



Attachment "A"

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

*September 27, 2018 MINUTES*

5:02 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,  
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

**Members Present**

Bill Smith	Curt Nichols	Jan McFarland	David Cook
Halei Trowbridge	Don McEnhill	Neysa Hinton	Cary Fargo
John Dell'Osso	Taj Hittenberger	Doug Lipton	Tawny Tesconi
John Nagle			

**Members Absent**

Steve Barbose	Evan Wiig
Paul Martin	Steve Rabinowitsh

**Staff Present**

Bill Keene, General Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Alex Roa, Special Projects Conservation Planner; Seamus Rafferty, Stewardship Technician; Catherine Iantosca, Stewardship Technician; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm.

**Public Comment**

Chair Dell'Osso asked for public comments on items not on the agenda.

Duane DeWitt spoke about Roseland. In June, there was a meeting with the City of Santa Rosa staff and Bill Keene, Ag + Open Space General Manager. Mr. DeWitt expressed hope that the meeting would result in a collaboration between the City and Ag + Open Space but has been told by the City staff that the Master Plan is going forward as planned, which Mr. DeWitt feels dismisses some of the neighbors' concerns of over-development of the park. Mr. DeWitt asked the staff of Ag + Open Space to assist him and the neighbors to work with the City of Santa Rosa in retaining the park as a natural environment.

**Approval of Minutes**

Chair Dell'Osso stated that a correction was brought to his attention in the minutes from the June 28 meeting. Under the General Manager's Report Out, page 4, 4th bullet, 2nd sentence "This will add another 11,000 acres to the park." needs to be changed to "This will bring the total acreage of the park to almost 1,100."

Chair Dell'Osso asked for approval of the June 28, 2018 minutes as corrected. Curt Nichols motioned to approve the minutes with the correction, and Bill Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, with three abstentions from Dave Cook, Doug Lipton and Tawny Tesconi, who were not in attendance at the June meeting.

### **General Manager's Report Out**

- The Mark West Creek properties transfer to Regional Parks is going to the Board on October 9, 2018. This will include the Cresta 3 and McCullough properties.
- The Graton Green Matching Grant Project is going to the Board on November 13, 2018.
- Wilroth Conservation Easement is going to the Board on November 13, 2018 also. This is for an amendment that will allow fire cameras to be installed on the property. These cameras are part of a network around the County that will help to see fires in the distance for added assistance in protecting properties and houses.
- A Stewardship Workshop will go to the Board on December 4, 2018. This will be previewed at the next Advisory Committee meeting in October.
- Jenner Headlands and Pole Mountain opened on September 7, 2018. There was a great turnout, and Ag + Open Space, Sonoma Land Trust, and The Wildlife Conservancy staff had tables at the trailhead throughout the opening weekend. An article was printed in the Press Democrat and there will be one printed in the San Francisco Chronicle.
- The Board approved funding for the Gravelly Lake Easement, previously known as Donnell, on August 28, 2018. This property is between Sonoma Raceway and Tolay Lake in Petaluma. There were articles in the Press Democrat, the Argus-Courier and the Sonoma Index-Tribune.
- Mr. Keene attended the FARMS Leadership Program on September 20, 2018. They were celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the farm leadership program. Ag + Open Space has been supporting this program since 2010 and has contributed nearly \$143,000 to the program (roughly a third of its total funding). The program connects youth with agricultural producers and environmental stewards, hosting field trips at working farms, parks and businesses.
- The Rips Redwoods acquisition will take place next week. This is an 1,800 acre property with a trail easement.

### **Agricultural Subcommittee**

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, and John Nagle, Advisory Committee member and Chair of the Ag Subcommittee, discussed disbanding the Advisory Committee Agricultural Subcommittee. Ag + Open Space, working with Tawny Tesconi of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau, have created an Agricultural Advisory Team that includes all but two of the Advisory Committee Ag Subcommittee members as well as a broader group of the County agricultural community. The Advisory Committee agreed to disband the Advisory Committee Ag Subcommittee.

### **Subcommittee Report Out**

The District currently has three active subcommittees:

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

The Matching Grant Program will be reporting out later in the evening.

The Ag Subcommittee has been disbanded as of this evening.

The Vital Lands Initiative subcommittee have not met, but there is a process that is taking shape to include the LiDAR and Veg Map into VLI using the large grant from NASA. The VLI draft will be going to the Board of Directors sometime in December 2018 or January 2019.

### **Advisory Committee Support Letter for Regional Parks**

Chair Dell'Osso spoke about the Advisory Committee letter in support of the Regional Parks tax measure that was written by the Chair and included in the packet for the members to review. Counsel approved the language of the letter, with two corrections made: one to the name of the Advisory Committee, which should drop "Citizens" and add "District", the other to add the word "strongly" in front of supports rather than "fully". David Cook motioned for a vote with the corrections made. John Nagle seconded the motion. All in favor, with one abstention by Tawny Tesconi. Chair Dell'Osso will make the corrections and will send the final version to Regional Parks.

Another question came up as to whether the letter should be used as an op-ed to be distributed by the Advisory Committee, or just sent to Regional Parks. Doug Lipton motioned for a vote, and Jan McFarland seconded the motion. All members were in favor to use the letter as an op-ed piece.

Chair Dell'Osso asked for public comments, and there were none.

### **Matching Grant Recommendations**

Jen Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the 2018 cycle of Matching Grant recommendations. Mr. Keene began the presentation by stating that if any of the members of the Committee has an interest/conflict in any of the project applications that they need to abstain from voting on recommendations. One person on the Committee, Neysa Hinton, recused herself from voting.

Jen reviewed all of the 2018 Matching Grant Program applications that were recommended by the Advisory Committee Matching Grant Subcommittee that included herself, three members from the Advisory Committee, two members from the Fiscal Oversight Commission, and staff from the Ag + Open Space.

Jen reviewed the proposed projects that were being recommended as well as the properties not being recommended, and why, via a PowerPoint presentation.

Chair Dell'Osso asked for comments from the public.

Stephanie Bastianon, of Friends of Petaluma River spoke in support of the McNear Peninsula Acquisition and Access project.

Dave Jahns from the City of Healdsburg spoke in support of the Badger Park project which will give access to the Russian River.

Susan Kirks of Madrone Society and Paula Lane Action Network spoke in support of the Taylor Mountain-Cooper Creek addition, the Badger Park application from Healdsburg and the Kelly Creek property in Petaluma.

Don McEnhill motioned for a vote on the recommendations and Tawny Tesconi seconded the motion. All in favor with one abstention by Neysa Hinton.

For more information on the recommendations, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

### **Projects in Negotiations**

The Graton Green project is going to the Board in November, Rips Redwoods is closing in the 2018/2019 fiscal year, Cresta 3 is going to the Board in October, the Board approved funding for the Gravely Lake (formally Donnell) easement on August 28, and Weeks Ranch is going to the Board in December.

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

#### **Cary Fargo**

The Graton Green is having a ribbon cutting with music from 2:00 to 6:00 on Sunday, September 30, 2018 and Supervisor Hopkins will be in attendance.

#### **Don McEnhill**

There was a Russian River watershed clean up two weeks ago and the volume of trash that was collected was significantly reduced in large part to the last two years of cleaning the river.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: October 25, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,  
Advisory Committee Secretary