

SONOITA CREEK FLOOD and FLOW STUDY COMMITTEE

MISSION: The watershed is a vital component of this community's well being. The Sonoita Creek Flood and Flow Study Committee will (i) make recommendations to the Patagonia Town Council with respect to best practices within its jurisdiction to manage erosion, to enhance water flow, to create optimal flood mitigation and to promote the long-term health of the riparian corridor, (ii) look at the entire watershed area to influence upstream conditions and to optimize downstream consequences, and (iii) educate the public.

MINUTES for January 14, 2016 Meeting

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Brent Bowdon, Kate Tirion, Chris Peterson, Mark Byrum, Luke Reese, Andy Bennett, John Hays, Nick Beauregard, Meg Gilbert, Dave Teel

1. Carolyn Shafer moved to approve the December 10, 2015 meeting minutes; Brent Bowden seconded. December 10, 2015 minutes approved unanimously.
2. Dave Teel advised that he attended the PRCF grant workshop. A PRCF grant proposal will be prepared by Dave T and Kate (edited by David S) to fund the "Story of the Creek" brochure. There was a suggestion that a local person do the Spanish translation. There was also a suggestion to contact UofA Dr Michael Brescia for possibility of assistance.
3. Prior to the meeting, Dave T provided committee members with the report prepared by Clear Creek Associates for the WIFA project. This Town project is now complete. Based on the report and improved water levels at the Town wells, the Town does not need to drill deeper at this time.
4. Dave T and Carolyn provided an update about the FEMA December 10 meeting with Town of Patagonia for purposes of preparation of an emergency disaster plan for the Town. There was a brief discussion about emergency notification including the County's existing system and the live transmission rain gauges on Red Mountain and Casa Blanca. Installation of a town warning siren was also suggested.

There was a general discussion about the town's flood risk (70% of the town's structures are in the flood plain), the President's Executive Order on flood mitigation (January 30, 2015 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/01/30/executive-order-establishing-federal-flood-risk-management-standard-and->), requirement for County approval for work done in the flood plain, John Hays stated that the sand removal down by the Town of Patagonia was not a good solution and actually worsened flood conditions which is why the County had stopped doing that type of work in the creek; the main problem is near the Paton House; creek bed ownership and the Town's authority to work in the creek;

Borderlands is on a working committee with the Bureau of Reclamation (Andy Bennett will let local contact at Bureau know of this committee's work).

5. Kate advised that the Borderlands project at Doc Mock Park had been approved by the Town Council. The plan includes water planning sensitive to the park's location at the downside of water flow.
6. There was extensive discussion about goals suggested by committee members, prioritization of goals and some action steps. Carolyn will draft the goal discussion result for review by all and approval at the February meeting.
7. Additional action steps for goals were briefly discussed. Further discussion around action steps will be on February agenda.
8. Following discussion, it was decided that the committee members approved by the Town Council are the voting members. All attendees bring a unique and important perspective and all contributions will be considered when choosing action steps.
9. FEBRUARY AGENDA include: (i) Town of Patagonia Watershed designation by FS, (ii) Status of FEMA meetings, (iii) Hubday purchase of Lot 7 in Rail X: Brent will get update
10. Next Meeting: February 11 at 10 a.m.

PARKING LOT (future agenda items)
Town of Patagonia water improvement projects
Santa Cruz County flood plain review
List of private owners of creek bed
Conservation easement
Public education program on water related issues
Flood mitigation plan
Review of Town's flood plain regulation - Article 13-3

RADAR SCREEN

AZ Supreme Court ruling in AZ Dept of Water Resources vs McLennen