



AG + OPEN SPACE
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

April 27, 2023 | 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PLEASE CALL IF UNABLE TO ATTEND

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY PARTICIPATE VIA ZOOM OR IN PERSON

The April 27, 2023 Sonoma County Ag + Open Space Advisory Committee meeting will be held in person at Ag + Open Space's office located at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA. The public may also participate virtually through Zoom.

Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting using one of the two following methods:

1. **Zoom:** Join the Zoom meeting on your computer, tablet or smartphone by clicking:
<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/98316944769?pwd=MURud1o3TDVhRWStOStSEF5Z25MdElzd09>
If you have the Zoom app or web client, join the meeting using the Password: 778144

Call-in and listen to the meeting: Dial 1 669 900 9128 Enter meeting ID: 983 1694 4769

2. **In Person:** Members of the public may attend in person at Ag + Open Space's office at 747 Mendocino Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA in the large conference room.

PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MEETING: You may email public comment to Mariah.Robson@sonoma-county.org. All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all Committee Members and read aloud for the benefit of the public. Please include your name and the relevant agenda item number to which your comment refers. In addition, if you have joined as a member of the public through the Zoom link or by calling in, there will be specific points throughout the meeting during which live public comment may be made via Zoom and phone.

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability which requires an accommodation or an alternative format to assist you in observing and commenting on this meeting, please contact Mariah Robson by email to Mariah.Robson@sonoma-county.org by 12pm Wednesday, April 26, 2023 to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment**
Comments on items not listed on the agenda. Time is limited to 2 minutes per person/item.
3. **Approval of Minutes from March 23, 2023 Attachment A** **ACTION ITEM**
4. **General Manager's Report**
5. **Update on Fuels Management at Saddle Mountain** **INFORMATIONAL**
Monica Delmartini, Stewardship Specialist
6. **Recreational Fee Lands Transfers & Public Access** **INFORMATIONAL**
Misti Arias, General Manager
7. **Matching Grant Project Review Subcommittee** **ACTION ITEM**
Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager
8. **Projects in Negotiations Attachment B**
8. **Announcements from Advisory Committee Members**
9. **Adjournment**
Next Scheduled Meeting: May 25, 2023

FUTURE MEETING TOPICS
(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

5/25/23

Department of Conservation Riparian & Ag Grant Update
Proactive Conservation Outreach Update

6/22/23

Possible Field Trip: Location TBD





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SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Virtual Meeting Due to Sonoma County's Shelter in Place Order
March 23, 2023 | 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thembi Borrás	Paul Martin	Angel Lopez
Josh Proctor	Bill Smith	Cary Fargo
Steve Rabinowitsh	Michelle Whitman	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Brian Barnacle	Jan McFarland	Jesús Guzmán
Kristina Tierney	Mark Stapp	Neysa Hinton
Don McEnhill	Wendy Eliot	Curt Nichols

STAFF PRESENT:

Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager; Pamela Swan, Grants Coordinator; Lauren Alpert, Community Relations Specialist; Sara Ortiz, Administrative Aide; Michelle Nozzari, Administrative Aide; Lisa Pheatt, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk.

Call to Order

Chair Thembi Borrás called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

Public Comment

Susan Kirks, representing Paula Lane Action Network and Madrone Audubon Society, commented on the Paula Lane Open Space Preserve and her concern for the American badger habitat on that property due to construction of a trail.

Approval of Minutes from January 26, 2023

Chair Borrás asked for any comments or revisions to the February 23, 2023 minutes. There were none. A vote took place, and all were in favor and the minutes were approved. Michelle Whitman abstained as she was not present at the February meeting.

General Manager's Report

- Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager, presented the General Manager report out for Misti Arias, who was not in attendance. Ms. Ricard introduced Michelle Nozzari,

Administrative Aide, who was hired a few weeks ago. She previously was employed at the University of California Cooperative Extension. She is in training to take over the Ag + Open Space Advisory Committee Clerk responsibilities. Ms. Nozzari introduced herself to the committee members.

- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program – Vital Streams and Forests grant and Forever Forestville Conservation Easement Amendment will be taken to the Board on April 4, 2023.
- The Amendment to Mowing and Wildlife Surveys Contracts will be taken to the Board on April 18, 2023.
- There will be a Budget Workshop for the Ag + Open Space at the Board on April 25, 2023.
- Soda Springs Open Space Preserve, Outings and Education Contracts and the Denner Ranches Conservation Easement will all be taken to the Board on May 16, 2023.
- Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve, the Ayers Addition, and Lafranchi will be taken to the Board on June 6, 2023.
- The 2023 Vegetation Management and Wildfire Resilience Program’s request for proposals opened on March 22, 2023. The deadline is April 20, 2023. In preparation for the 2023 wildfire season and beyond, the County of Sonoma is directing up to \$3 million for vegetation management activities in high-risk areas. This grant cycle will support long-term vegetation management that will be sustainable and consistent with the protection of natural resources and ecosystem services.
- The 2023 Living with Fire – Sonoma County Forest Conservation conference is taking place June 23 and 24, 2023 at Shone Farm. The aim of the conference is to support our community’s wildfire resilience and forest health through collaboration and sharing best management practices to protect our communities, land, and natural resources.
- Sonoma Mountain Vernal Pools project closed. Ag + Open Space will hold the easement over the 174-acre property. Sonoma Land Trust will hold fee title with the goal of eventually transferring ownership to Regional Parks.
- Ag + Open Space is launching a riparian conservation easement program to expand our efforts to protect critical streamside areas throughout Sonoma County. We are outreaching now to agricultural properties in floodplain areas, including the Laguna de Santa Rosa, Russian River, Sonoma Creek, and Atascadero Creek, among others where we and partners are interested in balancing agricultural use and protection and restoration of historic floodplains.
- Ag + Open Space is recruiting for two Community Relations Assistants. Each position has different priorities. The recruitment is open until March 29, 2023. Please let anyone who might be interested know about these opportunities.

Chair Borrás opened the meeting for questions and comments from Advisory Committee members and members of the public, but there were none.

Matching Grant Program Update

Amy Ricard, Community Resources Manager, explained that a few more new projects have come in with the second round of the Matching Grant Program application period that closed on March 10, 2023. Pamela Swan presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Matching Grant Program and the six additional projects that came in during the second application period. Ms. Swan went through



the new projects and shared a map showing where each project is located in the county. She went over next steps and discussed the upcoming Matching Grant Program revision plans.

Chair Borrás opened the meeting up to the members and the public, and a discussion ensued.

For more information, please feel free to contact Ms. Ricard or Ms. Swan at Ag + Open Space. The PowerPoint presentation is available upon request.

Create the Matching Grant Project Review Subcommittee

Ms. Ricard explained the time commitment of this committee and reminded the Committee that members who may have a conflict of interest in a property should not join the subcommittee.

Chair Borrás asked for volunteers for the Matching Grant Project Review subcommittee. Angel Lopez volunteered. There were no other volunteers at this time.

No vote was taken at this meeting and the item will be added to next month's meeting to take action.

Projects in Negotiations

Chair Borrás asked for any comments or questions on the Projects in Negotiations spreadsheet. Paul Martin said that the length of time Ag + Open Space has been working on the projects would be a great addition to the spreadsheet.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members

Paul Martin requested that once all the subcommittees have been formed, that a new updated list be sent out to the Advisory Committee members with names of who is on which committee.

Adjournment

Chair Borrás adjourned the meeting at 6:15 in honor of Mike Senneff, a local civil attorney who recently passed away and who was influential during the Ag + Open Space Measure F campaign.

Next Meeting: April 27, 2023

This meeting will be in person with an option for members of the public to join via zoom. The meeting place is: 747 Mendocino Ave, Ste 100, Large Conference Room, Santa Rosa

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson
Advisory Committee Secretary



	Database Conservation Easement Project Name	Conservation Easement Project Name	Acreage (approx)	Sup. District	Project Phases								Status	Comments
					Project Evaluation	Initiating Project	Due Diligence	Project Structure	CE Negotiations	Appraisal Process	FOC	BOD		
					Step 1	Step 2			Step 3		Step 4			
1	Abril_Ranch	Abril Ranch	1,929	4									On-Hold	Stalled due to federal mineral rights ownership
2	Armstrong_Redwoods_Ayers	Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve - Ayers Addition	320	5									Appraisal Process	Appraisal phase - appraisal first draft due 3/20
3	Baumert_Springs	Baumert Springs	372	5									Appraisal Process	Appraisal phase - appraisal under review
4	Bavarian_Lion_Vineyards	Bavarian Lion Vineyards	1,858	4	+	+							Initiating Project	Project accepted 4/6/2023
5	Big_Sulphur_Crk_Krasilsa	Big Sulphur Creek (Krasilsa)	507	4									Initiating Project	Initiating Project
6	Blucher_Crk_Headwaters	Blucher Creek Headwaters	212	5		+							Initiating Project	Project back to active - initiating project structure
7	Chanslor_Ranch	Chanslor Ranch	378	5									Negotiating CE	Due Diligence
8	Crawford_Gulch	Crawford Gulch	92	5									Initiating Project	Project Structure - development
9	Deniz_E_B_Tr	Deniz Ernest & Beverly Trust	217	2									Initiating Project	Project Structure - development
10	Deniz_Family_Farm	Deniz Family Farm	355	2									Initiating Project	Project Structure - development
11	Denner_Ranches	Denner Ranches	489	5									Appraisal Process	Landowner considering offer
12	Diamond_W_Ranch	Diamond W Ranch	849	2									Negotiating CE	Project Structure - CE drafting
13	Gillis_Ranch_Preserve	Gillis Ranch Preserve	139	2 & 5									Appraisal Process	Negotiating CE - internal review; formerly called Riebli Family
14	Hood_Mtn_RP_OSP_Salt_Crk	Hood Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve - Salt Creek Addition	989	1					+				Appraisal Process	Appraisal phase - appraiser under contract
15	Lafranchi_Laguna	Lafranchi (Laguna)	127	5									Appraisal Process	Appraisal phase - appraiser under contract
16	Limping_Turkey_Ranch	Limping Turkey Ranch	158	2									Initiating Project	Initiating project
17	Lobban_Creekside_Addition	Lobban – Creekside Addition	3	1									Appraisal Process	Working on project structure
18	Lobban_Mark_West_Crk	Lobban – Mark West Creek	266	1									Appraisal Process	Working on project structure
19	Mark_West_Wikiup_Preserve	Mark West Wikiup Preserve	31	4									Appraisal Process	Appraisal phase
20	McClelland_Dairy	McClelland Dairy	348	2									Negotiating CE	Project Structure - CE drafting
21	McCormick_Ranch_RP	McCormick Ranch - Regional Parks	253	1									Appraisal Process	Appraisal phase
22	Miguel_Tocci	Miguel-Tocci	489	5									Initiating Project	Initiating project
23	Peters_Ranch	Peters Ranch	278	2									Initiating Project	Initiating Project Structure
24	Preston_Farm	Preston Farm	133	4									Negotiating CE	Project Structure - CE Drafting
25	Rincon_Hills	Rincon Hills	218	1									Initiating Project	Project Structure - development
26	Rowland_Mack	Rowland Mack	168	1									Initiating Project	Project Structure - development
27	Russian_Rvr_Habitat_Resto	Russian River Habitat Restoration	63	4									Initiating Project	Initiating project
28	Soda_Springs_Ranch_OSP	Soda Springs Ranch Open Space Preserve	209	4									Approvals/Baseline	BOD Date: 5/16/2023
29	Sonoma_Mtn_Vernal_Pools	Sonoma Mountain Vernal Pools	174	1									Completed Project	Closed escrow on March 10th
30	Spring_Hill_Ranch	Spring Hill Ranch	579	2									Appraisal Process	Appraisal phase - ongoing
31	Starrett_Hill	Starrett Hill	319	5									Initiating Project	Project Structure - development
32	South_Sonoma_Mtn_Skyline	South Sonoma Mountain - Skyline	490	2									Initiating Project	Formerly called Triangle G Ranches - AB50; initiating project
33	South_Sonoma_Mtn_Rodgers	South Sonoma Mountain - Rodgers Creek	896	1 & 2									Initiating Project	Formerly called Triangle G Ranches - Legacy; initiating project
34	Witt_Home_Ranch	Witt Home Ranch	395	2									Initiating Project	Initiating project
35	Wolf_Crk_Ranch	Wolf Creek Ranch	1,195	5									Initiating Project	Initiating project
Total Acres			15,498											

+ indicates change in phase since last update (March 2023)

Matching Grant Project Name	Acreage (approx)	Sup. District	Project Evaluation										Status	Comments
			Step 1	Step 2			Step 3			Step 4	Step 5			
			Initiating Project	Due Diligence	Project Structure	CE Negotiations	Appraisal Process	FOC	BOD	Escrow/ Closing	Implementation + Tracking Match			
A Place to Play	87	5										Initiating Project	Initiating project	
AmeriCorps Trail	12	5										Other	Implementation - CE/RC will be recorded following trail construction.	
Badger Park	20	4										Initiating Project	Site Assessment in process for project documentation	
Bayer Farm Development ***	6**	3		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		Completed Project & Tracking Match	Reimbursement ongoing; Grant extended	
Bodega Bay Trail	178	5										Initiating Project	Site Assessment in process for project documentation	
Colgan Creek Phase 3 MG***	7**	3		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		Completed Project	Restoration work complete	
Colgan Creek Phase 4 MG	4	3										Initiating Project	Accepted into program during 2022 MGP funding cycle	
Crane Creek Regional Trail	75	1										Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE, Rec Covenant	
Denman Reach	2	2										Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE	
Falletti Ranch	4	2										Completed Project & Tracking Match	Tracking match	
Forever Forestville***	4	5										Completed Project & Tracking Match	Tracking match	
Graton Green	1	5										Completed Project	Completed	
Healdsburg Montage Park	36	4										Initiating Project	Meeting w City of Healdsburg next week 4/17	
Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension	56	2										Negotiating CE	Initiating project	
Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension Phase 2	47	2										Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE w/ HPRP Extension Phase 2	
Keiser Park Expansion 2	2	4										Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE	
Maxwell Farms	79	1										Initiating Project	Drafting Documents	
Paula Lane Open Space Preserve	11	2										Completed Project & Tracking Match	Tracking match	
Petaluma River Park	20	2										Initiating Project	Letter of intent in negotiation	
River Lane***	1	5									+	Escrow/Closing	Litigation hold removed. Finalizing docs; Grant extended to 10/25/24	
Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1c	3	3										Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE, Rec Covenant	
SMART Pathway - Payran to Southpoint	14	2										Negotiating CE	Negotiating CE, Rec Covenant	
Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway***	61	1										Initiating Project	Created project tracking task force, starting site assess and docs	
Steamer Landing Park Development (McNear Peninsula)	27**	2										Initiating Project	Initiating project	
Taylor Mountain Regional Park & Open Space Preserve - Cooper Creek Addition	54	3										Completed Project & Tracking Match	Closed 4/1/20. Tracking match	
Tierra de Rosas***	1	3										Initiating Project	Drafting documents	
Total Acres	778													

* District approved a 2-year extension
 ** Restoration/Development Project on previous acquisition.
 *** District approved 5-year extension (MGP 2 year, fire 3 year)
 + indicates change in phase since last update (March 2023)

