

## 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 May 12, 2016 Meeting

(NOTE: this meeting's recording is available at Town administrative office)

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Kate Tirion, Anne Townsend, Dave Teel, Nick Beauregard, David Seibert. Guests: Murphy Musick and David Ellis

1. The minutes from the April 14, 2016 F&F Committee meetings were moved for approval by Anne, seconded by Kate and approved unanimously with the notation that two items outstanding were Brent Bowden forwarding the FEMA Flood Plain study and Nick Beauregard forwarding the grant application for the signage project.
2. Murphy Musick reported on the flood insurance webinar in which he participated. Murphy reiterated what Dave previously reported: flood insurance premiums will go up 25% a year until adequate mitigation has happened. It's related to the Community Rating System (CRS) and to John Hay's memo distributed at the meeting. If the Town can meet certain CRS standards, insurance rates will go down. [The worst CRS rating for a Town is a 10; the best is a 1; Patagonia's current CRS rating is a 10 because it is in its own flood plain and doesn't qualify for the SC County rating.] Murphy believes that the F&F Committee's mission statement and planned activities really fit and will help reduce rates if the insurance companies know about them and if private owners did just a few things. David S. and Kate talked about some innovative things done here and there in Silver City, Tucson, etc. to assist in spreading out the flow to reduce flooding.

Murphy and Dave Ellis, as a Subcommittee of the F&F, will meet with Dave T. to try to get a better handle on the paperwork end of things, and Murphy would like to bring in some outside help and a speaker to the group from the insurance companies. We agreed this would be a good public outreach meeting and useful toward getting the townspeople engaged in helping to decrease rates and understanding what can be done in the short term for best practices in the Creek. David S. said the Forest Service is already on board and want to do this kind of thing. Borderlands already has an established partnership with the Forest Service, as a good starting point.

3. In regard to the Town Ordinance Chapter 13 Flood Damage Prevention, Section 13-2, Carolyn asked if there were, as we discussed at an earlier meeting, any progress toward getting an overall conservation easement for the Creek through Town. Per Dave T., there isn't much chance of this. The Town is moving closer to accepting not digging in the Creek, and presenting factual information could persuade them. Kate asked about the possibility of getting ADOT to raise and lengthen this bridge and Dave T. thought it unlikely with no money available in the state for this kind of thing. He will give Kate the ADOT contact, though, if she wants to pursue it. In the meantime and following extensive discussion, we agreed it's best to recommend that the Town not take any actions in the creek bed this summer other than to use its resources to collect loose debris that could obstruct the flow of flood waters. Carolyn will draft that recommendation to the Town and circulate for approval by committee members.
4. Nick reported on Tucson Audubon Paton Center's work and funding for its brochure and that it's using local artists and seeking broad input as it will cover many areas other than birds, although that will be a big focus. We agreed to wait and see how this brochure turns out (Nick thinks it should be done by the end of the year) before determining what to do with our "Story of the Creek" brochure idea. It was agreed that "Story of the Creek" concept will move to the Parking Lot until TAS's brochure is available to see if/how to do ours.
5. Dave T. reported that the report for FEMA is done in draft; the tabletop event happened and there will be more follow up. Carolyn reported on CERT training to date. CERT-certified people could be called upon to help first responders, in particular with triaging and assisting those with less immediate needs. Carolyn pointed out that in Paragraph NN of this chapter's ordinance, the "emergency preparedness plan" mentioned will be an outcome of the current CERT training and that she and Anne will be involved in working on the public outreach part. Carolyn provided an update about the CERT training and that there is an open-to-the-public workshop on weather-watching/education so as to know when to be on the alert. Anne will work on getting out flyers in Town regarding this Friday evening, May 20 and Saturday, May 21 trainings at Cady Hall re Weather Spotting/Watching and Red Cross Shelter operations so perhaps more people can participate.
6. Carolyn reported that the Flood & Flow Committee's first quarterly report to the Town Council occurred on April 27 and was well received.
7. After discussion, it was agreed to move the updates from the Sub-Committees on sub-watershed and on feasibility of retention pond to the Parking Lot with quarterly updates.
8. Regarding the Parking Lot and Radar Screen, Anne suggested moving the List of Private Owners of Creek Bed up to an active item. Carolyn said she would work on this with Dave T. No other changes were suggested (except, see Item 7, above).

1. There were no “Other” items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned.
2. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 9 at the Town Council Chambers.

PARKING LOT (future agenda items)  
Town of Patagonia watershed designation by FS  
Status of FEMA Meetings  
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  
Active Water Management Area (AMA)  
AZ Municipal Water Users Association  
Discussion of possible funding sources  
QUARTERLY REPORT: sub-committee on sub-watershed work  
QUARTERLY REPORT: sub-committee on retention pond solution

#### RADAR SCREEN

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