



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)

APPROVED

Minutes for meeting of August 2, 2012

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

Commissioners Present: Patty Fata, Jean Kapolchok, Todd Mendoza, Jeff Owen

Staff Present: Christine Minkel, Administration and Fiscal Services Manager, Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Program Manager, Sue Gallagher, Deputy County Counsel.

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.**

There were none.

3. **Public Comment.**

There was none.

4. **Correspondence/Communication.**

There was none.

5. **Approval of Commission Minutes.**

The minutes of July 12, 2012 were approved as submitted, on a motion by Todd Mendoza, second by Patty Fata, with Bob Anderson abstaining.

6. **Ad Hoc Subcommittee Reports.**

There were none.

7. **Mitigation Policy (continued from July 12th meeting).**

Ms. Emerson provided a recap of the Mitigation Policy presentation she made at the July 12th meeting, ("Summary Table of Mitigation Policy" chart). She reported that, in response to requests for public input, the Stewardship Program has received a wide range of comments related to the District's mitigation policy under development at this time. Public comment will continue to be accepted until August 10, 2012.

The Commission discussed a letter received on July 12, 2012, from Stephen K. Butler of Clement, Fitzpatrick & Kenworthy regarding the "District's Draft Mitigation Policy for Endangered Species."

The Commissioners requested clarification of several points made by Mr. Butler, particularly as referenced in comment #3: "Prospective Application", comment #13: "Conservation Hierarchy", and comment #14: "Environmental Document."

Ms. Gallagher provided general information and legal interpretation of questions raised by the Commissioners.

The Policy discussion continued, and focused on a broad spectrum of issues related to mitigation, e.g., the impact of how a conservation easement is constructed, how conservation easements are valued, terminology specific to conservation easements, the impact of mitigation on current and future projects, mitigation banks, and how the impact of mitigation is measured.

The Commission restated its position that the policy be written clearly, using language that is understood by the general public.

The Mitigation Policy will return to the Fiscal Oversight Commission for continued review and possible adoption at the October 2012 meeting. Staff anticipates that the Mitigation Policy will go before the Board of Directors in December 2012 or January 2013.

8. Fee Lands Strategy.

Ms. Emerson provided an overview of the District's draft Fee Lands Strategy. The strategy focuses on properties initially acquired in fee by the District, with the expectation that they would be protected through the recording of a District-held conservation easement, with transfer of the fee interest to other publicly held recreation-focused entities. Due to a reduction in operations funding of public agencies, the District has had to retain the properties for longer periods of time than was anticipated at the time of purchase.

The strategy separates the properties into two tiers and provides long-term options for operations and maintenance of both:

- Tier 1 properties, those that are currently slated for conveyance to another entity for long-term ownership, operations and maintenance.
- Tire 2 properties, those that are not slated for conveyance to a specific entity at this time.

Commissioner Kapolchok suggested that a committee be formed to study options for disbursement of these properties, and expressed her willingness to serve on the committee.

Note: The draft Fee Lands Strategy is available for review at www.sonomaopenspace.org.

9. Suggested Next Meeting.

The next meeting will be on September 6, 2012.

10. Adjournment.

Commissioner Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Jackson
Deputy Clerk