

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 February 11, 2016 Meeting

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Brent Bowdon, Kate Tirion, Chris Peterson, Luke Reese, John Hays, Nick Beauregard, Anne Townsend, Gary Retherford, Meg Gilbert, Dave Teel

1. Gary Retherford presented information about the Santa Cruz County website that allows anyone to search for property ownership. This information was shared relative to the Hudbay ownership of property (1,200 acres) in the upper watershed. Brent Bowden shared information about his conversation with Hudbay employee, Cathy Arnold. There followed a discussion of the implications of Hudbay's plans for the property. The discussion also included the Wildlife Corridor plans for property across from Hudbay's property.
2. Minutes of January 14, 2016 meeting were moved to approve by Brent Bowden; seconded by Kate Tirion. The minutes were amended to add Mark Byrum as being in attendance and his suggestion to reintroduce beaver. Minutes as amended were unanimously approved.
3. Dave Teel advised that he submitted a grant to the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation for funding of the Sonoita Creek brochure.
4. The draft Goals and Actions steps were discussed. It was agreed that Carolyn will draft a final version of Goals and Actions for approval at the March meeting.
5. Upcoming water related events include the March 5 presentation by Laura Norman, USGS at the Friends of Sonoita Creek Annual meeting, the March 10 FEMA Disaster Planning meeting with the Town and the March 23 presentation at the Tin Shed Theater by John Liu about water restoration projects around the world.
6. Next Meeting: March 10 at 10 a.m.

PARKING LOT (future agenda items)
Town of Patagonia Watershed designation by FS
Status of FEMA meetings
Town of Patagonia water improvement projects
Clear Creek Associates report (funded by WIFA)
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

Hudbay property ownership
AZ Supreme Court ruling in AZ Dept of Water Resources vs McLennen