

Town of Patagonia, Arizona Flood and Flow 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 mitigate downstream consequences, and (iii) educate the public.*

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Carolyn Shafer-F&F **Chairperson** &
Patagonia Area Resource Alliance: **PARA**
Marty Lawrence-The Nature Conservancy: **TN**
Robert Proctor-Friends of Sonoita Creek **FOSC**
Kate Tirion-Deep Dirt Farm: **DDFI**

Kurt Vaughn-Borderlands Restoration Network:
BRN
Howard Buchanan-Tucson Audubon Paton
Center: **TAPC**

Minutes of November 11, 2021 Meeting

Members Present: Carolyn, Howard, Bob, Marty, Kate, Kurt

Members Absent:

Guests: John Hays (Santa Cruz County Flood Plain Coordinator), Bill O'Brien (NextGen Engineering, and one other individual—apologies I didn't capture your name

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Carolyn Shafer

1. Call to the Public - no one spoke
2. Kurt moves to approve the Minutes for the October 14, 2021 Meeting with a second by Kate. Minutes are approved unanimously.
3. Kurt provides an update on the Santa Cruz County RFQ for Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project Feasibility Study and Alternative. The Flood Mitigation Sub-Committee Team (Kurt, Kate, Marty plus TNC Damian Rawoot and TNC Pete Leiterman) formulated a project description that is more inclusive of alternatives and forwarded that language to Town Manager Ron Robinson who then communicated the changes to Santa Cruz County Flood Plain Coordinator John Hays.
4. John Hays advised that the language change formulated by the Flood Mitigation Sub-Committee and forwarded by the Town Manager will be incorporated into the document and then reviewed by County Legal Department before release. Release is expected to happen in early January 2022.
5. Carolyn provided an update on the November 9 Study Session with the Town Council on this Committee's Powers & Duties. The Research Team (Howard, Bob, Carolyn) were in attendance at the Study Session.
 - With respect to the Powers & Duties document, the Town Council has requested revised language in the "Establishment" section to reflect that this Committee is an Advisory Committee rather than a Statutory Committee (Planning & Development is a Statutory Committee) and that the "Membership"

section be revised to (i) state that it is not a requirement that a member of this Committee be a town resident and (ii) clarify/expand the definition of water related experience.

- With respect to this Committee's work on the General Plan, the Town Council indicated that it does want to hear directly from the Flood & Flow Committee on water related issues in the General Plan. After discussion, there was agreement that the efficient process would be to have a joint Study Session of the Town Council, the Flood & Flow Committee, and the Planning & Development Committee. Carolyn moved and Marty seconded that the Research Team (Howard, Bob, Carolyn) would review of suggested revisions for the Town Council's consideration; the Motion passed unanimously.

6. Carolyn gave an update on the developing projects being worked on by the Research Team (Howard, Bob, Carolyn).

- Working with the Forest Service
 - A. Watershed Restoration Action Plans: conversations are ongoing
 - B. Town's request for a comprehensive water study: the Forest Service had responded in October, but that letter has not yet been received through the postal service. The Forest Service has provided a digital copy which has now been shared with Committee members and will be discussed at the December meeting.
- Municipal Watershed Plan: in addition to this Committee's members, there are a number of experts, including academics, who are willing to participate in drafting a Municipal Watershed Plan and the Research Team will continue this drafting.
- The comments on the General Plan will be on the December agenda.
- Given the resources available for higher priority projects, the Research Team has decided to move the Sonoita Creek Watershed Stakeholders Group to the Parking Lot.

7. Kate moves to adjourn; Marty seconds; all in favor. The meeting adjourns at 10:20 a.m.