**SONOITA CREEK FLOOD and FLOW STUDY COMMITTEE**

MISSION: The watershed is a vital component of this community’s wellbeing.  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.

**MINUTES for Zoom Meeting**

**Meeting I.D. 957-511-4862 Passcode 338501**

**10 a.m., Thursday, February 22, 2024**

**Committee Members:**  *Bill O’Brien-Chair/PTE, Ron Robinson-TM, Aaron Mrotek-TNC, Rodrigo Sierra-Corona- BRN, Carolyn Shafer-PARA, Kathy Pasierb-FOSC & recording secretary, Bob Proctor-FOSC, Howard Buchanan -TAS,* Chris Gardner-Hydrologist PARA, *Kate Tirion, Howard Buchanan-NAS*

**Guests:** Edgar Martinez USFS, Alan Sanchez-S.C.C. Flood Plain Coordinator, Ben Lomeli-hydrologist, Chris Thiel- USFS

1. Call to Order by Chair-Bill O’Brien at 10:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Bill O’Brien, Ron Robinson, Kate Tirion, Bob Proctor, Kathy Pasierb, Chris Gardner
3. Pledge of Allegiance-*Bill*
4. Correction and/or Approval of Minutes from January 18, 2024, regular monthly meeting motion to approved by *Ron, seconded Kate. Unanimous. motion carries.*
5. Call to Public A. R. S. §38-431-01(H):  AT THIS TIME, ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC IS ALLOWED TO ADDRESS THE TOWN COMMITTEE, SUBJECT TO REASONABLE TIME AND MANNER RESTRICTIONS.  THE PUBLIC WILL ONLY BE RECOGNIZED TO SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS LISTED FOR PUBLIC INPUT PURSUANT TO TOWN CODE SECTION 2-5-6.  PURSUANT TO THE ARIZONA OPEN MEETING LAW, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CALL TO THE PUBLIC, INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL MAY RESPOND TO CRITICISM MADE BY THOSE WHO HAVE ADDRESSED THE COUNCIL, MAY ASK STAFF TO REVIEW THE MATTER, OR MAY ASK THE MATTER BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA.  HOWEVER, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC BODY SHALL NOT DISCUSS OR TAKE LEGAL ACTION ON MATTERS RAISED DURING AN OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC UNLESS THE MATTERS ARE PROPERLY NOTICED FOR DISCUSSION AND LEGAL ACTION

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Update on School Canyon Failure of CCC Structures (Bill O’Brien)

Impact on Town and Watershed Analysis

*Bob reports that he contacted Ken Morrow and Chuck Klingenstein, both residences of the Mesa. Chuck sent info to the landowners of the Mesa. Plot plan required to do a water/flood calculation on school canyon and roads for the size of culverts. This is available with the County. Alan will look up the plan at the SCC planning dept. and forward to Bill. Bill is working with the F.S. CCC flood diversion project and S32 property. John Hughes and Chuck agrees to do some work. There is a right of way for a trail. Landowners do not want this. They have concerns about mosquitos. Bob will be checking the site for proper flow into the diversions. He would displace the silting/dirt by putting it on the top or sides of the berm to save costs of hauling it out. Owners request possible reseeding/ planting of disturbed areas with suggestion that BRN to do the reseeding and or donate seed. Suggests Bill, Ron, and Bob to meet for a plan for action. Meet with property owners that are affected by the area. Alan provides topo maps of the area. Possible next Wednesday to meet.*

1. Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project Feasibility Study (Allan Sanchez, Bill O’Brien)

*Contractors & consultants met with Alan to discuss the draft reports and a possible date for a stakeholders meeting. Exhibits were introduced. Discussed restoration alternatives. Green, Yellow, and red map to show improvement, no change, and water surface elevation. West discussed soil enhancement. Areas that were overgrazed and areas that should have grazing. Kimly-Horn looked at a 2,10 and100 year flood elevation event on the 2-d model.*

*Suggested stakeholders meeting to be held on March 26,* ***about*** *6-7 p.m. Discuss findings along with the flood modeling. Stakeholders want to see discussion on groundwater quality, quantity, more floodplain mapping, watershed restoration and enhancement, and a breakdown of the next steps. Ron commented that the town council does not agree with the outcome of water modeling seen previously. Bob commented that a true picture of the magnitude of flooding events through town as witnessed by local folks should be important to consider. Ron suggests that the TOP should be involved in any flood plain discussion by the county and consultants. Kevin Pane is the project manager for Kimly – Horn. Bill would like to speak with him regarding the modeling of Phase 2. West consultants to focus on alternatives to large retention basins. Bill suggests a survey of the stakeholders about their concerns regarding flooding. Bottom line from Ron is that the town be included in every meeting. The most updated floodplain map is from 2011.*

1. Update on the South32 CCC Flood Plain Use Permit. (Bill O’Brien)

*Bill reviewed the permit from Leonard Fontes. It is in 3 phases.*

1. Update on Potential Aquifer Management Area (AMA or RMA) for Sonoita Creek Watershed (Bob

Proctor)

*The upper Cienega groundwater basin includes Sonoita Creek watershed. Need to establish an AMA for this area. Bob has sent many pertinent studies to Bill and Chris. ADWR passed along recommendations regarding proposals for Rural AMA’s legislation to the governor’s water advisory committee. a HB bill was introduced to the legislators for consideration to create RMA’s. The bill is now in committee. Howard comments that the bill will not make it out of committee.*

1. Comprehensive Groundwater Study for Cienega Groundwater Basin (Sonoita Creek & Cienega Creek) (Chris Gardner)

*Chris is preparing a groundwater presentation on basic well data and the complexities of the basin to stakeholders. a list of all information and studies is being compiled. Chris’s presentation will need about 20 minutes to report to the F & F committee. Bob suggests waiting for ADEQ to develop a program of proper procedures for monitoring wells. Friends of Sonoita Creek has been providing input for monitoring upper and lower Harshaw Creek for this program.*

1. Harshaw Creek Watershed Restoration Plan – F&F subcommittee appointments, status, and discuss Town position (Howard)

*Howard reports the status is the same as last month. Edgar Martinez can meet in March. He can supply an example of a plan for the HCWRP. Howard to send out a survey with invites to writing or development partners of the grant application for the Watershed Management Group. Deadline is early September. Bob, Howard, Ashley Hollinger and Gordan Speight working on the Town of Patagonia Drought Preparation Plan.*

**NEW BUSINESS**

12. Next Regular Monthly Meeting: March 21, 2024, at 10 a.m. Via Zoom

1. Future Agenda Items

14. Adjourn *Ron makes a motion, Bob second, unanimous, motion carries.*

Respectfully submitted, Kathy Pasierb

PARKING LOT (future agenda items)

Sonoita Creek Watershed Stakeholders Group

Community Database of Water Studies

RADAR SCREEN

Hudbay property ownership

**CONTACTS/RESOURSES**

Jennifer Varin-Coronado Forest Service -Watershed Program Manager

Chris Kudoz-Environmental Defense Fund

Leonard Fontes- S.C.C.Public Service Director

Chris Thiel-Natural Resources staff officer for the Coronado National Forest

Daisy Kinsey-Sierra Vista District Ranger

Edgar Martinez-Watershed Hydrologist with Coronado National Forest

**AGENCIES/NON-PROFITS**

PTE-Patagonia Town Engineer

TOP-Town of Patagonia

TNC-Tucson nature Conservancy

BRN-Borderlands Restoration Network

PARA-Patagonia Area Resource Alliance

FoSC-Friends of Sonoita Creek

TAS-Tucson Audubon Society

WRRC-Water Resources Research Center

CWMP-Cooperative Watershed Management Program

SCC-Santa Cruz County

WRAP -Watershed Restoration Action Plan

USBR-United States Bureau of Reclamation

CCC-Cross Creek Connector

AMA- Aquifer (Active) Management Area

RMA-Rural Management Area

CGB- Cienega groundwater basin