

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 10, 2018 Meeting

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

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Brent Bowden, Kate Tirion, Kurt Vaughn, Marty Lawrence, Murphy Musick, Dave Ellis, Anne Townsend, John Hays. Guests: Kathy Pasierb(Friends of Sonoita Creek), Bill O'Brian and Sean Schrag (NextGen Engineering), Tomas Jonsson, Barbara Ellis, Alex Johnson, and Annie and Rick Waits

1. Moved by Kate and 2nd by Kathy, unanimously approved the minutes of the April 12, 2018 meeting as written.
2. Carolyn read the jist of her email to stakeholders in the development of Patagonia's "Roadmap: Understanding and Managing Water Quality in the Sonoita Creek Watershed," and reported that, although all stakeholders had been asked to contribute to it's development funding, only one check had been received. It was agreed that Dave Ellis would share his list of the remaining stakeholders and that he

and Carolyn would divvy up that list for each of us to make individual personal contacts to try to raise the necessary funds. Additionally, Kurt reported that ADEQ had very little funding for such planning (although they used to) and that now because it's been decreased there is no funding for this project (and next year, ADEQ's budget for planning will probably be zero \$). Bill said that, if we could raise these funds, they would count as the community's local contributions for future grants. He also emphasized that it is important to get the mines to participate in the planning for this project. Brent reported that his wife would almost certainly participate as she is now the public relations person for AMI.

3. Murphy reported that Patagonia is now in the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS) and received the minimal 500 points to accomplish this. We now have 16 months for the next phase, which includes getting a Program for Public Information (PPI) established. It requires that there be a Public Information Officer officially affiliated with the Town Council or Manager, per John. Murphy would like to have the opportunity to discuss with F&F the use of F&F's next meeting to get this PPI going; he'll get names for suggestion to F&F and ensure they're at that meeting. Going forward, since a monthly meeting is required to receive the FEMA points, he would like the PPI group's meeting to be the last agenda item on F&F's meetings. John noted that FEMA keeps shifting the CRS requirements, so be prepared for the long haul. Murphy has already dealt with this frustration and says he is committed to the long haul. Murphy noted that the biggest point count to get us into the CRS was due to the amount of Open Space Preservation we reported and to TNC's contribution in documenting their more than 50% of that space. John noted that OSP space must be publicly owned; no private land qualifies, period.

4. Dave Ellis reported that the Patagonia Area Watershed Survey (?) (PAWS) team has identified ~ 16 potential testing sites and has 7 trained members. However, the team hasn't actually taken samples yet (Dave did and ADEQ said his results were acceptable). Dave feels the ADEQ specifications aren't appropriate for our needs, especially the calibration aspect. He's still working on how to communicate the data better. He announced that Anne, Annie and Rick are also joining the team. The plan is to sample all the selected sites (about 7) every month for a year, and Dave is taking the new team members along on a trip up Alum Gulch on May 17. He'd like to get the high school science kids on-board. Brent suggested he contact the FFA program at the school. The former County Extension officer, Amanda Anuneo (sp?), is the new person in charge of this program now.

5. Carolyn reported that Kathy Pasierb will be on the Council agenda for approval as an official Friends of Sonoita Creek representative on the F&F Committee. She noted that the Town had cleaned up the mess behind the Post Office and so there won't be a need for a further "summer recommendation." And that she presented on Water Advocacy at the Earthfest presentation. She also said that the PARA film, "Water Matters More," is due to be finished in June.

6. Carolyn reported on the Harshaw Bridge meeting: the plan for using Harshaw Creek Road for 6-8 months as a by-pass road was nuts per those in the room (there was standing room only at the meeting); they said they "heard" us. Jesus Valdez, the County Public Works Director, said the county will cut up the log that took out the bridge (but John said they probably won't do it if it's on private land; Brent said he'd find out who now owns it and see about getting permission). Tomas asked about the tree/log at Cross Creek: will it

be removed? It is also on private property, and the county will have to talk to Regina.

7. John and Brent reported that this is a drier than usual period and therefore the fire risk is quite high. Per Brent, if you notice that your neighbor is endangering him/herself by not preparing for fire, you should say something (and that fire dept. will work harder for those who HAVE prepared). I.e., “If you see something, say something!”
8. The next F&F Committee meeting will be at the Town Hall, 10 a.m., June 14.