



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 July 12, 2012

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

Commissioners Present: Patty Fata, Jean Kapolchok, Todd Mendoza, Jeff Owen (Alternate).

Staff Present: William J. Keene, General Manager; Christine Minkel, Administrative and Fiscal Services Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager; Kim Batchelder, Natural Resources Planner; Sue Gallagher, Deputy County Counsel; and 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.**
General Manager Keene made the following announcements:
 - The District's FY 2012-2013 budget was approved by the Board of Directors on June 26, 2012.
 - Maze and Associates will be on site to conduct the District's audit the week of July 16 through July 20, 2012.
3. **Public Comment.**
There was none.
4. **Correspondence/Communication.**
At the request of Commissioner Kapolchok, any in-depth discussion of a letter received on July 12, 2012, from Clement, Fitzpatrick & Kenworthy regarding the "District's Draft Mitigation Policy for Endangered Species" was held over until the next meeting when Commissioners Anderson and Sangiacomo will be in attendance.
5. **Approval of Commission Minutes.**
The minutes of June 7, 2012 were approved as submitted.
6. **Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports.**
Investment AdHoc Subcommittee: Commissioners Fata and Mendoza reported a meeting with Mr. Keene and Ms. Minkel, held on June 25, 2012, in which they had a preliminary discussion of investment options that could result in long-range operational savings for the District, e.g., acquisition of office space versus lease agreements.
7. **Mitigation Policy.**
Mr. Keene commended the management team for their diligence in developing a mitigation policy. He shared with the Commission some of the discussion that transpired during the June 28th Advisory Committee meeting on the issue.

Ms Emerson gave a second presentation to the Fiscal Oversight Commission, as she did for the Advisory Committee on June 28, 2012. The timeline for the policy includes receipt of public comment through July 15, 2012, with a revised draft review meetings scheduled for the Advisory Committee, the Fiscal Oversight Commission and stakeholders during August and September, with Board review and approval by the end of 2012.

Commissioners Kapolchok and Owen spoke in favor of having a policy that would enhance the District's ability to preserve agricultural and open space land overall, rather than adopting a policy where mitigation would be restricted unless it were specifically allowed by the provisions of the agreement.

The Commission and staff discussed the impact a mitigation policy will have on the District's mission; on land valuations and appraisals; the success and failure rates of restoration and creation projects; scenarios for public versus private land; the interpretations and impact of commercial, private, or forever-wild uses; the role of the District versus regulatory agencies; alternative funding sources; and third-party involvement and other related topics.

The written communication received on this date from Clement, Fitzpatrick & Kenworthy (see 4. **Correspondence/Communication.**) was referred to briefly, and the Commission's desire to discuss it in further detail was reinforced by the Commission. Public opinion received by the District to date, as well as the majority of statements made at the Advisory Committee meetings, has generally supported a policy that would make mitigation in any case exceptional and unusual.

The Commission asked that the Mitigation Policy be placed on the August 2, 2012 agenda to provide a review of the evening's discussion for commissioners who were not present.

8. **Fee Lands Strategy.**

Ms Emerson presented an update of the District's Fee Lands Strategy. She provided data to illustrate the financial impact on Stewardship funding when lands, originally slated for transfer, remain under the District's management and stewardship. The District has identified its properties held in fee as "Tier One" i.e., those that are in process to be transferred during the 3-year Work Plan timeframe, and "Tier Two", i.e., those that were slated for transfer to California State Parks, but which, for budgetary reasons can no longer be transferred to the State.

The District will go before the Board of Directors in late September, 2012, with an updated plan for fee land properties.

9. **Suggested Next Meeting.** **August 2, 2012**

10. **Adjournment.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Jackson
Deputy Clerk