



**REGULAR MEETING**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

**Wednesday, June 12, 2024**

*The Board of Directors conducted this meeting in accordance with  
California Government Code section 54953.*

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MIDPENINSULA  
REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT**

President MacNiven called the regular meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 7:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Craig Gleason, Karen Holman, Zoe Kersteen-Tucker, Margaret MacNiven, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: Yoriko Kishimoto

Staff Present: Acting General Manager Brian Malone, General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Controller Michael Foster, Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan, Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Maria Soria, and Executive Assistant/Deputy District Clerk Shaylynn Nelson, and Controller Michael L. Foster

President MacNiven announced that the public has the opportunity to comment on the agenda, and the opportunity to listen to this meeting through the internet or via telephone. This information can be found on the meeting agenda, which was physically posted at the District's Administrative Office, and on the District website.

**REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION**

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson reported that the Board met in closed session on May 29, 2024 and authorized the General Counsel to defend the District in Steven Casaccia et al v. Guido Schwager, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, et al, Santa Clara County Superior Court Case Number 23CV423443.

**ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Public comment opened at 7:01 p.m.

District Clerk Maria Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 7:01 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Motion Passed Unanimously – Director Kishimoto Absent)**

**SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**Introduction of Staff**

- Vennessa Arellanes, Administrative Assistant
- Erica Strohmeier, Planner III
- Mark Brandi, Senior Capital Project Manager

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Public comment opened at 7:11 p.m.

Ms. Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 7:11 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Kersteen-Tucker moved, and Director Gleason seconded the motion to approve the Consent Calendar.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Motion Passed Unanimously – Director Kishimoto Absent)**

1. **Approve the May 14, 2024 and May 22, 2024 Board meeting minutes**
2. **Approve Claims Report**
3. **Call District Elections in Wards 3, 4, and 7 and Request Election Consolidation Services from Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties for the General Election held on November 5, 2024 (R-24-70)**  
General Manager’s Recommendation:
  1. Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District calling an election and requesting election consolidation services – Santa Clara County, Wards 3 and 4.
  2. Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District calling an election and requesting election consolidation services – San Mateo County, Ward 7.

3. Reconfirm Board Policy 1.07 (Board Elections) regarding a maximum of 200 words per candidate statement, payment of candidate statements and, if required by the respective county, translations of candidate statements pursuant to the Elections Code of the State of California, in those wards where two or more candidates have qualified to appear on the ballot.
  4. Adopt a Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District authorizing not listing any unopposed candidate for election on the November 5, 2024 ballots of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties.
4. **Cooley Landing Land Use Covenant (R-24-71)**  
Controller's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to record a land use covenant restricting use of the Cooley Landing area of Ravenswood Open Space Preserve.
  5. **Establish the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Tax Levy for the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Measure AA General Obligation Bonds - Series 2015A, Series 2018 and Series 2024 (R-24-72)**  
General Manager's Recommendation: Adopt three Resolutions of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District, one each for San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties, to establish an ad valorem property tax levy of \$1.30 per \$100,000 in assessed value (or \$0.0013 per \$100) for the Measure AA General Obligation Bonds – Series 2015A, Series 2018 and Series 2024. The District Controller has reviewed the calculation and concurs with the proposed rate of levy for FY25.
  6. **Authorization to Contribute a \$1.6 Million Payment from Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget Savings to the Section 115 Trust Administered by Public Agency Retirement Services (PARS) (R-24-73)**  
General Manager's Recommendations: Authorize the General Manager to deposit \$1.6 Million into the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's PARS account established under a Section 115 Trust to pre-fund pension obligations.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

7. **Adoption of Final Resolution to Approve an Amendment to the Contract Between the California Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to provide Section 21151, Industrial Disability Retirement for Local Miscellaneous Members (R-24-74)**

Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak provided the staff presentation for the California Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) contract amendment to provide section 21151, industrial disability retirement for local miscellaneous members. He stated that on October 11, 2023, the Board of Directors (Board) approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Midpeninsula Rangers Peace Officers Association that included Industrial Disability Retirement (IDR) as an added benefit for the represented Rangers starting in FY24-25. PERS law requires all employees in the PERS Miscellaneous member category to receive this benefit. PERS further requires a two-step process to add the IDR benefit which includes 1) Board adoption of the Resolution of Intention to add the IDR benefit which was completed on May 22, 2024, and 2) Board adoption of the Final Resolution. Mr. Jaskulak explained the IDR is for mental or physical incapacity resulting from

the performance of job duties. He reviewed the fiscal impact and the PERS actuarial analysis summary in relation to both the classic and PEPRA plans.

Public comment opened at 7:17 p.m.

Ms. Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 7:17 p.m.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to adopt the final Resolution to Amend the California Public Employees' Retirement System contract to provide Section 21151, Industrial Disability Retirement for Local Miscellaneous Members.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Motion Passed Unanimously – Director Kishimoto Absent)**

**8. Public Hearing on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget and Three-Year Capital Improvement and Action Plan (R-24-76)**

Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services Stefan Jaskulak provided the staff presentation detailing the budget timeline and process. He recapped the development of the budget and highlighted the two Board retreats held on December 5, 2023, and March 6, 2024. During these retreats, the Board updated and adopted the FY25 Strategic Plan and reviewed and discussed the proposed FY25 budget, major FY25 Capital Improvement Action Plan (CIAP) projects, projected CIAP expenses, FY25 CIAP big rocks, and the FOSM implementation schedule for staffing and non-staffing recommendations. Mr. Jaskulak also debriefed the Board on the Action Plan and Budget Committee (ABC) meetings that were held on May 7 and 21, 2024. Mr. Jaskulak stated that the FY25 revenues are estimated at \$93.4 million, reflecting an 11% increase from the prior FY24 adopted budget. Most of the District's revenue, \$77.7 million, will come from property tax receipts. This revenue source remains on its historical upward slope, with a combined 8% increase of \$5.8 million from the FY24 budget, reflecting a projected increase in assessed valuation of just under 5% for the General Fund of \$4.6 million. Other funding sources primarily consist of internal fund transfers, as well as Measure AA bond funding for qualified capital projects. Other funding sources are estimated at negative \$3.8 million, primarily because of the proposed transfer of approximately \$5.1 million to the Committed for Infrastructure Reserve to help fund large near-term infrastructure projects, leading to a total revenues estimate of \$89.6 million.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired if the Bear Creek Stables (BCS) ad hoc committee expenses are reflected in the budget.

Mr. Jaskulak mentioned that many of the expenses related to the BCS ad hoc committee are soft costs, primarily comprising staff salaries included in the overall budget. While staff salaries are accounted for in the budget, they are not specifically itemized for the BCS ad hoc committee.

Mr. Jaskulak continued the presentation by reviewing the revenues trend, grant revenue, and Districtwide expenditures which is estimated to be \$89.5 million. He expanded on expenditures by fund, category, trend, and the Measure AA expenditures trend by program. He reviewed the debt services projections and reported that the general fund was stable at \$8.9 million for FY25 and \$9 million for FY26, and reviewed the Measure AA debt service schedule. Mr. Jaskulak

reviewed the long-range financial plan which is based on the Controller's revenue projections. It includes the future year capital expenditures, assuming 7 new full time equivalent (FTEs) in FY26 and 4 new FTEs per year at various ranges, and found that projected revenues are sufficient to cover the project expenditures. He highlighted the personnel updates which are estimated at \$37.9 million, and reported that for FY25 staff is requesting 9 FTEs, 2 limited term FTEs, and 1 additional intern.

Mr. Jaskulak explained changes made to the CIAP since the March 6, 2024 Board retreat, such as the addition of the Science Symposium, deferring the Science Advisory Panel to accommodate the Science Symposium, advancing the Fremont Older Residence Roof Replacement start date, delaying the Replace Roof on Coal Creek Barn start date to free up staff resources for Fremont Older residence, and lastly shifting the Rancho San Antonio Multimodal Access Implementation project budget from FY25 to FY26 to ensure MAA-eligible TDM strategies are included.

Mr. Jaskulak reviewed the four FY25 CIAP program areas that also correspond to the four strategic goals which are Land Acquisition (11 projects, budget of \$0.6 million), Natural Resources (39 projects, budget of \$9.8 million), Public Access (39 projects, budget of \$7.4 million), and Assets and Organizations (30 projects, budget of \$8.1 million). He then broke down CIAP areas of interest by agriculture, diversity, and fire resilience. Mr. Jaskulak reported that the FY25 Big Rocks projects were provided to the Board at the March 6, 2024 Board retreat. Since then, the list was streamlined reducing the resource allocation down to 31%. The intention of the Big Rocks is to ensure that they move forward, even if issues arise. He reviewed the list of 20 projects and stated that when the Board took action to establish the Bear Creek Stables (BCS) ad hoc committee, staff reviewed the list and identified the Big Rocks that may be impacted as many staff members who may support the BCS ad hoc committee are leads for the Big Rocks identified in red. He stated that eight projects may be slowed down as far as deliverable for FY25 to accommodate the BCS ad hoc committee: Wildland Fire Capacity, Purisima-to-the-Sea Parking, Purisima-to-the-Sea Trail, HWY 35 Multi-use Trail Crossing/Parking, Bear Creek Stables Project, La Honda Creek Parking/Trailhead Access Phase I, Agricultural fencing projects, and Lone Madrone Corrals.

Mr. Malone emphasized that the purpose of the Big Rocks is to make a commitment to the Board to keep those projects progressing, and does not mean that the eight identified projects will be deferred. Staff will continue working on them, however, the impact of the BCS ad hoc committee's efforts is not fully understood, making it difficult to perform the detailed resource loading typically done annually to develop the action plan. Staff did analyze potential impacts enough to recognize that some projects had to be reduced or removed from the Big Rocks list due to resource constraints. Consequently, given the involvement of managers, key senior staff, and executive staff, it is likely that some projects may be delayed. He clarified the projects identified are not proposed to be cut altogether but rather removed from the high priority list.

Director Kersteen-Tucker expressed her concern that six of the eight projects identified to be delayed are coastside related projects in service to the BCS ad hoc committee. She asked when it would be an appropriate time to discuss the BCS ad hoc committee since it is not on the agenda. She noted that she attended the meeting and the scope of the committee has far surpassed her expectations. She stated initially the ad hoc committee had four months to come back to the full Board with options and it has now extended to six months with ten public meetings. She commented that she was unaware of the long-term planning impacts when the motion was

passed. She emphasized her concern over the lack of Board oversight, the absence for an opportunity for the full Board to weigh in, no representatives from other wards, and that the ad hoc does not resemble a Public Access Working Group (PAWG). She requested a better understanding of how the Board can consider the action taken and determine if this was truly what the Board intended.

Director Riffle raised a point of order and suggested to Director Kersteen-Tucker to focus on the budget portion of her question and then if there was more to discuss to bring the item up as a potential future discussion.

Director Kersteen-Tucker stated it is difficult to consider the budget separately when seeing the Big Rocks that may be impacted as a result of the BCS ad hoc committee.

Director Riffle noted that at this juncture no one knows what the end result of the BCS ad hoc committee will be and suggested having a larger discussion in November when the committee brings the full recommendations to the full Board.

Director Kersteen-Tucker explained she has concerns with two separate issues: what might be presented to the full Board in November and the extraordinary amount of staff effort required to support the ad hoc committee in the next 6 months. The allocation of staff time is not reflected yet aside from the identified impacted Big Rocks.

Mr. Malone advised that the deliberation should be focused on the budget and CIAP. The Board can suggest changes to the big rocks which may impact staff's capacity for assisting the BCS ad hoc committee. He explained the Directors on the BCS ad hoc committee will be organizing their own working group meetings, with the larger public meetings supported by staff. Directors can request staff to attend, present, or provide information at working group meetings. Additionally, staff has deferred work on Bear Creek Stables repair project and operational repairs with paddock replacement, which was mentioned at the May 14 Board meeting.

Director Kersteen-Tucker expressed that if staff has already decided which Big Rocks projects will be impacted by the BCS ad hoc committee, she does not want to give conflicting direction since that would be a hardship on staff. However, she would like the Board members who are not part of the ad hoc to recognize the magnitude of what is being proposed in the BCS ad hoc committee.

President MacNiven commented that she understood the magnitude and has been thinking about it from the very beginning. She acknowledged the significant amount of effort that staff has put into the Hawthorns PAWG. She inquired how many other projects which were not considered Big Rocks will be further delayed to accommodate the BCS ad hoc committee.

Mr. Malone emphasized that the projects in red being removed from the Big Rocks list are now among the other projects that were not considered for that priority list. Staff is dedicated to progressing all projects on the action plan. However, due to the significant staff effort required, there will likely be impacts on the rest of the action plan and that is why staff is not comfortable committing to as many projects on the Big Rocks list. Nonetheless, the projects in red on the Big Rocks list are still considered a slightly higher priority than the other non-Big Rocks projects in the action plan.

President MacNiven said that the agricultural fencing projects and the Lone Madrone corrals are higher priorities to her. She also emphasized the importance of the La Honda Creek parking and trailhead project and the Purisima highway crossing as these projects should remain high priorities. She asked if these projects can remain Big Rocks in place of other projects.

Mr. Malone explained that only the projects identified in blue on the Big Rocks list would remain a priority and emphasized that those projects are not being cut entirely but rather are being removed from the high priority list.

Director Kersteen-Tucker expressed that considerable staff time and Board energy went into establishing the Big Rocks list, and now all that effort is being discarded due to what she considers to be an impulsive decision by the Board to create the BCS ad hoc committee. She finds the situation upsetting and feels Bear Creek Stables is becoming uncontrollable. Originally, the ad hoc committee's duration was to be 4 months, but it has now been extended to 6 months, and she has no confidence it will be wrapped up by then, especially with the introduction of the focused working groups. She stressed that altering what staff has proposed for impacted projects on the Big Rocks list would be even harder on staff, and prefers not to make further changes.

Mr. Malone stated that staff will proceed with the Board's direction regarding the formation of the BCS ad hoc committee and the approved elements. He clarified that a different decision cannot be made tonight since the item was not agendaized for discussion, but did want to bring to the Board's attention the impacts as a result of the committee.

General Counsel Hilary Stevenson stated the Board has the right to oversee how projects are progressing as the fiscal year goes on. One option she proposed is to request the chair of the BCS ad hoc committee to provide an update to the full Board. This would offer a clearer understanding of the progress and whether it remains on schedule. Alternatively, another option is to have more regular check-ins with the general manager on whether the ad hoc committee is progressing on schedule and if it is impacting any other projects.

Director Gleason stated he can speak with Assistant General Manager Susanna Chan to see if there are any potential impacts from the outlined plan and have a discussion on how to try to minimize those impacts. He noted that General Counsel's suggestion is also appropriate.

Director Cyr shared the District's experience with La Honda Creek PAWG started similarly to the BCS ad hoc committee aiming for inclusivity of the public. He noted the significant staff time it consumed over the course of three years and it led to creative options. He expressed concern that the Board may have hastily initiated the BCS ad hoc committee, and that all the effort that went into developing program for the next three years has been modified considerably. While respecting the committee efforts, he sought a realistic outlook on the ad hoc committee's direction. He stated there is already extensive efforts already invested in Bear Creek Stables and that there are multitudes of other projects. He expressed nervousness about what he perceived as a rushed decision by the Board hoping to avoid becoming overwhelmed.

Director Holman expressed from her perspective the public felt they were not engaged enough in the proposal, and that the La Honda Creek project had a better outcome after engaging with the public.

Director Kersteen-Tucker commented that the La Honda Creek was a PAWG which is different than the BCS ad hoc committee.

Director Holman commented that the PAWG took 3 years to develop, while the BCS ad hoc committee's plan is a 4-month public process with 6-months to return to the full Board. She noted that the PAWG was staff driven, whereas the ad hoc committee is intended to be Board member driven and managed to lessen the burden on staff, with staff still providing resources and information.

Director Holman asked if other members of staff who are not supporting the ad hoc committee could move forward with writing the Request for Proposals for the agricultural fencing projects and the Lone Madrone corrals so that the projects would not need to be removed from the Big Rocks list.

Mr. Malone stated projects can be shifted to some degree. He mentioned the senior property manager involved in the agricultural fencing and Lone Madrone corrals projects is also supporting the BCS ad hoc committee, which is why senior staff and executive team members thought it would be prudent to remove those projects from the Big Rocks list.

Director Kersteen-Tucker expressed concern for staff when projects are being reprioritized. She stated appreciation knowing that staff will put in more effort and work harder, but she does not want to see that happen. She stated her concern is the change to a well-thought-out, resource loaded plan which now has changed, and staff has to figure it out once again.

Mr. Malone stated that the workload of the staff is a concern and does not want them to burnout, which is why staff is proposing to remove some of the projects off of the Big Rocks list in order to avoid overcommitting them.

Director Kersteen-Tucker commented that the District will be adding 14 new staff members this year. She is concerned about staff's ability to train new staff, and bring them into a culture that feels positive about where the District is headed versus existing staff being overwhelmed and demoralized by the Bear Creek Stables project. Additionally, she heard the comment that the public has not had an opportunity to weigh in, but the public has had ample opportunity to comment over the years. She expressed concern about the ripple effects into the organization that have not yet been discussed. She hopes that the Board has an opportunity to fully understand and decide whether the BCS ad hoc committee is actually within the scope of what the Board had envisioned.

President MacNiven stated her appreciation of Director Kersteen-Tucker's comments and voiced her concerns for the effects on staff.

Mr. Jaskulak continued the presentation and reviewed the four program areas by fund and budget which include the Land Acquisition & Preservation, Natural Resources Protection & Restoration, Public Access, Education, & Outreach, and Assets & Organizational Support.

Controller Michael Foster presented Agenda Item 9 - Controller's Report on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget.



Mr. Jaskulak continued the presentation on Agenda Item 8 and reviewed the closing remarks and next steps.

Director Riffle stated on page 40 of the Budget book for the tax levy discussion where it states that the amount is \$10,000 per assessed value and asked whether it should be \$100 of assessed value.

Mr. Jaskulak confirmed and will make that change in the document.

Public hearing opened at 8:58 p.m.

Ms. Soria reported there were no public speakers for the public hearing item.

Public hearing closed at 8:58 p.m.

Director Riffle as Chair of the ABC committee thanked fellow committee members Directors Holman and Gleason, Budget staff, Controller, and all the staff involved for their excellent work which started six months ago and culminates in June with a robust effort and document. Additionally, he reported that the committee agreed unanimously and felt that the committee had a great discussion on MAA and the Big Rocks list. He added that he appreciated looking at the budget through multiple perspectives and in a form of check and balances which yields what he believes to be a very great budget and working document.

Director Gleason commented that when he initially reviewed the FY27 plan, he saw that there are many great projects listed. He stated during the ABC meeting, he asked if it was realistic to plan so many projects during FY27 and Mr. Malone provided a good response, a synopsis of which can be found in the May 21, 2024 ABC minutes. Director Gleason believes it is an ambitious plan but there are many great projects.

Director Kersteen-Tucker commented that the budget is an extraordinary document and stated that she does not want any of her comments earlier to be construed as criticism of staff as she is more concerned with the Board. She stated staff has done a great job of taking care of the organization's assets and keeping the Board thoughtful in planning and looking ahead.

**Motion:** Director Cyr moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to direct the General Manager to bring the proposed FY25 Budget and Action Plan back for adoption at the June 26, 2024 regular meeting of the Board of Directors.

**ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0-0 (Motion Passed Unanimously – Director Kishimoto Absent)**

**9. Controller's Report on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget (R-24-75)**

Controller Michael Foster presented on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-25 (FY24-25). He reviewed the FY23-24 Finance Review and stated the general fund revenue is expected to be 1% higher than the Controller's forecast as that the District received an unexpected bequest of \$774,000 and approximately \$100,000 in other donations. The current forecast reflects a general fund increase of approximately \$18 million. He noted the ending general fund cash amount of approximately \$94 million assumed reimbursements from bond proceeds which will not be received until July when the bond closes.

Mr. Foster presented on the FY24-25 Cash Projection reviewing tax revenue, various incomes, operating expenses, non-Measure AA capital spending, and debt services. He stated grants are expected to cover approximately 85% of Measure AA spending, excluding land acquisitions. Mr. Foster concluded the presentation with the 30-year cash flow projections.

Director Riffle inquired if the Measure AA capital expenditure increase between FY26-27 and FY27-28 was due to land acquisitions.

Mr. Foster explained the biggest risk to the general fund is the funding for Highway 17 projects which has \$27 million for two different crossings in the FY27 capital plan. The assumption in the projection is that half will be funded elsewhere and the rest will be funded by MAA but that has yet to be determined. He explained that new projects arise which may come out of the general fund so it cannot always be predicted.

Director Riffle inquired about the agricultural easement.

Mr. Malone said there have been discussions with partner agencies about the District contributing to agricultural easement purchases to fulfill the mission and the Agricultural Policy to preserve row crop lands and upland grazing. It is expected some agricultural easements will come forward in the next fiscal year.

Public comment opened at 8:51 p.m.

Ms. Soria reported there were no public speakers for this item.

Public comment closed at 8:51 p.m.

No Board action required.

## **INFORMATIONAL REPORTS**

### A. Committee Reports

Director Gleason reported on the June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Bear Creek Stables ad hoc committee meetings. He explained at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the committee members and staff discussed the format for the committee and to prepare for the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with the public. He acknowledged the comments made by Directors on the BCS ad hoc committee. He stated he would work with Ms. Chan to understand the impact on staff and provide Board updates if appropriate. He stated the June 11<sup>th</sup> meeting was successful and there were signups for the working groups. Each working group will be led by a Director from the BCS ad hoc committee and individual working group meetings will begin the week of June 18 and the BCS ad hoc committee #3 will meet in early August.

Director Kersteen-Tucker inquired if staff is expected to attend or facilitate focused working group meetings.

Director Gleason stated there may be staff attendance depending on the content of the individual meetings.

Director Kersteen-Tucker expressed interest in the number of staff involved and staff hours accrued in the facilitation the BCS ad hoc committee.

Mr. Malone confirmed staff is recording hours worked and 14 staff members so far have assisted with the BCS ad hoc committee.

Director Riffle stated the Board Appointee Evaluation (BAE) committee held the kick-off meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. The BAE committee will use a process similar to prior years but will implement additional feedback which will consist of select staff members and outside partners providing suggestions to improve the evaluation process.

#### B. Staff Reports

Mr. Malone shared he led the Progress Pride flag raising ceremony for Pride month. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Specialist Katie Gilmur invited speakers from Peninsula Open Space Trust and Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to present at the June 12<sup>th</sup> All Staff meeting. The speakers provided great ideas for bringing LGBTQ+ groups into nature.

Mr. Jaskulak reported the District received AAA ratings on the bonds from both Fitch and Standard & Poor's. On June 13, staff will meet with the underwriter and the writer's counsel for due diligence to review the questions they have. Staff also gave the District's bond counsel a lengthy list of answers to their due diligence questions. The District is on track to sell the week of June 24<sup>th</sup> and close in early July. He clarified that his recommendation for the Board to not buy the District's bonds was to avoid opening themselves up to a potential insider trading lawsuit.

#### C. Director Reports

Director Gleason attended the Santa Clara Special Districts Association meeting and he gave an update on the Highway 17 overcrossing and the fire season preparation. On June 7<sup>th</sup>, he participated in a tour and presentation from Santa Clara FireSafe Council on the Los Gatos Creek Watershed Collaborative. The tour involved 2 forest areas where fire resiliency work had occurred.

Director Kersteen-Tucker shared she and President MacNiven met with Doniga Markegard on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Markegard offered advice on how the request for proposal (RFP) process could be improved. Director Kersteen-Tucker and Conservation Grazing Program Manager Matthew Shapero met with Erin Tormey, the founder of the Coastside Farmers Market in Half Moon Bay. Ms. Tormey was instrumental in bringing several Hispanic groups to the table with proposals but the groups stopped when they realized the complexity of the RFP process. Director Kersteen-Tucker requested clarification from General Counsel on options to address the BCS ad hoc committee.

Ms. Stevenson suggested requesting the general manager to agendize a more complete update to be delivered by the BCS ad hoc committee chair.

Mr. Malone suggested a check-in at the midpoint of the BCS ad hoc committee's term.

Director Kersteen-Tucker expressed concern that the schedule will slip beyond 6 months. She would also like to understand staff responsibilities and load.

Mr. Malone stated at the halfway point, staff will have data on responsibilities they have assumed and be able to form a projection for the future.

Director Kersteen-Tucker invited other Board members not on the committee to share their requests for information to be included in the update.

Director Cyr noted a lot is occurring in 3 months and he hoped the committee will be able to get their feet on the ground and fill in the rest of the Board with their success.

Director Kersteen-Tucker also asked for information on projects being impacted due to staff support of the BCS ad hoc committee, particularly the wildland fire resiliency as fire season is approaching.

Mr. Malone said an update halfway through the process, around the end of August, would be appropriate. He explained staff would not have a good report on progress for FY25 as it would only be 2 months into the new year but there could be a report on further impacts to the action plan.

Director Riffle reported he attended the May 29<sup>th</sup> ranger badging ceremony for Ranger Curtis. He was impressed with the training the rangers go through.

Mr. Malone said it is great to have a few Board members attend the ceremony. He shared that next January new rangers can attend a local academy which was started by Santa Clara County Parks rather than going to Colorado and they will not have to be trained to use firearms which they never use.

Director Riffle stated Matt Freeman retired from the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority. Mr. Freeman previously worked for the District as the planning manager and has made a huge impact in the field of land conservation.

Director Cyr also attended the badging ceremony and the training background required is staggering. He was able to watch the *OpenRoad* episode on television on Sunday and the episode would re-air. The show celebrated the Measure AA 10 year anniversary.

Mr. Malone stated the *OpenRoad* episode is also available online at NBC Bay Area.

Director Holman attended a tour of the Newark Baylands given by the Trust for Public Land because they are hoping to buy hundreds of acres in the Baylands, which would otherwise become a housing development. She said the tour was highly educational regarding Baylands, habitats, and the vegetation present. She shared there were proliferate white snails everywhere in one area which she had never seen before. She explained anyone is welcome to attend the tour and offered to pass along the name of interested parties to the Bay Restoration Authority Board.

President MacNiven reported she attended the wildland resiliency meeting, the meeting with Doniga Markegard, and the badging ceremony. She also presented to the Atherton Town Council with Governmental Affairs Specialist Joshua Hugg.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President MacNiven adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Shaylynn Nelson, Deputy District Clerk  
Maria Soria, MMC, District Clerk