

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 13, 2016 Meeting

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

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Anne Townsend, Dave Ellis, and Meg Gilbert; Guests were Susan Belt, Randiesia Riggs and Bill O'Brien of NextGen Engineering. We all introduced each other. Bill is a consulting engineer and hydrologist; Randesia is a business developer with a military background including engineering and logistics. Their company is in Tucson.

1. Meg moved and Anne seconded approval of September 8, 2016 minutes of the Flood and Flow Committee Meeting. Minutes were approved unanimously as written.
2. Discussion about recommendation to the Town of Patagonia regarding bulk sale of water and draft water emergency water conservation measures – Carolyn handed out a new bulk sales chart including data through August 16, 2016 as well as a copy of the minutes from the Town's September 14, 2016 Workshop on these subject.

Meg advised that the Town will have a special meeting on November 22. She thinks we need to start restrictions at a higher level than the 45' recommendation because 30' is defined as very critical and it wouldn't take long to reach this level if restrictions weren't applied sooner than at 45'.

Per Bill, Meg's Drought Index numbers are more for regional interpretation than for our specific Town region. He thinks seasonal levels combined with rainfall and keeping track of the levels of our wells would be the best way to determine when to begin implementing restriction levels.

David Ellis explained his interests in "all things water" in Town as well as in the well-monitoring project.

Meg wants to see the bulk sales up against her charts because she would like to see more specific data and tighter restrictions. Carolyn and Meg will get together to again ask for Town data and try to get more data.

The group agreed to wait for the November Town meeting to present a recommendation.

3. Anne told the group about the upcoming Friends of Sonoita Creek-hosted presentation and workshop on "Rapid Stream Riparian Assessment" by Dr. Pete Stacey

from the University of NM. The presentation is on the evening of October 21st, and the workshop is October 22-24. The group will assess parts of the Creek in the Patagonia-Sonoita TNC Preserve and at the Creek just east of Patagonia Lake State Park. Both the presentation and workshop are free and open to the public.

4. Parking Lot and Radar Screen – Not discussed due to time constraints
5. Other – It was noted that the Town crew has been working at the creek cross on Pennsylvania Ave several times since the Aug 9 flood and it has improved the crossing.
6. Next Meeting: November 10, 2016 at 10 a.m.

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 upstream water retention (Tirion, Bowden, Peterson)
- sub-committee on retention pond solution (Reese, Bowden, Hays, Beauregard)
- Story of the Creek brochure

RADAR SCREEN

- Hudbay property ownership
- AZ Supreme Court ruling in AZ Dept of Water Resources vs McLennen