



AG + OPEN SPACE
SONOMA COUNTY

SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Online Meeting Due to Sonoma County's Shelter in Place Order

October 22, 2020 | 5:00 pm

MEMBERS PLEASE CALL IF UNABLE TO ATTEND

In accordance with Executive Order N-29-20, the October 22, 2020 Advisory Committee meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY NOT ATTEND THIS MEETING IN PERSON

***UPDATE REGARDING VIEWING AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN
October 22, 2020 ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING***

The October 22, 2020 Advisory Committee Meeting will be held online through Zoom. There will be no option for attending in person. Members of the public can watch or listen to the meeting using one of the following methods:

Join the Zoom meeting on your computer, tablet or smartphone by clicking:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/93703351810?pwd=VXV5ZHM2VjIESFZLamI1L2ZMaUtydz09>

1. If you have the Zoom app or web client, join the meeting using the Password: 904639
2. Call-in and listen to the meeting: Dial 1 669 900 9128 Enter meeting ID: 937 0335 1810

PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE MEETING: You may email public comment to Mariah.Robson@sonoma-county.org. All emailed public comments will be forwarded to all Committee Members and read aloud for the benefit of the public. Please include your name and the relevant agenda item number to which your comment refers. In addition, if you have joined as a member of the public through the Zoom link or by calling in, there will be specific points throughout the meeting during which live public comment may be made via Zoom and phone.

DISABLED ACCOMMODATION: If you have a disability which requires an accommodation or an alternative format to assist you in observing and commenting on this meeting, please contact Mariah Robson by email to Mariah.Robson@sonoma-county.org by 12pm Wednesday, October 21, 2020 to ensure arrangements for accommodation.

END OF UPDATE

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment**
Comments on items not listed on the agenda. Time is limited to 3 minutes per person/item.
3. **Approval of Minutes from September 24, 2020 Attachment A**
4. **General Manager's Report**
5. **Subcommittee Report Out**
Matching Grant Program
6. **Ag + Open Space Transition**
Bill Keene, General Manager
7. **Appoint Matching Grant Subcommittee Members Attachment B**
Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator
8. **Projects in Negotiation Attachment C**
9. **Announcements from Advisory Committee Members**
10. **Adjournment**
Next Scheduled Meeting: December 10, 2020



*** FUTURE MEETING TOPICS**

(SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

11/25/20

Thanksgiving Break – No November Meeting

12/10/20

Matching Grant Program Recommendations

Extreme Events: Wildfire

1/28/21

Acquisition Update

Fire and Fuel Loading

2/1/21

Admin Fiscal Update

Legislative Update





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SONOMA COUNTY OPEN SPACE DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

**Virtual Meeting Due to Sonoma County's Shelter in Place Order
September 24, 2020 | 5:00 pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Tawny Tesconi	Don McEnhill	John Nagle	Michelle Whitman
Curt Nichols	Neysa Hinton	Paul Martin	Bill Smith
John Dell'Osso	Jan McFarland	Taj Hittenberger	Evan Wiig
Doug Lipton	Jennielynn Holmes	Kristina Tierney	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Cary Fargo

STAFF PRESENT:

Bill Keene, General Manager; Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Manager; Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Manager; Jen Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator; Stephanie Tavares-Buhler, Acquisition Specialist; Sara Ortiz, Administrative Aide; Aldo Mercado, County Counsel; Mariah Robson, Advisory Committee Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Dell'Osso called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm.

Chair Dell'Osso announced that regular future agenda items may include a Community Relations update, and other topics that members would like to hear about. These would be added quarterly.

Public Comment

No public comment on items not on the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Dell'Osso asked for any corrections to the minutes. One correction was requested from Michelle Whitman under Projects in Negotiations. A property was referred to as Willow Side and it should be Willow Creek.

John Nagle motioned to approve the minutes from August 27, 2020 with the correction, and Don McEnhill seconded the motion. All were in favor, with eight abstentions from Doug Lipton, Jan

McFarland, Paul Martin, Evan Wiig, Jennielynn Holmes, Taj Hittenberger, Bill Smith and Michelle Whitman, who were not in attendance at the August meeting.

General Manager's Report Out

- The Mattos Dairy near Roblar Road is going to the Board for approval of a conservation easement on October 6, 2020.
- The ASAP Emergency Matching Grant Program will open in the next few days and the application period will be open until October 30, 2020. We anticipate bringing recommendations forward in late November or early December. The Matching Grant Program closes next week on September 30, 2020. We anticipate bringing forward recommendations in early 2021. Jennifer Kuszmar, Matching Grant Coordinator, will be scheduling subcommittee meetings for both of these programs soon.
- Ag + Open Space is working on a press release about the findings of the Agricultural Economic Impact Report undertaken by Dr. Eyler at Sonoma State University. We will likely issue that release next week.
- Ag + Open Space has developed a comprehensive outreach plan to publicize the launch of the ASAP program. This will include a press release to go out on September 28, 2020. A print advertising campaign, website update, email blast to a targeted list of agricultural stakeholders, an announcement in a monthly e-newsletter article and social media are underway.
- The Torr property that connects to Willow Creek and Bohemia Ranch closed.
- Carrington Ranch off of Coleman Valley Road was transferred to Regional Parks.
- Bill Keene, General Manager, was interviewed by Tawny Tesconi this morning on her show "From Farm to Table with Tawny Tesconi." Mr. Keene reflected on the past eleven and a half years as the General Manager. He also discussed the broad work of the Ag + Open Space. The interview is accessible on the KRSH website.
- Mr. Keene discussed his upcoming retirement from Sonoma County serving as the General Manager. Committee members gave regards and well wishes to Mr. Keene.

Subcommittee Report Out

The Advisory Committee currently has one active subcommittee, the Matching Grant Program. The Subcommittee has not met since the last Advisory Committee meeting and had no report out. Chair Dell'Osso did say that the Matching Grant Program application deadline is next week and then subcommittee meetings will convene to review the applications.

Update on Our Work with Agriculture

Mr. Keene spoke about the study with Dr. Eyler on the affects COVID-19 has had on Sonoma County agriculture. Dr. Eyler predicts agriculture will recover in 2022; however, small farmers and ranchers are in trouble and need help. Ag + Open Space created the ASAP, an emergency Matching Grant Program, to help local farmers and ranchers who meet the criteria. Ag + Open Space was also in the process of hiring an Agricultural Specialist position to help with agriculture projects. However, that position has been put on hold until the next General Manager is on board.



Karen Gaffney, Conservation Planning Manager, spoke about Ag + Open Space supporting agriculture with data analysis via the Veg Map, which is a fine scale LiDAR system that helps to prioritize lands for protection. Also, Ag + Open Space has received \$8 million and \$3.5 million from an RCPP grant in agricultural conservation.

Stephanie Tavares-Buhler, Senior Acquisition Specialist, discussed agricultural projects. There are currently thirteen active projects on agricultural lands.

Sheri Emerson, Stewardship Manager, spoke about ag easements. Ag + Open Space works in accordance with the 2017 Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. Stewardship handles use requests on the lands. These lands will be stewarded into the future and the more land owner turnover the more use requests come to stewardship to help resolve. A lot of what this entails is the interpretation of the original easement. For more information on the Ag + Open Space work with agriculture, the PowerPoint presentation is available upon request, or contact Ms. Emerson or Ms. Tavares-Buhler.

Vital Lands Initiative Next Steps

Mr. Keene acknowledged that due to his impending departure, the Board of Directors would like the Vital Lands Initiative to be finalized with the new General Manager. This will be brought back to the Advisory Committee for a review in the first part of 2021 before taken to the Board for approval.

Projects in Negotiation

- Mattos Dairy, 866 acres near Roblar Road, is going to the Board on October 6, 2020.
- The Torr property, 360 acres in Camp Meeker and Monte Rio and connects to Willow Creek and Bohemia Ranch, closed.
- General Services will be bringing a conservation easement over Parcel J on Beverly Way in Santa Rosa to the Board at the end of the calendar year.

Announcements from Advisory Committee Members and Members of the Public

No announcements.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm.

Next Meeting: October 22, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

Mariah Robson
Advisory Committee Secretary



ATTACHMENT “B”

Dear Advisory Committee Members,

Last year, in an effort to refine and improve the Matching Grant Program processes, staff, the MGP Subcommittee, and your Advisory Committee discussed how and when the MGP Subcommittee should be selected. Along with other suggested improvements to the program, your Advisory Committee supported the decision to form the MGP Subcommittee only *after* Ag + Open Space receives applications for MGP funding so that any members with an incompatible interest in the process could elect to recuse themselves. Consistent with long-standing practice and Board policy, any member of the FOC or the Advisory Committee who has a conflict of interest arising out of their relationship with one or more matching grant applicants should contact District staff or counsel as soon as possible. Further, to maintain the integrity of the process, the subcommittee has elected to treat *even the appearance* of a conflict as a basis for recusal, even though recusal may not be required by law. Whether a specific circumstance creates an appearance of a conflict is a subjective judgment that may be the subject of review and discussion by your Advisory Committee if requested by a member.

Applications for the MGP 2020 funding cycle have been received (see table below) and thus, we’re requesting that your Advisory Committee form the MGP Subcommittee at your next meeting. Below is the list of applications received. Members of your Advisory Committee who have any personal financial interest in a project, or who may experience divided loyalty as between their duties to the District and any applicant, should disclose this at the meeting and should not participate on the MGP Subcommittee this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to Jen or Aldo in advance.

	Receipt & Contacts Tracksheet Worksheet			
Agency	Project Title	Project Manager		Agency Rep
Town of Windsor	Keiser Park Expansion	Olivia Leman Facilities Manager	Parks &	Ken MacNab Town Mngr Windsor
City of Healdsburg	Healdsburg Montage Development Park	Mark Themig Services Director	Community	Mark Themig Community Services Director

Protect Petaluma, c/o Beverly Alexander	Petaluma River Preserve and Trail	Moira Sullivan		Moira Sullivan
Burbank Housing Development Corp	Journey's End Community Park	Karen Massey Project Mngr	Senior	Lawrence Florin Chief Executive Officer
City of Santa Rosa Rec & Parks Dept	A Place to Play Community Improvements	Jen Santos Director of Parks	Deputy	Jason Nutt Assistant City Manager
Sonoma Ecology Center	Sonoma Garden Park Education & Habitat Restoration Demonstration Project	Minona Heaviland Planner	Environmental	Richard Dale Executive Director
Sonoma County Regional Parks	Bodega Bay Trail - Coastal North Harbor	Elizabeth Tyree Program Manager	Grants	Bert Whitaker Director
City of Rohnert Park	Crane Creek Reg Park Expansion & Copeland Creek Trail Extension	Vanessa Garrett City Engineer	Deputy	Mary Grace Pawson Director of Development Services
Petaluma River Park Foundation (PRPF)	Petaluma River Park	Matthew Stone Manager	Project	David Duskin Founder

Project Status Chart
10/16/2020

Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

PROJECT	Acreage (approximate)	Supervisory District	Acquisition Plan Category	Project Design	Appraisal Process	Approvals/Baseline	Escrow	Comments
Arrowhead Ranch (Maas)	245	2	Farms & Ranches	x				On hold at request of owner
El Recreo	289	1	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside	x	x			Appraisal process
Joseph Camozzi Dairy	403	2	Farms & Ranches	x	x			SALCP grant.
LaFranchi (Oak Ridge Angus)	1,189	4	Farms & Ranches	x				CE under negotiation
Mattos Dairy	701	2	Farms & Ranches	x	x	x		SALCP grant.
McClelland Dairy	337	2	Farms & Ranches	x				On hold at request of owner
McCormick	253	1	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x	x			Appraisal process
Paulin Meadow (Parcel J)	10	3	Water, Wildlife & Natural Areas	x	x			CE under negotiation
Preston Farm	133	4	Farms & Ranches	x				CE under negotiation
Sonoma Developmental Center 5 (Transfor	945	1	Greenbelts & Scenic Hillside					Land protection proposal underway
Torr	316	5	Recreation & Education	x	x	x	x	Escrow has closed.
Witt Home Ranch	395	2	Farms & Ranches	x	x	x	x	Initiating project
Total Acres:	5,216							

Matching Grant Projects	Acreage (approximate)	Supervisory District	Location	Begin Grant Process	Appraisal Process	Approvals/Baseline	Escrow	Comments
AmeriCorps Trail	12	5	Sebastopol		n/a			Initiating project
Andy's Unity Park	4	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x				Escrow closed in 2017. Tracking match
Badger Park	20	4	Healdsburg					Initiating project
Bayer Farm Development***	6**	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	x	x	x	Reimbursement ongoing, Grant term extended
Colgan Creek Phase 3 MG***	7	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a	x	x	Extension granted to 10/14/21
Crane Creek Regional Trail*	6	1	East of Rohnert Park	x	n/a			Drafting documents. Grant extended to 12/6/21
Denman Reach	2	2	North Petaluma	x	n/a			Drafting documents
Falletti Ranch	4	2	Cotati	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
Forever Forestville***	4	5	Downtown Forestville	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
Graton Green	1	5	Downtown Graton	x	x	x		Escrow closed April 5, 2019. Tracking match.
Guerneville River Park Phase 2***	5	5	Central Guerneville	x	x	x		Initiating project; processing extension request
Helen Putnam Regional Park Extension	56	2	Petaluma					Initiating project
Maxwell Farms	79	1	Northwest of Sonoma	x	n/a			Drafting Documents
McNear Peninsula Addition	21	2	Petaluma					Drafting documents
Paula Lane Open Space Preserve	11	2	West Petaluma	x	x	x	x	Tracking match
River Lane***	1	5	West of Guerneville	x	x	x	x	Finalizing docs; Grant extended to 10/25/24
Riverfront Regional Park Recreation Impro	300**	4	West of Windsor	x	n/a			Initiating project; processing extension request
Roseland Creek Community Park - Phase 1	3	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	x			City is reviewing documents (CE, RC)
Roseland Village Public Space***	1	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a			Drafting documents
Southeast Santa Rosa Greenway***	61	1	Southeast Santa Rosa	x		x		Initiating project; project extended to 10/25/24
SMART Pathway – Hearn to Bellevue*	6	5	Southwest Santa Rosa	x	n/a	x		Finalizing documents
SMART Pathway - Payran to S. Point	14	2	Petaluma	x	n/a			SMART is reviewing documents (CE, RC)
Steamer Landing Park Development (McNe	27**	2	Downtown Petaluma	x	n/a			Initiating project
Taylor Mtn RPOSP - Cooper Creek Addition	54	3	Southeast Santa Rosa	x				Closed 4/1/20. Tracking match
Total Acres:	236							

* District approved a 2-year extension

** Restoration/Development Project on previous acquisition.