



Attachment "A"

*SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
October 22, 2015 MINUTES*

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

**Members Present**

Jeffrey Holtzman	Gary Wysocky	Don McEnhill
Bill Smith	Sue Conley	Kristin Thigpen
Curt Nichols	Jan McFarland	

**Members Absent**

Doug Lipton	Cary Fargo	John Nagle
Janet Orchard	John Dell'Osso	Steve Rabinowitsh
Laurie Gallian	John Azevedo	

**Staff Present**

Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Program Manager; Misti Arias, Acquisition Program Manager; Amy Ricard, Community Relations Specialist; Mary Dodge, Administrative & Fiscal Services Manager; Bob Pittman, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Chair Pro Tem Kristin Thigpen, standing in as chair for Chair Steve Rabinowitsh, called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm.

**Public Comment**

Duane Dewitt commented on the Roseland Creek clean up on Saturday. He also commented on the lack of constructive response from Santa Rosa City Hall regarding the limitations on a conservation easement on the McMinn property in Roseland. He requested help from District staff and the Advisory Committee members in saving the McMinn property.

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of August 27, 2015 were approved as submitted.

## **General Manager's Report**

- Rancho Mark West conservation easement on St Helena Road went to the Board of Directors and was approved on October 13, 2015.
- Richardson Kashia conservation easement north of Salt Point went to the Board of Directors and was approved on October 13, 2015 and will close in November.
- Conservation Planning Update will go to the Board on November 17, 2015. Karen Gaffney will give an update on LiDAR, Climate Action Through Conservation and Healthy Lands, Healthy Economies.
- Estero Ranch, at the mouth of the Estero Americano, will go to the Board of Directors on November 17, 2015. This property is over 600 acres and will allow access to the mouth of the Estero and will contribute to the Coastal Trail.
- The Conservation Easement Workshop, a workshop on conservation easements and how they work, will go to the Board January 12, 2016.
- The Stewardship Planning Update will be brought to the Board of Directors January 26, 2016.
- The District led a tour that was part of the annual Land Trust Alliance Rally National Conference on October 8, 2015. The tour included a small hike at Taylor Mountain, then a bike ride from Prince Gateway Park along the Prince Memorial Greenway and Santa Rosa Creek Trail to the end of the trail at Willowside Road. The participants were then shuttled to the Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation's Heron Hall at Stone Farm for a lunch of local foods and beverages donated from around the County. Lunch included cheese from Sue Conley's farm, Cowgirl Creamery.
- On October 21, 2015, there was a public meeting at the Dunbar Elementary School in Glen Ellen to discuss the Calabazas Creek Resource Management Plan.
- On November 4, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, a public meeting will be held at the Bodega Bay Fire Protection District, 510 Highway One, to discuss the Estero Trail at Bordessa Ranch. The District will present the preliminary trail and staging plan and will solicit public input.

## **Sub-committee Report Outs and Ag Update**

Ag Subcommittee Chair Sue Conley reported out on topics the subcommittee have been working on: the District Farm Center, new tools for managing ag easements, a potential artisan cheese case study and the District comprehensive plan.

## **Community Relations**

Amy Ricard – Community Relations Specialist - updated the Advisory Committee members on the District's community relations strategy with a PowerPoint presentation. Strategies include website development, brand awareness and online and offline tools to reach the community and enhance public awareness of the District.

A member of the public expressed concerns that the use of the term “branding” in this community relations strategy is too corporate for the District. Amy and Bill clarified that the goal is to more effectively share with the community the unique role, as well as the accomplishments and impact of the District.

The PowerPoint presentation is available at the District upon request. For more information, contact Amy Ricard at the District office.

### **Community Separators**

Misti Arias gave an introduction and history of community separators and Greenbelts. A robust discussion of community separators and Greenbelts between District staff, Advisory Committee members and members of the public followed the presentation. Terri Shore and Jenny Blaker from Greenbelt Alliance contributed to the conversation.

### **Projects in Negotiations**

The Matching Grant Project for the Sebastopol Skategarden will go to the Board of Directors on December 15, 2015.

### **Announcements From Advisory Committee Members**

#### **Kristin Thigpen**

The Sonoma Land Trust will hold a breach the levy event at Sears Point Ranch on Hwy 37 on Sunday, October 25, 2015. It is open to the public from 2:00 to 6:00.

#### **Jeffrey Holtzman**

In bird news, the Taylor Mountain census has added the Golden Crown Kinglet to its list which is expanding.

**Adjournment:** 6:53 pm

Next scheduled meeting date: December 10, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson,  
Advisory Committee Secretary