**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.

**AGENDA for Zoom Meeting MINUTES**

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

**10 a.m., Thursday, April 17, 2025**

1. Call to Order 10:03 a.m.
2. Roll Call: Bill O’Brien, Ron Robinson, Kathy Pasierb, Chris Gardner, Bob Proctor, Howard Buchanan, Kate Tirion.

Guests: Alan Sanchez, Tomas Goode.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: Bill
2. Correction and/or Approval of Minutes from March 20, 2025, regular monthly meeting. Motion to approve: Kate, second: Chris
3. CALL TO THE 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 **(STANDARD 3 MIN)**.  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. School Canyon Failure of CCC Structures- Bid Request from BLR (Bob Proctor)

Nothing to report at this time. Waiting for grant money to focus on the lower end where the series of pools are located. Any flood mitigation grants?

1. Patagonia Regional Flood Control Project Feasibility Study Update (Allan Sanchez)

Kevin Paine is a project manager for Kimley-Horn. Best point of contact. Phase two scope is drafted and out for comment. Rob Lane is a project manager is asked who is paying for the project? S32 and the Town of Patagonia are paying for the project. A resolution coming to transfer funds to the county from the town. The town has no money.

Alan will send the draft of the PRFCPFS. Bill requested where to send comments to. Howard suggested the draft is shared with the entire committee. Comments are likely to go to Kevin Paine from Kimberly – Horn.

1. Friends of Sonoita Creek Well monitoring program**.** (Chris Gardner)

In April, the ADWR accompanied Chris Gardner on water level data collection.

The ADWR incorporated the wells into the state water level database.

FOSC will update the state database as water levels are collected.

Since February, have observed the same water level trends.

In general, no water level changes at the higher elevations of the watershed where water level elevations are above ~4300' amsl.

Similar water level decreases in wells upgradient of Town where water levels are below ~4300 feet amsl.

Some water levels decreasing at ~0.5 feet/month, the rate of drop has decreased in some wells to 0.1-0.2 feet/month.

Water levels in Town are slowly rising, up to ~0.2 ft/month in some locations.

1. Watershed Water Balance Studies – Bill O’Brien

Nothing new to report. Sonoita Creek Watershed contributes and influences the water balance in the Santa Cruz Watershed, AMA.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Update on Town’s static water level at wells and water report & possible water discharge information from South32/Hermosa site. (Town Manager) (Tomas Goode)

Static water levels in town are 34’3”.

Total gallons pumped: Month for March- 9,870,500 gallons/mo. or 99,600 gallons/day

Processed water at Wastewater Treatment Plant:1,329,678 gallons/mo., or 42,893 gallons/day contributed back into Sonoita Creek. No rainfall registered at the wastewater treatment plant.

**Tomas update:**

**Discharges from S32.** January avg. 1.5476 mil gal/day. With maximum of 1.9967 mil gal /day

Feb avg. 1.6374 mil gal/day. With maximum of 1.8268 mil gal / day. No discharge on Alum Gulch.

1. Watershed Management Planning CMWP Grant-BLM (Cally Wilkin, Howard Buchanan)

Grant proposal was accepted then the grant money was paused. BLM is editing the document. The first step in negotiating a contract. New staff from Wisconsin to work with.

1. Restoration Action Plan USFS (Howard Buchanan)

Next agenda should read as an agenda item: **Harshaw Creek Watershed RAP**. Part of a forest service program watershed condition framework. Specific steps to follow in the framework.

Watershed restoration action plan sub-committee is Chris Gardner, Howard Buchanan, Bob Proctor and Rodrigo Corona.

* 1. The committee will review and understand the expectations of the forest service.

 The documents to review: Watershed commission framework.

* 1. Review the general plan by the town of Patagonia and any documents related to the town’s municipal watershed.
1. Town Municipal Watershed Management Plan (Howard Buchanan)

Need documents from the town to use as a foundation for negotiations for the Harshaw Creek Sub-watershed Restoration Action Plan. The agreement with the forest service for may have been changed.

Ron has standard water plan submitted to ADWR in three parts submitted 2022

1. Water supply 2. Drought plan 3. Conservation plan

1. Next Regular Monthly Meeting: May 15, 2025, at 10 a.m. Via Zoom.

13. Future Agenda Items

 Drought Preparation plan update by Ashley & Garland.

14. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn: 10:34 a.m. Ron, second: Bob

PARKING LOT (future agenda items)

Community Database of Water Studies

USFS Watershed Restoration Plan

RADAR SCREEN - Hudbay property ownership