SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE FISCAL OVERSIGHT COMMISSION

## **COMMISSIONERS**

**Mike Sangiacomo**  **Patrick Emery**

**Todd Mendoza**  **Jorge Inocencio**

**Brian Ling**  **Jeff Owen**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**March 6, 2025 | 5:00 pm**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Patrick Emery, Brian Ling, Mike Sangiacomo, Jeff Owen

**STAFF PRESENT:** Misti Arias, General Manager;Lisa Pheatt, County Counsel; Julie Mefferd, Administrative and Fiscal Manager; Jennifer Kuszmar, Acquisition Manager; Pierre Ratte, Acquisition Specialist; Michelle Nozzari, Administrative Aide; Mariah Robson, Executive Secretary; Sara Ortiz, Fiscal Oversight Commission Clerk.

1. **Call to Order**

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

1. **Agenda Items to be Held or Taken Out of Order; Off- Agenda Items**
2. **General Announcements Not Requiring Deliberation or Decision**

Michelle Nozzari will be doing the FOC Clerk duties while Sara Ortiz is on leave.

1. **Public Comment**

No public comment.

1. **Correspondence/Communications**
2. **General Manager’s Report**

* On 2/25, the Board of Directors approved the Mark West Area Community Park Matching Grant Project with Sonoma Land Trust on behalf of the Mark West Area Community Fund.
* Ag + Open Space had a financial resource fair for the Buy-Protect-Sell program, which has received 9 applications so far. 20 to 25 farmers attended the resource fair.
* There has been a lot of media coverage surrounding the Monte Rio Redwoods Expansion, which should come before the Fiscal Oversight Commission in April. Misti was interviewed by ABC 7 News.
* Challenging times managing the remainder of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant (NRCS funded) for the Vegetation Management program as we are conducting these workshops under the threat of Federal funding freezes. Fortunately, we do have PGE Settlement funds that can be used as part of the match.
* The Commission requested agendizing the Community Spaces Matching Grant Program at the next meeting to discuss changes to the Program.

1. **Approval of Commission Minutes**

On a motion from Commissioner Owen and a second by Commissioner Emery, the minutes from the January 9, 2025 meeting were approved.

1. **Financial Report**

Julie Mefferd presented the Financial Report for December 2024.

1. **Annual Report**

On a motion from Commissioner Owen and a second by Commissioner Sangiacomo, the Annual Report to the Board of Directors was approved.

1. **Appraisal Guidelines** **Update**

Pierre Ratte presented the Appraisal Guidelines Update, noting the change in the Guidelines to be more concise, narrow the audience to appraisal professionals, and align with industry standards.

1. **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.

1. **Ad Hoc Committee Reports**

The Annual Report/Audit Report Committee approved the Annual Report that was presented to the Commission.

The Appraisal Committee met and approved the Appraisal Guidelines Update that was presented to the Commission.

Misti Arias reported that the Ag +Open Space Endowment Committee has not met, but may be called to meet to review investment options. The plan to pursue legislation at the California state legislature has been paused.

1. **Projects in Negotiation**

Jennifer Kuszmar reviewed the projects in negotiation.

1. **Suggested Next Meeting**

April 3, 2025

1. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm.

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**DISABLED ACCOMMODATION:** If you have a disability which requires an accommodation, an alternative format, or requires another person to assist you while attending this meeting, please contact Julie Mefferd at 707-565-7368, as soon as possible to ensure arrangements for accommodation.