

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**
Aaron Mrotek-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 September 8, 2022 Meeting

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

Members Absent: none

Guests: Ron Robinson (Town Manager), Chris Thiel (USFS), Greg Oleson (USFS), Ashley Hullinger (WRRRC UoA), Tomas Goode (South32), Samantha Hewitt (NextGen), Ben Lomeli (FOSCR), Dave Christiana (FOSC), Kevin Payne (Kimley Horn), Rob Lane (Solis), Alex Johnson

Meeting called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Carolyn.

1. Call to the Public - no one spoke
2. Kate moves to approve the August 11, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes; Bob seconds; unanimously approved.
3. With respect to the Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project Feasibility Study:
 - A. County Public Works Director Jesus Valdez advises that the County is going through the process with Kimley Horn to define the scope and establish a cost in order to submit to South32 for approval. Jesus confirmed that this work is only for a study and not any possible resulting project itself.
 - B. County Consultant Rob Lane provides an update on the contractual process by advising that there is a draft scope being finalized for data collection and analysis prior to a public meeting. It is anticipated that lidar studies will be done in late November or early December.

- C. There follows a discussion that raises the question about the geographical scope of the study; several sub-watersheds or the entire Patagonia Municipal Supply Watershed as recognized by the Forest Service. The Committee will have an e-vote to determine its preference.
4. With respect to the Cross Creek Floodplain Permit application by South32, Carolyn reports that South32 Melanie Lawson has advised that the agreement between South32 and the County for the land donation has not been finalized so the floodplain permit application is delayed.
 5. Ashley Hullinger provides an update on the UA WRRC project to draft the Town of Patagonia “Drought Response Plan for Water Resilient Communities.” Ashley updates on (i) the process of data collection, (ii) plans for a mid-October workshop for the three communities (Patagonia, Benson, Superior) that are receiving this analysis by UA WRRC, and (iii) an overview of the ARCGIS current database for Patagonia.
 6. Kate moves and Bob seconds to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.