

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:

Bill O'Brien-F&F **Chairperson** &
NextGen Engineering
Aaron Mrotek-The Nature Conservancy
Robert Proctor-Friends of Sonoita Creek

Kate Tirion-Deep Dirt Farm
Carolyn Shafer-Patagonia Area Resource Alliance
Howard Buchanan-Tucson Audubon Paton Center

Minutes of February 9, 2023 Meeting

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

Members Absent: None

Guests: Rob Lane (County consultant), Ashley Hullinger (Univ of AZ WRRRC), Samantha Hewitt (NextGen Engineering), Pete Leiterman (TNC), Tomas Goode (South32), Tess Wagner (Borderlands), Alex Johnson

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

1. Call to Public - no one spoke.
2. Carolyn moves to approve the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes; Aaron seconds; unanimously approved.
3. With respect to the Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project Feasibility Study, Bill advises that there was a meeting on January 24 with the County and South32 and the project is moving forward although funding has not yet been finalized. Carolyn advises that Borderlands watershed expert Joaquin Murrietta-Soldivar will be joining the team. Carolyn will be stepping off this team so that Bill O'Brien can be part of the team.
4. With respect to the flood control permit application by South32, Carolyn advises that South32 Melanie Lawson advises that the title issues have not yet been resolved so the flood plain permit application has not yet been submitted to the County..
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 update on the project including the scheduling of a March 22 meeting.
6. With respect to the meeting with the Coronado National Forest, Carolyn advises that the Research Team (Bob, Howard, Carolyn) recommend that the Committee approve the

designation of the Harshaw sub-watershed as the subject of discussions with the Forest Service to define a Watershed Restoration Action Plan. Carolyn so moves; Howard, seconds; motion unanimously approved.

7. With respect to future agenda items, Carolyn advises that the Research Team (Bob, Howard, Carolyn) will be providing background information on the "Parking Lot" items to Chairperson Bill and Town Manager Ron for consideration of timing for those items to move forward.
8. Kate moves to adjourn; Aaron seconds; with unanimous approval the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.