



SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE FISCAL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS

Mike Sangiacomo
Todd Mendoza
Brian Ling

Patrick Emery
Jorge Inocencio
Jeff Owen

APPROVED MINUTES

January 9, 2025 | 5:00 pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Todd Mendoza, Patrick Emery, Brian Ling, Jorge Inocencio

STAFF PRESENT: Misti Arias, General Manager; Lisa Pheatt, County Counsel; Julie Mefferd, Administrative and Fiscal Manager; Sara Ortiz, Fiscal Oversight Commission Clerk; Jill Stephens (Auditor-Controller-Tax Collector's Office).

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Mendoza called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. Agenda Items to be Held or Taken Out of Order; Off- Agenda Items

3. General Announcements Not Requiring Deliberation or Decision

No general announcements.

4. Public Comment

No public comment.

5. Correspondence/Communications

Meeting dates for Fiscal Oversight Commission meetings in 2025

Audit memo regarding the 2024 fiscal audit, review, and presentation in agenda item #9

6. General Manager's Report

- Soda Springs Ranch Open Space Preserve IPAOM agreement for \$962,375 was approved by BOD on Tuesday, 1/7
- PD Editorial about Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway on 12/22/24 – Great news that the City of Santa Rosa now owns the greenway, and they should ensure planning/development progresses at a reasonable pace. "We don't want to wait another decade." Mentions Ag + Open Space's contribution.
- We will be presenting with Sonoma Water and the CAO's Climate Action & Resiliency team at the North Coast Resource Partnership's Climate Resilience Event on 1/29.
 - Expected attendees include: FIGR Chairman Greg Sarris, CA Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot, Supervisor James Gore, and leaders from state agencies/funders, such as Dept of Conservation, Coastal Conservancy, Wildlife Conservation Board, etc.
- Ag + Open Space is temporarily hosting "From Farm to Table" on 95.9 The Krush for the month of January while the Farm Bureau searches for a new host. Misti will interview different members of our staff every Thursday morning at 8:45am to dive deeper into our work to support agriculture. You can listen live or find recorded episodes on The Krush website.
- We are entering our 35th year, so we'll be rolling out some special 35th anniversary campaigns and activities to increase awareness and build our base as we head toward reauthorization. Stay tuned!

7. Approval of Commission Minutes

On a motion from Commissioner Ling and a second by Commissioner Owen, the minutes from the December 5, 2024 meeting were approved.

8. Financial Report

Julie Mefferd presented the Financial Report for November 2024.

9. Audit Report

Julie Mefferd and Jill Stephens gave a presentation on the fiscal year 2023-2024 annual audit (audit findings included in the Fiscal Oversight Commission open session packet and on the Ag + Open Website <https://www.sonomaopenspace.org/how-we-work/budgets-financials/>)

10. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

There will be a meeting or email exchange of the Annual Report/Audit Report Review committee to review the Annual Report.

11. Creation of Ad Hoc Committees for 2025 and Assignment of Commissioners

Annual Report/Audit Report Review (Owen, Sangiacomo)
Appraisal (Owen, Mendoza)
Matching Grant Program Evaluation (Inocencio, Emery)
Ag + Open Space Endowment (Ling, Sangiacomo)

12. Review of Rules of Governance

The Commission reviewed the Rules of Governance.

13. Election of Officers

On a motion by Commissioner Emery and a second by Commissioner Inocencio, Commissioner Mendoza was elected Chair.
Commissioner Ling was elected Vice Chair.
Commissioner Emery was elected Chair Pro Tempore.

14. Projects in Negotiation

Misti Arias reviewed the projects in negotiation.

15. Suggested Next Meeting

February 6, 2025

16. Adjournment

17. The meeting adjourned at 6:08 pm.

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