

# Flood and Flow Committee

Meeting- September 13, 2018  
10:00a.m.

Town Hall, Patagonia

Members Present: Carolyn Shafer, Kathleen Pasierb, Marty Lawrence, Kate Tirion, David Ellis, Murphy Musick, Anne Townsend, Bill O'Brien  
Guest speaker - David Seibert  
Guests: Lane Coultson, Chris Werkhoben, Brad Sander, Bob Brandt, Barb Ellis

Meeting called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Introductions and a brief background were given by attendees.

## NEW BUSINESS

### A. Action non-discussion items

- Approval of August 9<sup>th</sup> minutes Motion -Murphy 2<sup>nd</sup>-Kate
- Approval to include the new Audubon Center for Hummingbirds director, Tina Hall, to the Flood & Flow committee, Motion-Carolyn, Dave E. - 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Ms Hall will take the place of Jonathan Lutz

### B. Non-Action/discussion items

- Carolyn reported that the town council had considered only town residents to be on the Flood & Flow (F & F) committee. However, in the spirit of its mission F & F represents WATERSHED issues which extend beyond the town limit. There are stakeholders/committee members that live beyond the limits and are integral to the mission. No member changes were made.
- It was reported that Vice Mayor Andy Wood is interested in developing citizens committees to help solve town issues.
- Carolyn, David E. and Chris Werkhoben met with Kristine Uhlman- consultant and nationally recognized hydrologist. She is the executive director of the national watershed magazine *Groundwater*. Dr. Uhlman is an expert in the field of fracture trace analysis and determining the age of water. It was reported that she will work on an analysis of the Patagonia Mountains pro bono. Patagonia Mountains is a prime example of a highly fractured geology making it susceptible to polluting the ancient aquifer through water recharge by mining operations. The mining water replenishment plan is bogus because the water replenished is not rain water. It contains a different chemical composition. Chris said a very popular issue with citizens is talking about the age of water. If there is 10,000-year-old water that is being depleted from the aquifer then that is a popular issue.

A suggestion was made that we should consider getting all stakeholders together to hear Ms Uhlman talk about fracture analysis. Kathy suggested that FOSC may be able to sponsor a venue for this presentation.

#### **Presentations:**

- Borderlands Habitat Network-David Seibert reported on needs that will ultimately allow for the approval of a large money grant from the *Bureau of Reclamation*. The Sonoita Creek Watershed already has existing conditions such as an official watershed designation, citizen input through committees, high level scientific research, peer reviewed publications. Bill O'Brien suggested using the work from Next Gen to add to the grant.  
The more connections with the Nature Conservancy, the town of Patagonia, private ranches, in other words land that cuts across holdings the better chance of getting grant money. There is a need to recognize projects that have already been accomplished for the positive effects they have had on local employment and local economies. There is also a need for the general public to know where these past projects are located and how they benefit the watershed, the town and the land owners.  
Anne suggests that Friends of Sonoita Creek (FOSC) provide a tour of work projects to make people more aware of the good work being done.
- Carolyn reported about the Hubday Rosemont mitigation plan North of the town of Patagonia on Sonoita Creek Ranch property. The plan proposes to alter Sonoita Creek upstream from town. Opposition letters were written by Nature Conservancy, Borderlands Habitat Network and Tucson Audubon.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **RoadMap: update**

##### *Understanding and Managing Water Quality in the Sonoita Creek Watershed.*

- Carolyn lead her report by cautioning that although South 32 might begin production in earnest by 2020 they will be out of land by 2028. The forest service has unpatented claims leaving the land wide open for South 32 to file land claims for continuation of operations.
- RoadMap is key to know what info we already have by researching all existing relevant data and identifying any missing or inadequate data. \$3000.00 of the \$9000.00 needed has been raised for the roadmap project thus far and has been funded by local organizations. A potential funder may be to apply for a grant with the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation (PRCF). The committee is reaching out to other potential funders.

Murphy attended a meeting with Greg Lucero, local CEO. Lucero offered to match any money the town spends on the RoadMap. The town does not and will not have funds earmarked for this project making Mr. Lucero's offer of matching funds a moot point. Another possible source of raising funds, if not

awareness, is a set of posters for two booths at the fall festival to elicit funds for the RoadMap project. Anne and Chris will head this work.

#### **FEMA Flood Insurance update**

- Murphy reported about requirements for more discounts on the FEMA flood insurance plan to residents who carry federally insured mortgages on their homes. This discount applies to new buildings within the floodplain and the resale of homes. Those without the proper mortgage or no mortgage at all do not qualify.
- Open space will add the next level of compliance to qualify for further discounts at 15%. Tucson Nature Conservancy (TNC) was approved by FEMA as open space. A map of possible open space designation was distributed. A point of interest is that once open space is designated it ceases to become a buildable site.

#### **PAWS update-**

- Dave Ellis reported that there are now 76 sets of data from streams in the area. High priority streams testing is once a month. Data entry is in the works. Samples of quality of water is a ADEQ sponsored program. It measures surface water quality.

#### **Other business**

- A brief discussion ensued about mining mitigation by Borderlands and the Forest Service about the ethics of accept money and/ or include them at the table for discussion. Borderlands is clear that under no circumstances would they partner or allow the use of their name as a “green” connection with propaganda touting an environmentally responsible mining operation.

Next meeting Oct 11, 2018

Meeting adjourned 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathleen Pasierb