

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 8, 2018 Meeting

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

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Anne Townsend, Marty Lawrence, Dave Ellis and Murphy Music. Guests: Bill O'Brien, Sara Harders and Sean Schrag (NextGen Engineering), Bob Proctor, Sis Sanders

1. Approval of the minutes of the January 11, 2018 meeting as written was moved by Carolyn and seconded by Dave.
2. Murphy reported that after a few glitches, the State has approved the Town's submission of paperwork to FEMA for eventual admission to the Community Rating System. It will have to go to the Town's lawyer, Mike Massey, and then to the Town Council to be approved. Anne will email Dave Teel and asked to be cc'd on his memo to Massey. Murphy said the Planning and Zoning committee has not reached out to him, but that one of the changes in the paperwork entailed changing new/renovated buildings to having to be raised

higher than 5 ft. and renovation work would have to be at least 49% (vs. 50%) of the current value of the home before damage.

3. Nothing to report on the Flood Mitigation and Recharge Basin proposal. It will be moved to our Parking Lot.

4. Re Alum Gulch/AZDEQ (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality), Dave again emphasized that the citizen science monitoring work done with AZDEQ support is one of its very first little projects throughout Arizona. The Citizen Science group (PAWS – Patagonia Area Water Science group) of about 9 met the 22nd of January with scientists from AZDEQ. This group will use and approximately \$3000 gadget to sample water (device supplied by AZDEQ) from existing flows at various sites to determine water quality as a baseline. AZDEQ will monitor quantity in various sites using robotic devices that automatically collect samples when water rises, and oversee the PAWS group's work. PAWS will begin with about 4 sites that meet AZDEQ's very high standards.

Bill discussed NextGen's proposal to create a roadmap to water quality by first holding a stakeholders meeting and looking at and then compiling data each of the stakeholders may already have collected, so as to form a common body of knowledge for the Town of Patagonia and stakeholders. The report would be a public document, not opinionated, just an impartial data collection from USGS, AZDEQ, home owners' associations, individuals etc. Carolyn thanked Sean for the excellent article in the PRT. Carolyn moved and Marty seconded that F&F request that this proposal be on the next Town Council agenda for approval. The Town could act as the fiscal agent for holding donations for this project from various stakeholders. The first quarterly Watershed Management Plan is scheduled for 10

a.m. February 27th at Cady Hall. James Callegary will do the presentation.

5. Carolyn reported that AZDEQ issued a permit to AMI re the tailings ponds; PARA filed objections and remarks that resulted in a few changes before releasing it; PARA is now talking to various legal sources and has filed a notice of appeal based on the fact that the original permit was only for existing tailings and AMI isn't sticking to that. There is a proposal before the State to transfer more of what were EPA responsibilities to AMI.
6. Carolyn reported that CERT/Emergency Manager Ray Sayre held a meeting with all the area emergency responders and emphasized that this area is currently classified as an extreme fire hazard risk.
7. Anne reported that the Friends of Sonoita Creek's next Annual Meeting will be held March 17 at 10a.m. at Cady Hall. There will be a panel of local organizations presenting on each entity's interest and work in the Sonoita Creek watershed.
8. The next F&F Committee meeting will be at the Town Hall, 10 a.m. March 8.