

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 October 12, 2017 Meeting

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

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Anne Townsend, Kate Tirion, Marty Lawrence. Guests: Bill O'Brien (NextGen Engineering) and Marco Garnica, and Dave Ellis and Murphy Musick.

1. Approval of Minutes of the August 10 and September 14 meetings were moved by D. Ellis and seconded by M. Lawrence. Approved unanimously.
2. As an update on the Community Rating System (CRS), the required letter and form for FEMA were sent to David Teel for his signature before he left on vacation. We know he sent in the signed letter but haven't been able to verify that the required form was also sent. Next steps would include a visit by the ISO officer to determine if Patagonia would qualify for a lower rating. We would show the ISO such things as records of stakeholders meetings, public meetings, CCC work, 1-rock arcs up on Mesa, swale and berm work done on Tree of Life property and onto USFS land, and the amount of permeable land in Patagonia for ground water recharge. Anne also reported she had ordered FEMA publications for distribution at the Town Hall and Library. Dave E's and Murphy M's official participation on the F&F Committee will be on the next Town Council agenda.
3. Dave E reported that he had scheduled a meeting with John Hays but that John had to go to another, more critical meeting. However, Dave did learn from Hays that there is a special taxing mechanism that results in 60% funding from FEMA but this has to be matched by 40%. We'll have to compare costs of remediation to costs for

insurance to see if we can get this tax funding. Per Murphy, it is not just about the costs to insure 60 homes but also about all who live and work in the flood plain. Bill O'B pointed out that we must keep pursuing our options with John Hays.

4. There followed a discussion of the "About Us" statement. Kate T. would like to see more ground cover to help mitigate flooding added to our action steps. For example, she uses branches perpendicular to the flow. Kate also suggested adding "ground water recharge" to the first sentence of the second paragraph. This will first go out to the Stakeholders with questions on how often to meet, and then, ultimately, to the public.

5. Carolyn updated the Committee on AZDEQ testing for lead and arsenic, and reported that AZDEQ isn't yet doing wider testing for pollutants, let alone more water testing (but they did test behind Dave E.'s house). Per Murphy, the smelter was building in 1895 and only ran for 2-3 years. The place next to Carolyn's sales contract was cancelled due to this issue, so this is having economic as well as health impacts. It is still unfolding and she will add it back to the agenda for the November meeting too.

6. Then Carolyn reported that the next regulatory meeting of County Supervisors is scheduled for 10/18 and PARA (Carolyn) will do their ½ hour presentation for the Supervisors. Intention if for all three to understand that it is not just a Patagonia problem.

John Hays will be speaking to the Patagonia Woman's Club on October 12 at 1 pm on the Santa Cruz County recycling program but he will also take water-related questions if there is time.

7. The next F&F Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2017 at 10 a.m.