



CF/3-0-25 ZONE 3A ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ID 483)

**ZONE 3A ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 10, 2013**

Attendees:

Nicki Artieres (NA) – Member	Mark Newhouser (MN) - SEC
Chris Pegg (CP)- Member (City)	Philip Busalacci (PB)- public
Kent Gylfe (KG)- SCWA	Rich Kiser (RK) - public
Susan Haydon (SH)- SCWA	Bill Montini (BM)- public
David Royall (DR)- SCWA	Mary Schrader (MS)- public
Valerie Minton (VM)- SRCD	Russell Schrader (RS) – public
Caitlin Cornwall (CC)- SEC	Kendall Fields (KF) – Sonoma I-T

1. Opening/Introductions:

Meeting facilitated by Kent Gylfe. All participants were self introduced. KG acknowledged lack of quorum of Advisory Committee members in attendance, with absences of new appointee John Meserve and additional City of Sonoma member. Meeting will proceed but no formal advisory voting will occur on the budget.

2. Public Comment:

A. Bill Montini asked for clarification on the flood control zone boundary and area serviced by Flood Control Zone 3A in watershed.

B. Mary Schrader expressed her concern for lack of water. They live in lower Lovall Valley and have very shallow wells, will have to truck water in.

C. Phil Busalacchi expressed concern about flooding and requests regularity of stream maintenance on Nathanson Creek, where he lives on Pina, near Lark Street, east of Train Town. He notes that the same year that SCWA performs maintenance directly correlate with the years of avoided or minimal flooding. He is concerned about flooding at high school, taxpayer supported. He also notes that the culvert is closed up and there is considerable siltation. He understands that the City will maintain the park area and that the summer youth crews have conducted brush removal which is needed annually. When crews maintain and keep bypass on the list each year, flooding is reduced and mostly avoided. David Royall and Kent Gylfe explained the Agency's responsibilities and activities in the vicinity, noting that the Agency regularly maintains the bypass however, federal and state regulations restrict work. SCWA performs work under permits following approved stream maintenance guidelines.

Mark Newhouser notes that vegetation was cleared this season on Nathanson Creek. Chris Pegg clarifies that cleaning out the culvert is on the City's list for maintenance duties.

3. Stream Maintenance Program:

- A. DR gave a presentation on SCWA's Stream Maintenance Program highlighting: a) program goals, b) guidelines, c) main activities of sediment removal, vegetation maintenance, and developing tree canopy for habitat and water quality improvement, d) Agency easements and responsibilities, and e) partnerships and Summer Youth Ecology Program.
- B. DR addressed questions on the quantity of water use of riparian trees and explained that the water uptake of trees is insignificant with regards to riparian water levels and water supply regime. DR explained where Agency recycles the sediment that is removed from streams: local dairies, nurseries, and sites in Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, and west County. No disposal sites are located in Sonoma Valley.
- C. DR further explained and described locations of SCWA owned land and Agency flood control easements. At this time there are no permits to allow work in natural channels however the Agency is currently pursuing such permits to allow vegetation maintenance in natural channels in addition to stream reaches with easements.
- D. DR notes that maintenance work was recently completed on Fryer Creek from West MacArthur Street south to Leveroni Road and along some portions of Agency easement.

4. Current Projects:

- A. Susan Haydon gave a report on *City Watersheds Project*, a recently funded project with State Prop 1E grant funds administered by Department of Water Resources which represents the first phase of a project featuring the two main watersheds in City of Sonoma: Fryer Creek and Nathanson Creek. The current first phase project involves multiple partners including: Sonoma County Water Agency, City of Sonoma, Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation & Open Space District, and Sonoma Ecology Center. The project consists of several elements providing multi-benefits: alleviate flooding, improve storm drainage, enhance habitat, recharge groundwater, and improve public access with new trails and interpretive signage at Montini Preserve. The project features a groundwater recharge and stormwater management element proposed at the Montini Open Space Preserve, where enhancement of the historic wetland will help to recharge groundwater and reduce flooding during peak storms. KG noted that project implementation meets the goals and objectives of the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Plan and the Sonoma Valley Stormwater Management-Groundwater Recharge Scoping Study. SH reported that site investigations (water level monitoring, soil sampling and infiltration testing) are planned for that month. Invitations and notice was made to attend an upcoming public meeting, hosted by the project proponents, on 1/29/14 to discuss the project with the community.

B. CC gave report on Sonoma Ecology Center (SEC) projects:

- 1) *Historical Hydrology Mapping* project, SEC intends to develop improved map portraying historical water sources. A funding agreement with the Water Agency is currently being developed.
- 2) *Runoff Source Reduction & Watershed Strategy*: project has commenced. SEC will be identifying areas where excess runoff can cause erosion and will identify a suite of BMPs for subwatersheds (mapping land cover and micro watershed scale). Source reduction will be looked at in the upper watershed to identify which subwatersheds may be contributing disproportionately to runoff. The watershed strategy memo will establish a vision statement for the watershed and develop a watershed-wide coordination strategy.
- 3) MN notes that SEC is continuing to perform vegetation management and maintenance work under the *Debris Management* agreement.
- 4) *Sonoma Garden Park Low Impact Development* project: MN reported that work has commenced to design stormwater capture elements at Sonoma Garden Park, a 6 acre parcel owned by the City of Sonoma. The installation of elements will help residents view and understand how to implement rainwater harvesting techniques. Construction will begin in 2 years.

C. Sonoma Resource Conservation District project:

- 1) SH noted that a Coordinated Services Agreement is being developed for SRCD to provide assistance to Agency on: a) outreach and siting assistance for the upcoming Stormwater Management-Groundwater Recharge Feasibility Study, b) identification and preliminary design of rainwater harvesting projects, and c) assistance to landowners in implementing the TMDL (managing sediment, nutrients, and pathogens for water quality). Valerie Minton, SRCD, will serve as primary contact for Zone 3A work under this agreement.

5. **FY 2014/15 Budget:**

- A. KG distributed the proposed budget for fiscal year 14-15 and provided overview of budget, describing various line item appropriations for Zone 3A operational services and projects.
- B. KG noted that nearly half of this year's budgeted expenditures are for operation services (stream maintenance and related). The anticipated revenue of \$1.2M is higher than usual due to the anticipation of the Prop 1E grant funds for the City Watersheds project. Nicki Artieres noted a shift in budget categories and queried why maintenance and equipment is increased. KG notes that FY 12/13 budget 'actual' figure is \$48,774, so the proposed FY 14/15 appropriation for \$50,000 was projected from that figure.

- C. KG distributed copies of three project objective reports submitted by SEC for funding consideration, including: Fryer Creek Habitat Enhancement and Vegetation Maintenance, Nathanson Creek watershed site assessment and landowner outreach for flood management projects, and Sonoma Creek Watershed community based flood reduction model demonstration. SEC staff presented information described in the project objective reports for each proposal.
- D. KG indicated that the Fryer Creek proposal by SEC could become a part of the Phase 1 City Watersheds project if the Water Agency determines it necessary for the project and the Water Agency's stream maintenance group concurs with the need for the work, but otherwise the Water Agency may instead prefer to focus available funding on the Phase 2 project in the Nathanson Creek watershed.
- E. KG clarified that the appropriations for the additional funding requests would also need to include the Water Agency's costs for developing and administering the funding agreements.
- F. KG indicated that due to a lack of a quorum of committee members there will be no vote on a recommended budget, but any comments or objections on the budget as proposed, including the three additional SEC funding requests, are welcome. No objections.
- G. Discussion ensued in regards to wells and the availability of water.

6. **Reports/Comments:** None

7. **Public Comment:**

- A. Bill Montini recommended that recharge opportunities should also consider groundwater that has been diverted into the storm drain system, such as the Fifth Street East storm drain, and recommended that the diverted water be put into the drainage ditches. Mr. Montini also recommended that maintenance of Nathanson Creek should start at the south end and proceed to the north, because the south end is choked.

8. **Next Meeting:** To be announced.