**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.

**Zoom Meeting MINUTES**

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

**10 a.m., Thursday, June 19, 2025**

1. Call to Order-10:00 a.m.
2. Roll Call, Quorum = 4 members: Bill O’Brien, Ron Robinson, Kathy Pasierb, Bob Proctor, Howard Buchanan, Chris Gardner, Kate Tirion, Aaron Mrotek

Guests: Ashley Hullinger, Tomas Goode, Aaron Tews.

1. Pledge of Allegiance-Bill
2. Correction and/or Approval of Minutes from April 17 and May 15, 2025, regular monthly meetings. Move to approve-Ron, second - Bob
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

Guest speaker: Aaron Tews presents TMDL. by Grant Weinkam for ADEQ.

Middle Sonoita Creek Watershed TMDL, Metals and pH impairment. See attached



**OLD BUSINESS**

1. School Canyon Failure of CCC Structures- Bid Request from BLR (Bob Proctor)

No updates

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

Discuss Phase 2 Scope – collect comments

Comments have been sent. 3 alternatives were presented. Bill comments that there need to be multiple alternatives.

Ron- Funding is an issue. A regional grant was to help fund it. A resolution was constructed and money sent to the county. The amount-$40,000 is to assist the Town of Patagonia. The county has not accepted the resolution yet.

Ron & Bill will add ideas from the FS discussion for their monthly report to the county.

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

Sub-watershed report.

Northeast part of town and East of town Red Rock Canyon a consistent water level drop.

West side of town water levels where slowly rising up until April than a drop due likely to trees transpiration pulling water out of the ground.

North and South of town water levels have been consistent.

S.E. area of town water level data would help us understand water level changes in and around the town. Harshaw creek has risen been consistent due to discharge.

Southeast area of town where Harshaw creek enters into Sonoita Creek near town are data gaps.

Wells presented in the DEIS, well-MW 6, well- MW 2216, Tree of life wells water data would help us understand water levels in and around the town.

In the fall monitoring will be quarterly and also seek new wells to monitor.

F & F committee make a request water quality and water level data from the mine wells.

Tomas-MW 9 is reported to the town from South 32 annually.

MW 216 at the edge of town would be good to have water level data from S32.



Update with map (see attached)

1. Watershed Water Balance Studies – Bill O’Brien

**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)

S32 report: Outfall 2 in to Harshaw Creek- April 2025

1.4469 mil gal/day, 1.8260 mil gal/day Alum Gulch – 0 m.g.d May not available

Town report on static water levels: May 2025:

metered water 4,479,600 gallons. Water usage 144,503 gal. / day. The high usage was due to irrigation to keep the park green for the Fire Dept Steak Fry & 4th of July Parade. Town wells dropped 9 inches in two weeks.

Sewage treated May 1-31, 2025-1,1,234,536 mil gal/mo. Daily Average 36,243 gal./day

S32 permits- 6.5 million gallons/day.

Ron asks when will S32 be ramping up to 3 million gallons /day?

Tomas responds- A steep ramp up in the next few years in the early development phase.

Afterwards then drop to 2,800 gal/minute.

*At 2,800 gal/minute the total would be 2,016,000 gal/day or 60,480,000 gal/mo., or 725,760,000 gal/yr.*

1. Town Drought Preparation Plan – Ashley Hullinger

Community members, stakeholders and Non-Profit organizations contributed ideas through a series of meetings/workshops. Data was also provided for recommendations and decision making.

(See attached) *No report was sent that can be copied and pasted into these minutes for access by all members of F&F.*

1. Rainfall/Runoff monitoring stations – Friends of Sonoita Creek

No information at this time

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

The grant is awarded but was on hold. Meetings were held by the finance people. Early stages of negotiation of contracts to meet the requirements of the grant program. Start date of late summer or early fall 2025. Howard needs watershed monitoring groups that collect water data to prepare a clear statement of goals about these projects and send to Howard for grant purposes.

1. Harshaw Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan USFS (Howard Buchanan)

No update. Meeting with Forest Service in late summer.

1. Municipal (Town) Watershed Management Plan (Howard Buchanan)

No update. CWMP report will be an important document to inform the plan.

1. Next Regular Monthly Meeting: Sept. 18, 2025, at 10 a.m. Via Zoom. **Note July/August vacation**

17. Future Agenda Items – Well: S32 MW 2216 town official email to request information on water l level data.

18. Adjourn- Ron motions to adjourn Howard seconds 11:18 a.m.

PARKING LOT (future agenda items)

Community Database of Water Studies

USFS Watershed Restoration Plan

RADAR SCREEN - Hudbay property ownership