**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 December 8, 2022 Meeting**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests:**  Town Manager Ron, Rob Lane (County consultant), Kevin Payne (Kimley, Horne), Ashley Hullinger (Univ of AZ WRRC), Samantha Hewitt (NextGen Engineering), Pete Leiterman (TNC), Melanie Lawson (South32), Tomas Goode (South32)

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

1. Call to Public - no one spoke.
2. Bob moves to approve the November 10 meeting minutes; Kate seconds; unanimously approved.
3. With respect to the Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project Feasibility Study, Carolyn advises that on November 9 there was a meeting of the Flood Mitigation team (Kate Tirion and Aaron Mrotek), Town Manager Ron and Carolyn to discuss South32’s request for a meeting. Town Manager Ron will be scheduling a meeting with South32.
4. With respect to the flood control permit application by South32, Carolyn advises that South32 Melanie Lawson advises that the land donation agreement between the County and South32 has not yet been signed.
5. With respect to the UofAZ Water Resources Research Center’s work with the Town on preparing a Drought Responsible Plan for a Water Resilient Community, Ashley Hullinger gives a brief background on the project and also gives an overview of a draft document explaining how to review the AZ Dept of Water Resources (ADWR) website.
6. With respect to the meeting with the Coronado National Forest, Carolyn advises that the Research Team (Bob, Howard, Carolyn) will be reviewing the information received from the Coronado National Forest team before the next meeting with the Forest Service about the process of drafting Watershed Restoration Action Plans for the Town’s Municipal Supply Watershed.
7. Howard Buchanan gives an update on upcoming work to be conducted by Tucson Audubon and partners on restoration projects along Sonoita Creek in town and into the TNC Preserve. Howard expressed appreciation to the Town for its Letter of Support as well as to TNC and Borderlands and other organizations who have assisted with this project.
8. South32 Hydrologist Tomas Goode provided a presentation on what water reports are publicly available on the South32 website as well as how to access well data on the ADWR website.
9. South32 Melanie Lawson advised that South32 has a temporary permit to discharge water into the Harshaw Creek for testing its dewatering wells; this will occur over several months.
10. The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.