



SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE FISCAL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

Mike Sangiacomo (Sonoma)
Jean Kapolchok (Santa Rosa)
Bob Anderson (Healdsburg)

Patty Fata (Bodega Bay)
Todd Mendoza (Petaluma)
Jeff Owen (Alternate)

Minutes for the meeting of May 3, 2012

Commissioner Anderson called the meeting of the Fiscal Oversight Commission to order at 5:05 pm.

Commissioners Present: Bob Anderson, Patty Fata, Jean Kapolchok, Jeff Owen

Staff Present: William J. Keene, General Manager, Christine Minkel, Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager; Misti Arias, Conservation Program Manager, Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, Sue Gallagher, Deputy County Counsel; Sue Jackson, Deputy Clerk.

1. **Agenda Items to be Held or Taken Out of Order; Off Agenda Items.**

There were none.

2. **General Announcements not Requiring Deliberation or Decision.**

Commissioner Fata requested information on a recent press release announcing that former County Supervisor, Paul Kelley would be working under contract with the District. Mr. Keene provided background information that supported the contract and the selection of Mr. Kelley, particularly with respect to concerns about potential changes to the Williamson Act.

3. **Public Comment.**

There was none.

4. **Correspondence/Communication.**

There was none.

5. **Approval of Commission Minutes.**

On a motion by Commissioner Owen and second by Commissioner Fata, the minutes of April 5, 2012 were approved as written. Commissioner Kapolchok abstained.

6. **Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports.**

Stewardship AdHoc Subcommittee: Commissioner Fata reported that she met with Ms Minkel and Ms Emerson. Commissioner Mendoza was unable to attend. As this was the first meeting of this subcommittee, they discussed the general nature and direction of stewardship reserve funding. The subcommittee will meet quarterly and, among other topics, will assess the amount of funding being reserved in relationship to current stewardship requirements.

Annual Report/Audit Report Review AdHoc Subcommittee: Commissioner Anderson reported that he and Commissioner Kapolchok reviewed the Audit Report, discussed the District's response to questions raised therein.

7. **Conservation Program Pending Projects Update.**

Ms Arias described the process used in evaluating and moving projects from candidate status to active status. She then provided an overview of all current active projects. This update will be brought before the Commission on a quarterly basis.

8. **Stewardship Program Review.**

Ms Emerson presented an overview of the Stewardship Program and highlighted the tasks involved in monitoring and managing protected lands. The presentation included a breakdown of budget allocations to the various components of stewardship, as approved by the Board of Directors. She provided an update on fee lands that will eventually be transferred to other entities. In closing and in response to the Commission's direction to ensure competitive pricing, Ms Emerson announced the imminent release of a Request for Proposal for Fee Land Maintenance.

9. **District Mitigation Policy-Proposed Key Elements.**

Ms Emerson introduced the key elements of the District's Mitigation Policy, currently under development and in draft form. A final draft is expected to be ready for review by the Commission in July 2012. The District's Board of Directors has formed an adhoc subcommittee to consider mitigation policy issues. The District's General Manager is staff to the subcommittee.

Responding to a call for public comment, Susan Kirks addressed the Commission. Ms Kirks stated her impression of the consensus reached at the April 26, 2012 Advisory Committee meeting following discussion of the agendaized mitigation policy: that "the Open Space District should not be in the business of mitigation." She stated that several members of the public attended that meeting and voiced this same sentiment. Ms. Kirks noted her feeling of the difference between County agencies and the sales tax, publicly-funded Open Space District. She stated that the broad picture of what mitigation represents, i.e., "a direct correlation to destruction of natural resources and the environment," should be kept in mind in the discussion.

10. **Suggested Next Meeting. June 7, 2012**

11. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Jackson
Deputy Clerk/Recorder