

## 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 minimize downstream consequences, and (iii) educate the public.

### MINUTES FOR April 12, 2018 Meeting

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

Attendance: Carolyn Shafer, Marty Lawrence, Kurt Vaughn, Rita Bradley, Murphy Musick, Kate Tirion, Barbara Ellis, Shawn Schrat, Alex Johnson, Ben Costello (Oak Bar Ranch)

Meeting minutes from March 8 were approved.

Watershed improvement program

F & F is finalizing a draft of the \$9000 study and roadmap to send to 30 stakeholders, asking for donations for a watershed management plan. Important to involve the stakeholders and grants may require matching funding, so donations will be sought. Dave Ellis has the current list of these thirty stakeholders.

A Roadmap: Understanding and Managing Water Quality in the Sonoita Creek Watershed.

Kurt discussed an ADEQ grant due May 16th. The money is targeted to develop the comprehensive plan for the watershed that would include holding local meetings and funding a position to lead that effort. Borderlands is working on this and has grant-writing ability. They want to house someone who might lead this efforts. A five week turnaround. is all we have to do this. The advantage for this type of grant is that it is introductory into the process. Money could be available to start the work to start a plan. Citizens can get discount on the cost of flood nsurance. We focus on our watershed. This may be the last year in which this particular grant is available from ADEQ due to changes at the EPA level.

Murphy gave an update on the community rating system. There are requirements to belong to this program based on the 1968 National Flood Insurance Program. Work has not been submitted, as it requires extensive research. Land has to be declared open space. Different credits are available to lower the cost of this insurance for residence. 60 percent of the land and 80 percent of ?? He met with *Carrie Rodente (sp)* who gave him a list of 11 action items to work on. e.g. identifying restrictions and deeds. CRS program can keep data.

Kate emphasized the importance of Identifying water uses, not just flood control. A plan was submitted to USDA for Doc Marc park. Mary McKay and Caleb created drawings that were submitted. Increasing water infiltration potential. is critical as well as planting biodiverse natives to restore the ecosystem.

Barbara represented PAWS. She brought a handout they will use for earthfest to draw more people into the program who might have an interest. Alex also spoke to the work of PAWS in establishing baseline figures for surface water quality. Studies have been done by national park, forest service, ADEQ, etc. on different aspects of the watershed. These studies are not in a collated database. Sharing between agencies is not happening. ADEQ would like volunteer s to help collate information. They are certified to do measurements and data

collection in the correct way to get the data included in the data base. They have seven members trained. ADEQ is divided between surface water and ground water. They are not rain-event oriented. They have located a lot of surface water that was not previously known about by ADEQ. 12-15 sites being tested currently.

They want to get into ground water as well, but would need funding for monitoring of wells and getting permissions to go on sites is challenging. They want to get agencies to share data and information.

- The theme of Earthfest is WATER this year. Dave Ellis will present and Kate has a tour at the farm. This information is in the PRT.
- Well monitoring data—Where does all this data reside? Can it be collated? Wells data has been collected on Wildlife Corridors land. Rita will send information to Kurt about what happened to the well monitoring project started by BR and FOSC before he took over.
- Flood projections are not known, but fire is big issue in the year ahead. CERT can provide education on how to prepare for flood as well as fire. At this year's Earthfest they will focus on FIRE protection.
- F & F Will ask the town of Patagonia to clean up trash behind the dump station before flood season.
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- Paul Hurt will be speaking April 18, 7 pm at the library. April 21 is Earthfest: theme is water. 10 a.m. at tin shed. 11 a.m. Watershed management group. PARA will premier the film :Water Matters More by Michelle Gisser. Funded by the Story of Stuff Group.

Mining: New mining activity north of town, Kennicott exploration, Rio Tinto subsidiary. The "torpedo" is sonar equipment seen flying in this area. If it is on forest service there must be permits for exploratory drilling. They are doing an airborne expedition. There is renewed interest in this area due to Arizona mines and EPA changes. Mining is exempt from dark skies laws.

Forest service is doing some cleanup.

Az mining is relocating the old tailing piles. Harsh changes. You are staying on a county road and they will say, you can't take any pictures. Blasting later this year 3,000' shaft. The only two private patented projects in the United States. Exists under 1872 law you could get title if you worked the land. Worked by Asarco then left behind the environmental damage; they sold 450 acres for \$10. Az mining brought a passive water plan. PARA did research. State rejected. An active plan will cost them \$25 million dollars.

Carolyn reported on various activities of the mines, options for roads and trucking routes they are considering.

There is a disconnect between ground water and surface water monitoring in all the concerned agencies. Almost a million gallons a day will be pumped from ground water by the mine.