

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 September 14, 2017 Meeting

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

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

1. Approval of Minutes of the August meeting was carried forward to the next meeting.
2. The Patagonia Town Council at its September 13 meeting approved moving forward with joining the Community Rating System. Murphy Musick and Anne Townsend reported on completing paperwork for the Community Rating System. The next step is to send it to Dave Teel for his signature, preferably before his vacation starting on the 19th.
3. Dave Ellis reported on various potential sources of funding for the next phase of the water retention basis project. It would cost about \$30,000 to collect the necessary information to engage in further discussion with The Nature Conservancy about this project. He suggested we try to raise funds in-town and Kate Tirion suggested we try to tie into the University of Arizona or the USGS for some of this work, as well as some of the water quality and general well monitoring research going on. Bill O'Brien suggested as the next step to work with John Hayes. Both he and Dave Ellis will do so. Dave Teel suggested we should contact the County Water Tax District to see if we could request some funds from them, since we are a part of this District. Bill noted we must take ownership of the Watershed Management Plan. If we don't, who will?
4. There followed a discussion of the Watershed Management Plan and this Committee's role. Carolyn Shafer and Anne will draft an "about us" statement to accompany a note to Watershed Stakeholders asking their assistance and feedback in moving forward the final plan and asking for feedback on future meetings. Maybe we should try to have a major WMP discussion every couple of F&F meeting, with Stakeholders encouraged to attend and help guide us with the full development of this Plan. Dave Teel reminded us this was originally called the Flood and Flow Study

Committee; had hope for expertise to advise the Council on things that must be done and why.

Carolyn reported that both Dave Ellis and Murphy Musick must be officially appointed to the Flood and Flow Committee by the Town Council. She will request this to be added as an agenda item for the next Town Council Meeting on September 27.

5. Carolyn updated the Committee on AZDEQ testing for lead and arsenic, and announced she will be doing a one-half hour presentation for the community on what a mining scenario could mean for this Town at the next Town Council Meeting on September 27, as well as for the County Board of Supervisors. She pointed out that the mining PEA is based on best-case assumptions. She also said that in response to a question from Carolyn at AMI's Sept 12 public presentation, Don Taylor said AMI will provide data on their water tests in their wells. She also told us that Santa Cruz County Public Works is looking at repair options for the Harshaw Creek bridge.

6. The next F&F Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 12 at 10 a.m.