

Greetings Town Council Members and Town Manager:

This is a summary report of Flood & Flow Committee activity during the April 8 Committee meeting ([link for the recording](#)). As Chairperson, I will provide an Executive Summary of this Summary at the Council's April 28 meeting.

The January and February 2021 meetings were presentations by the US Forest Service about activity in the Sonoita Creek watershed and the area of the watershed recognized by the Forest Service as the Town of Patagonia Municipal Watershed. Two of the Flood & Flow Committee's goals in 2021 are (i) to expand the [Watershed Management Plan](#) beyond the Phase 1 work and (ii) to move forward the process of creating an agreement with the Forest Service for that agency's Watershed Restoration Action Plan program. The April meeting focused on reports from the Committee members about the work being done by their organizations within the watershed:

**Borderlands Restoration Network (BRN):** Kurt Vaughn was not able to attend the meeting, but he shared a written report (attached) of BRN's many watershed activities. The report was read aloud by Carolyn.

**The Nature Conservancy (TNC):** Marty Lawrence reported about a study prepared by Stillwater Sciences for TNC on "Surface Water and Groundwater Trends Analysis for the Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, AZ" (attached).

**Friends of Sonoita Creek (FOSC):** Bob Proctor reported on several active programs:

- The wet / dry mapping project to be accomplished in June in partnership with TNC, Tucson Audubon, and AZ Dept of Environmental Quality (ADEQ);
- The Riparian Stream Rapid Assessment project to be accomplished in May;
- Coordination of the Dirt Bags volunteers building trails on various properties in the Patagonia area;
- Planting trees; and
- Working with various regional community water coalitions.

Future plans include:

- Re-engaging local students in watershed awareness when COVID appropriate;
- Working with Sky Island Alliance with its spring seeker program; and
- Working with Sierra Club with its water sentinel program.

**Tucson Audubon (TA):** Howard Buchanan reported that TA is actively working with FOSC, TNC, and BRN on the programs described by those organizations. TA is also actively working on water programs in a Harshaw Creek location and two Sonoita Creek locations as well as its work at the Paton Center. In addition to continuing that work, TA is also looking (i) to develop a program with AZ State Park for the protection of the riparian areas of the Sonoita Creek State Natural Resource Area and the Lake Patagonia State Park and (ii) to work with ADEQ to restart the water quality work

previously begun by the Flood & Flow Committee sub-group known as PAWS (Patagonia Area Water Study).

**Deep Dirt Farm (DDFI):** Kate Tirion reported that Deep Dirt Farm is the primary demonstration site for BRN work related to water detention structures. Kate shared that Dr Laura Norman of the US Geological Survey agency (USGS) had done a presentation that included information on the restoration eco hydrology and rewilding work being done in this area ([link for recoding](#)). Kate share that her focus is on encouraging local permaculture and restoration economy activities in the Sonoita Creek Watershed.

**Patagonia Area Resource Alliance (PARA):** Carolyn Shafer reported that PARA had organized four comments to three different agencies on proposed 21st century industrialized mining activity (listed below with links to comments) and that a fifth comment is due April 30.

[COMMENTS FILED 3/22 on BARKSDALE ADEQ 401 permit for Sunnyside](#)  
[COMMENTS FILED 3/31 on BARKSDALE USACE 404 permit for Sunnyside](#)  
[COMMENTS FILED 4/3 on BARKSDALE draft EA for Sunnyside](#)  
[COMMENTS FILED 4/7 on SOUTH32: ADEQ AZDPES permit](#)

The next meeting of the Flood & Flow Committee will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 13. The agenda's "New Business" will be presentations by South32 on (i) the Clear Creek report completed for the Town of Patagonia and (ii) 2017 and 2019 pump tests.