at 4:06 pm.

**Public Comment**

Duane DeWitt from Roseland spoke about conserving nature in disadvantaged areas and conserving nature in general. His concern is that the City of Santa Rosa is more directed toward development of parks and not conserving nature. He requested the Ag + Open Space not allow changes to conservation easements on the City of Santa Rosa properties.

**Approval of Minutes**

Bill Smith motioned to approve the minutes from July 25, 2019 as is, and Leah Gold seconded the motion. All in favor, with abstentions from John Nagle, Neysa Hinton and Tawny Tesconi who were not in attendance at the July meeting.

### General Manager's Report Out

- Ted Eliot passed away in early August. He had a long history of public service. He and his wife Pat donated an easement on their Sonoma Mountain property that included a trail to Jack London State Park. He was the co-chair of the Measure F campaign and served on the Ag + Open Space Advisory Committee. Mr. Keene would like the meeting to be adjourned in memory of Ted.
- Mr. Keene introduced the new youth member, Alex Wood. Alex is a recent graduate from Santa Clara University with a B.S. in Marketing and Spanish, with a passion for conservation and sustainable agriculture. He introduced himself to the committee.
- A grant for the Silva acquisition near Lake Sonoma will go to the Board on October 22, 2019.
- Approval for fencing on the Oken property will go to the Board on November 5, 2019.
- The Matching Grant Program guidelines and revisions will go to the Board on November 12, 2019.
- Taylor Mountain's Cooper Creek addition and the Jacobsen Ranch acquisition are going to the Board on December 10, 2019.
- The Vital Lands Initiative draft will go to the Board on December 16, 2019.
- The Stewardship Workshop update will go to the Board on February 4, 2020.
  
- Mr. Keene announced that after the meeting, some of the members of the Advisory Committee will join staff on a tour of two Ag + Open Space owned properties, the Dogbane Preserve located north of Santa Rosa, and Oken, located at the northern end of Rohnert Park. Early next year, staff will present a Stewardship Workshop to the Board and we thought it might be helpful for members to see a couple of the fee land properties and hear about the land management activities on each.
- Aldo Mercado, County Counsel, reminded the committee members and staff that the site tour is not a public meeting, and there would be no public comment. Members will not be together in numbers that would form a quorum pursuant to the Brown Act. A discussion item will be included as part of the October 24, 2019 regular meeting for follow up discussion and public comment on this topic. Members were asked to please refrain from any formal discussion of this topic until that time.

### Subcommittee Report Out

The Advisory Committee currently has one active subcommittee, the Matching Grant Program. Chair Dell'Osso announced there will be a meeting next week but no report out tonight.

### Projects in Negotiation

Silva acquisition near Lake Sonoma will go to the Board on October 22, 2019.

Taylor Mountain's Cooper Creek addition and the Jacobsen Ranch acquisition are going to the Board on December 10, 2019.



**Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public**

There were no announcements from members of the committee or the public.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm in the memory of Ted Eliot.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson  
*Advisory Committee Secretary*

