**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:* ***TNC***

Robert Proctor-Friends of Sonoita Creek ***FOSC***

Kate Tirion-Deep Dirt Farm: ***DDFI***

Bill O’Brien-NextGen Engineering

Howard Buchanan-Tucson Audubon Paton Center: ***TAPC***

**Guests:**  Town Manager Ron, Kevin Payne (Kimley, Horne), Ashley Hullinger (Univ of AZ WRRC), Samantha Hewitt (NextGen Engineering), Pete Leiterman (TNC), Tomas Goode (South32), Ben Lomeli

1. Call to Order—Carolyn called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.
2. Roll Call—Carolyn present, Aaron present, Howard present, Kate present, Bob present and Bill present.
3. Pledge of Allegiance—Carolyn led the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Kate moved to approve the December 8, 2022, meeting minutes; Bob seconds; unanimously approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. With respect to the Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project Feasibility Study, Carolyn advises that on January 24 there will be a meeting with County Manager St. John, County Public Works Director Valdez, Town Manager Ron, Carolyn, and Bill O’Brien to discuss an update with the County on the project progress.
2. 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.
3. With respect to the U of AZ 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 update on the project and gives an overview of upcoming workshops and map resources.
4. 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.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion and vote on whether to continue Flood & Flow Committee meetings as Zoom meetings or move to a hybrid format of Zoom and in person.

Carolyn moved to remain as zoom meetings and Kate seconded. Discussion followed with Aaron agreeing zoom worked for all and helped add more public involvement and Bill mentioned he liked in person. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Carolyn confirmed the Town Council voted to approve Bill O’Brien (the new Town Engineer) as a member of the Flood & Flow Committee.
2. Carolyn happily stepped aside from her duties as the Chairperson and Recording Secretary of the Flood and Flow Committee and passed the virtual gavel to Bill. Carolyn has been involved since the beginning of the Committee and we greatly appreciated all her contributions to the Town and Committee.
3. Discussion and vote to appoint Bill O’Brien as the Committee Chairperson. Carolyn moved to appoint Bill O’Brien as the new Chairperson of the Flood and Flow Committee. Bob Seconded and thanked Carolyn for guidance through the years. The motion passed unanimously. Bill said he was excited to be a part of the Committee.
4. Discussion and vote to appoint Town Manager Ron as Recording Secretary: Town Manager Ron is an ad-hoc member of all Town Committees. Carolyn moved to appoint Town Manager Ron as Recording Secretary. Aaron Seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Bill mentioned that agenda item should be in a week before the meeting and Ron agreed. Ron also stated that the Zoom information will be the same as the Town Councils. He also said if anyone wants a recording of the meeting, the Town makes flash drives it does not have cloud storage.
5. The next Special Meeting will be held on February 9, 2023, at 10:00 am.
6. Adjourn. Carolyn moved to adjourn. Bob Seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:31 am.

PARKING LOT (future agenda items)

Comprehensive Groundwater Study

Cooperative Watershed Management Program Fund Opportunity by USBR (a/k/a funding the Sonoita Creek Watershed Stakeholders Group)

 Community Database of Water Studies

 Patagonia General Plan

 Municipal Watershed Plan

 Sonoita Creek flow meters / ADOT Bridge work / South32 well data from ADWR

 Public education program on water related issues.

 River Living Friendly Certification

RADAR SCREEN

 Hudbay property ownership