

PATAGONIA FLOOD & FLOW COMMITTEE UPDATE
TOWN OF PATAGONIA COUNCIL MEETING
October 10, 2018

The Patagonia Flood & Flow Committee members are proactively working to better understand this watershed and how to share information to promote the long term health of the watershed. The Committee's recent activities include:

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN and ROADMAP

The Sonoita Creek Watershed Management Plan invited all stakeholders to participate in creating a document that identifies watershed activities as of May 2017 and established goals for the watershed. Over 40 goals were received and were condensed and summarized to:

- Sustainable Local Water Supplies
- Clean Water
- Integrated Flood Management
- Healthy Ecosystems
- Access to Nature
- Responsible Land and Resource Management
- Coordinated Watershed Planning

A next step in the process is to create a comprehensive, central data base of all water quality studies of the watershed and then identify what information is missing.

ACTION REQUEST to Town Council: The Committee has raised about 30% of the cost of this study. The Committee requests that the Town Council approve the Flood & Flow Committee submitting a grant proposal for this project to the Patagonia Regional Community Foundation in its next grant cycle (January 2019).

ACTION REQUEST to Town Manager: Please add the Watershed Management Plan, the Roadmap, and this update to the Town's website.

PATAGONIA AREA WATER STUDY (PAWS)

In early 2018, Committee volunteers began a citizen scientist program with ADEQ to do baseline readings at key locations.

FEMA COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM

The Town of Patagonia's resident now qualify to receive flood insurance discounts as a result of official documentation of the Town's flood mitigation efforts and citizen education efforts. Additional discounts are available as the Town submits additional flood management efforts.

ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT,
AND NATURAL RESOURCES

At its December 5 meeting, the State Legislators heard about the water advocacy actions in the Sonoita Creek Watershed and were asked to legislate policy that guides both ADEQ and ADWR to reprioritize criteria for monitoring water activities and for granting water related permits. Such decisions need to include cumulative impacts of all watershed activities as well as scientific climatic predictions.

All these activities will continue. Beginning with tomorrow; you are all invited to attend the Flood & Flow Committee's monthly meeting (2nd Thursday of the month) at 10 a.m. in Town Council Chambers to hear about future actions on all of the above matters and more. It is the creative input of the community that will promote the long-term health of the watershed.

The Committee's "official" roster of voting members are:

Carolyn Shafer, Chairperson
Patagonia Area Resource Alliance

Kate Tirion
Deep Dirt Farm Institute

Kurt Vaughn
Borderlands

Marty Lawrence
The Nature Conservancy

Tina Hall
Tucson Audubon Paton Center

Kathy Pasierb
Friends of Sonoita Creek

Dave Ellis
PAWS - Patagonia Area Water Study / ADEQ Citizen Science Project

Murphy Musick
FEMA Community Rating System

Anne Townsend
FEMA Community Rating System