

# 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 June 9, 2016 Meeting

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

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Kate Tirion, Dave Teel, Nick Beauregard, Luke Reese, David Ellis. Guests: Bob Brandt

1. The minutes from the May 12, 2016 F&F Committee meetings were moved for approval by Kate, seconded by Dave E and approved unanimously.
2. The Town attorney's response to this Committee's recommendation on Section 13-1-3 had been shared via email. There will be an amendment to this Section in the near future and at that time, the typos included in the Committee's recommendation will be included in the revision. The future amendment is with respect to the recently passed legislation regarding an exception for existing trailers in town that will require no more than a three foot foundation if there is a reinforced support structure.
3. This Committee's recommendation with respect to activity in the creek during this rainy season was heard at the June 8 Town Council meeting. Mayor Ike, Vice Mayor Wood, Council members Gilbert and Murrietta present; Council member Quiroga absent. The recommendation was accepted with the reservation to do what the Town deemed necessary based on circumstances. Vice Mayor Wood asked that the Town employees remove loose materials in the creek. Carolyn noted that there was not the typical formal vote and she asked if this was a deliberate choice by Mayor Ike and Dave T responded that it was the Mayor's choice to have the Council accept the recommendation but not formally vote on it.
4. Committee member changes were noted and will be submitted as a formal agenda item for Town Council approval at a July meeting.
5. There followed a lengthy discussion of the information shared by Dave E about the Community Rating System. Highlights of the discussion:
  - (a) There are currently about 400 structures in Town and about 60 are insured. The bureaucracy of getting the Town of Patagonia into the CRS system is worth the effort because most of the qualifying factors are related to education and preparedness which is what this committee wants to do anyway. The town is currently rated a "10" and would get to "9" by starting the process.
  - (b) NOAA and Army Corps of Engineers have a Silver Jackets program with tools for communities on "how to" prepare and Dave E will investigate this program.

- (c) The FEMA insurance program has been an adverse selection program for high risk areas and for those who can afford the premium; they have not been able to charge enough for actual damages and that is part of the reason rates are going to start going up 25% per year. It is only recently that private insurers have returned to the flood insurance market and they do pay attention to CRS rating and community efforts.
  - (d) The local Flood Plain Map was reviewed.
  - (e) It was generally agreed that this Committee's efforts to educate the community and to enhance the watershed will help to improve the Town's CRS rating. It was also acknowledged that much of the work that will be initiated by this Committee will have long term results although results will exist along the way.
6. Regarding the Parking Lot and Radar Screen: (i) Nick gave an update on the Tucson Audubon project for a story of the creek brochure and this item will remain on the Parking Lot for now and (ii) Kate will give a report on the sub-watershed project at the July meeting.
  7. As part of "Other" item: (i) Kate reported on the Restoration Leadership Institute initiative to provide field experience and education as part of a restoration economic base for communities and (ii) Carolyn reported on Community Emergency Response Team activities. There were no "Other" items to discuss and the meeting was adjourned.
  8. The next meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 14 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