



Attachment "A"

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

September 28, 2017 MINUTES

5:05 pm Meeting convened at the District office, 747 Mendocino Avenue,
Suite 100, Santa Rosa, California

Members Present

Curt Nichols	Jan McFarland	Bill Smith	Eddie Smith
Halei Trowbridge	Elly Grogan	Tawny Tesconi	Neysa Hinton
Steve Rabinowitsh	John Nagle	Evan Wiig	Cary Fargo
John Dell'Osso	Paul Martin	David Cook	John McChesney

Members Absent

Doug Lipton
Don McEnhill

Staff Present

Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Alex Roa, Associate Planner; Allison Schichtel, Conservation GIS Analyst; Amy Ricard, Conservation Planning Community Relations Specialist; Rose Roberts, Consultant; Bob Pittman, County Counsel; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Verne Ball, County Counsel; Michael Caballero, Lani Maher, County Counsel Interns; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Public Comment

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

Duane DeWitt spoke about Roseland Creek. Mr. DeWitt says the City of Santa Rosa is backtracking on contracts. He would like the District to enforce what is already been codified in the contracts and asked that the Advisory Committee members speak to the General Manager, Bill Keene, who was not present, about this matter.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the August 24, 2017 minutes. Paul Martin motioned to approve the minutes as they were. David Cook seconded the motion. All were in favor of approval, with one abstention by Neysa Hinton.

General Manager's Report Out

- Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager, filled in for Bill Keene, General Manager, who was attending the Sonoma Developmental Center meeting this evening in Sonoma. Ms. Gaffney stated that the next Advisory Committee meeting is going to be a joint field trip to Bayer Farm and other Matching Grant Projects with the Fiscal Oversight Commission. The field trip will start at 4:00 and end at 6:00. There will be car pool available from the District unless someone wants to meet at Bayer Farm.
- Cresta III and the Mark West Transfer will go to the Board on October 24, 2017. This is a joint item with Regional Parks.
- Mr. Keene and Leslie Lew, Stewardship Associate Planner, attended the Bay Area Open Space Council Gathering today and sat on a panel discussing cannabis.
- Andy's Unity Park press release was sent out last week regarding the Board's authorization of over \$1 million in funding for the park.
- Vital Lands Initiative press release was sent on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 announcing upcoming community meetings in October and November.
- Hansen Ranch press release will be sent next week assuming Board approval of the conservation easement.
- Regional Parks is celebrating their 50th anniversary and the District will have an ad and will likely be included in one to two articles in a Press Democrat special section that will run October 8, 2017.
- Hansen Conservation Easement will go to the Board on October 3, 2017. Mark West Transfer and Cresta III will go to the Board on October 24, 2017, as well as Forever Forestville. Montini Transfer Agreement Extension will go to the Board on November 14, 2017. The Vital Lands Initiative draft will go to the Board on December 5, 2017.
- There will be a joint meeting with the Fiscal Oversight Commission and the Advisory Committee to review the draft for the Vital Lands Initiative before it goes to the Board.

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.

Since John Nagle, chair of the Advisory Committee Agriculture Subcommittee, was not present at the Agriculture Subcommittee, Evan Wiig reported out. They met this afternoon before the meeting and much of the focus has been on the Vital Lands Initiative. They have been reviewing updates and small detailed changes as regards to the agricultural component of the Vital Lands Initiative.

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

Vital Lands Initiative Update

John Dell'Osso let the members know that they have until close of business next Friday, October 6, 2017 to send written comments to Ms. Gaffney. Ms. Gaffney said that the input from the Advisory Committee is much appreciated. The draft will go to an All Staff Meeting next week for input, then there will be community meetings in October and November for public input, and then to the Board on December 5, 2017. Alex Roa, Conservation Planning Special Projects Planner, Allison Schichtel, Conservation GIS Analyst, and Rose Roberts, Consultant and expert on agriculture, were present for answering questions and recording input and comments from the members. This was a public open forum. Copies of the Vital Lands Initiative draft were handed out to the public. Ms.

Gaffney said that they would be reviewing the core content of the plan organized by goal area and universal goals and objectives.

Notes and comments from the members and the public can be viewed at the District upon request. Contact Alex Roa at 707-565-7263.

Projects in Negotiations

There were no comments or questions regarding projects in negotiations.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public

Cary Fargo

There will be a fundraiser party for the park in Graton on Bowen Avenue on Sunday, October 1, 2017 from 2:00 to 5:00. There will be music and games.

Ken Wells

The City of Cloverdale has hired the Sonoma County Trails Council to implement their new Trails Plan for the Park. Volunteers are welcome to help on Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in clearing the corridor and defining the route of the new trail in preparation for the upcoming work.

Bill Smith

The October 2017 issue of San Francisco Magazine has an article on Sonoma County tourism and the District is mentioned, saying that 111,000 acres of land have been preserved by the District, the most of any agency in the entire Bay Area since 1990.

Adjournment: 6:50 pm.

Next scheduled meeting date: October 26, 2017 Field Trip to Bayer Farm with the FOC

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,
Advisory Committee Secretary