

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 January 11, 2018 Meeting

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

ATTENDEES: Carolyn Shafer, Anne Townsend, Marty Lawrence, Dave Ellis; Guests: Bill O'Brien and Sean Schrag (NextGen Engineering), Gary Wofford, Barb Ellis

1. Minutes of the November 9, 2017 meeting were amended to read Hazel Cox in two places and minutes of the December 14, 2017 meeting were amended to say TBD for the date of the Stakeholders workshop. Carolyn moved approval of both sets of minutes as amended; Dave seconded and minutes were unanimously approved.
2. Anne reported on a January 8 two-hour telephone conference that Murphy had arranged with Brian Cosson, ADWR NFIP Coordinator; Mike Shelton, ADWR Risk MAP Coordinator; and Suzie Sarpong, Brian's right hand; Dave Teel, Murphy and herself. Brian's office is the officially-designated State of Arizona entity to work with FEMA on

the CRS program. The purpose was to review the work the Town has done to date to become part of the CRS, provide feedback, and coordinate follow-through. Results were some follow-up steps on both parts and – ultimately – Dave’s approval of Murphy’s help with the required documents. The approval of ADWR of the Town’s efforts is a required first step to become part of the CRS program. Both Murphy and Anne felt this was a useful and productive meeting.

Dave reported on information he had acquired from USGS re who would get monitoring and who will not. Patagonia would be higher on the list, depending on its CRS rating, to get a stream gauge hanging on our bridge.

3. Nothing to report

4. Re Alum Gulch/AZDEQ, Dave again emphasized that the citizen science monitoring work done with AZDEQ support would be only for surface water. And now, the work will be done in Harshaw Creek as well as up Alum Gulch. The team will get AZDEQ training on 1/22 up at the Museum. He believes it will be a minimum of 5 years to get this done, and believes AMI should join us in monitoring water and share their data as well.

5. The 2018 first quarterly meeting of the Sonoita Creek Watershed Management Plan Stakeholders has not progressed. Per Bill, as per prior comment re AMI and re possible objections to AMI being involved in the stakeholders meeting, in his experience it is best to get all interested parties together to get all to agree together on the engineering facts – facts that meet government standards. This will help avoid possible litigation. Bill and Dave handed out white papers, NextGen’s produced by Sean. There just is not enough data, which

collection of course was part of their initial Watershed Management Plan. Carolyn said that maybe USGS's James Calagary (sp?), who is replacing Floyd Gray for the time being, or Laura Norman, should come speak to us and provide some data specific to this area since they have studied this area in particular. After discussion it was agreed that he should be invited to speak to our next F&F meeting.

6. Carolyn reported that input to AZDEQ has resulted in some responses; however the bonding for AMI's proposal to move tailings on Flux Canyon road is totally inadequate. Such a move will immediately affect the water draining in Flux Canyon; AMI is required to monitor it starting right away. We want this data shared right away. HUD Bay came out with 5th variation of plans for its mitigations of Cienega Creek impacts from its proposed Rosemont Mine. Dave reported that it now owns the gauge measuring the flume flowing out of Monkey Springs, which is being maintained. Again, we want that data shared.
7. The next F&F Committee Meeting date is to be determined, depending on the availability of James Calagary to speak to us.