



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

Board Meeting 15-10

SPECIAL AND REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MIDPENINSULA REGIONAL OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

SPECIAL MEETING – STUDY SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

President Siemens called the special meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors to order at 5:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Cecily Harris, Larry Hassett, Yoriko Kishimoto, Curt Riffle, and Pete Siemens

Members Absent: Nonette Hanko

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, Assistant General Manager Kevin Woodhouse, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Operations Manager Michael Newburn, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Public Affairs Manager, Shelly Lewis, Natural Resources Kirk Lenington, Real Property Manager Mike Williams, Clayton Koopmann Resource Management Specialist I, and Interim District Clerk Kim Marie Smith

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. Conservation Grazing Program Overview 2015

Clayton Koopmann Resource Management Specialist I, provided the Board of Directors an informational presentation summarizing the District's Conservation Grazing Program proving the Board an update, status, and program issues anticipated for FY2015-16.

Mr. Koopmann stated that the District has a commitment through its mission to protect the diversity and integrity of natural resources for their value to the environment and people.

Mr. Koopmann reviewed the grazing policy and discussed in detail the preserves grazed, the type of infrastructure improvements needed on certain properties, the type of animal grazing on the property, water supply and which preserves proposed for grazing in the future.

Director Harris inquired regarding the District's total acreage in San Mateo County and the percentage grazed.

Mr. Koopmann explained the District currently owns and manages approximately 36% of grassland in San Mateo County, and the land the District owns and manages is largely grazed except for Russian Ridge, Windy Hill, and parts of Skyline.

Mr. Koopmann then discussed the ongoing drought and its impact on the Conservation Grazing Program. In order to alleviate some of the issues caused by the drought and minimize the impacts to the natural resources, most of the tenants have been stocking the properties extremely light, anywhere from 30 to 50% of normal. The tenants have also changed their grazing pattern and are grazing seasonally due to a lack of water.

Director Riffle stated that the District should have a plan to help assist the grazing tenants due to the drought.

Kirk Lenington, Natural Resources Manager, stated staff is studying off stream storage to store water. Mr. Lenington also stated that capturing rainfall from roofs or fog harvesting may be another option that staff will explore.

Mr. Koopmann explained predation is another significant issue. In the last 3 years tenants have lost livestock from predation, primarily from mountain lions, but coyote predation also occurs on the smaller livestock. Between the years of 2012 and 2015 there have been 15 confirmed killed cattle from mountain lions, and grazing tenants were compensated for their loss of livestock for a total of \$11,724. Mr. Koopmann explained the District will be developing a policy late this year or early 2016 regarding mountain lions. As part of the policy staff will address predation on livestock and the District's response.

Mr. Koopmann provided a briefing on infrastructure and stated grazing tenants have contributed \$180,000 of infrastructure in exchange for rent credit. The District has also budgeted \$500,000 in FY2015-2016, for grazing related infrastructure projects.

Mr. Koopmann then described the Public Recreation and Grazing program and stated that due to the recovery permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Mindogo Hill will be the first preserve with grazing and public recreation. The USFWS and the CDFW have recognized the benefit of livestock grazing to manage critical habitat. It is estimated that in November 2015 livestock grazing will be reintroduced and public access is estimated to be opened in the spring of 2016.

Director Siemens asked Doniga Markegard, a District tenant if she would like to make any comments. Ms. Markegard spoke regarding the drought stating it is a significant issue for ranchers. She has been taking drought proofing measures for water infrastructure on POST land but has not been able to do any improvements on District land as of yet. Ms. Markegard stated that the process is much faster to work with private owners than the District, but she will be meeting with District staff in the summer to discuss the issue.

Director Riffle commented that going forward the District should encourage agricultural grazing program in San Mateo County and also work with POST.

ADJOURNMENT

President Siemens adjourned the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 6:58 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

President Siemens called the regular meeting of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District to order at 7:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Jed Cyr, Cecily Harris Larry Hassett, Yoriko Kishimoto, Curt Riffle, and Pete Siemens

Members Absent: Nonette Hanko

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, Assistant General Manager Kevin Woodhouse, Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Operations Manager Michael Newburn, Planning Manager Jane Mark, Public Affairs Manager Shelley Lewis, Cydney Bieber Web Administrator, Peggy Koenig Public Affairs Specialist, Lisa Bankosh Planner III and Interim District Clerk Kim Marie Smith

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Hanko absent.)

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. **Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of April 8, 2015.**
2. **Approve Claims Report**
3. **Amendment to Geotechnical Investigations Agreement with Haro Kasunich and Associates Inc. for a Total Authorized Amount of \$51,990 (R-15-66)**

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to amend the existing agreement with Haro Kasunich and Associates Inc. to increase the agreement amount by \$26,990

for a total not to exceed amount of \$51,990, to include additional geotechnical investigations, design, and construction oversight associated with the La Honda Creek Open Space Preserve Watershed Protection Program, Driscoll Ranch Roads sediment reduction project.

4. Approval of Agreement for Legislative Consulting Services (R-15-69)

General Manager's Recommendation: Authorize the General Manager to execute a Consulting Services Agreement with Public Policy Advocates, LLC, to provide California legislative and advocacy services during Fiscal Year 2015-16 for an amount not-to-exceed \$28,000.

Item number 4 was heard following the adoption of the consent calendar.

Director Harris expressed her disappointment with the services that has been provided by the consulting firm and her concern for the length of years the District has been under contract with the consultant. Director Harris asked if the contract had been advertised for bid.

Shelly Lewis, Public Affairs Manager stated the contract was issued as a sole source consultant since relatively few consultants provide this type of service to Special Districts. In addition, Ralph Heim and his associates have been working with the District since 1983 and has been an advocate for emerging policy issues. Also due to the length of years the District has working with the District a discounted rate was obtained.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to authorize the General Manager to execute a Consulting Services Agreement with Public Policy Advocates, LLC, to provide California legislative and advocacy services during Fiscal Year 2015-16 for an amount not-to exceed \$28,000.

VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Hanko absent.)

Motion: Director Cyr moved and Director Harris seconded the motion to adopt the Consent Calendar with the exception of the agenda number 4.

VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Hanko absent.)

BOARD BUSINESS

5. Update and Preview on the Web Site Redesign (R-15-70)

Cydney Bieber, Web Administrator, provided a demonstration of the newly reformatted web site, which is currently in progress and scheduled for release in mid-May. Ms. Bieber showcased several new features along with some design changes to make the website more functional and easier to navigate.

6. Contract Award for Landscape Architecture Services for Alma College Site Rehabilitation Plan (R-15-68)

Lisa Bankosh, Planner III provided a presentation on the former Alma College site stating the site is a historic district currently listed on the Santa Clara County Heritage Resource Inventory

and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The former Alma College site is located at a future access point for Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space Preserve, and as such its disposition is critical to opening the preserve to the public. Design and planning assistance from a historic landscape architect, with support from an architectural historian and structural engineering consultants, is needed to develop a concept for cultural landscape rehabilitation and identify partnership opportunities for reuse of the historic structures. PGA Design Inc. was identified as the most qualified given their prior experience and expertise in the field of historic landscape architecture.

Director Harris inquired if the District is unable to find a partner whether the structures will be stabilized.

Ms. Bankosh explained this is one of the options until a future partner is identified.

Motion: Director Riffle moved and Director Harris seconded the motion to authorize the General Manager to enter into a professional services contract with PGA Design, Inc., for an amount of \$133,775 to develop a cultural landscape rehabilitation plan and identify partnership opportunities for the former Alma College site and authorize an additional contingency of \$16,225 to cover unforeseen requirements, for a total not-to-exceed potential contract amount of \$150,000.

VOTE: 6-0-0 (Director Hanko absent.)

INFORMATIONAL REPORTS

A. Committee Reports

Director Riffle provided information on what was presented at the April 14, April 21 and April 29 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meetings.

Director Siemens reported the Board Appointee Evaluation Committee will be meeting next week.

B. Staff Reports

Assistant General Manager Kevin Woodhouse reported two Rangers will be graduating on April 24 from the academy. In addition, the District has completed the annual hiring of ten Seasonal Open Space Technicians. Furthermore, Mr. Woodhouse reported he is serving as the District's representative for Stewardship 5.0 to build a tight-knit regional partnership through the entire Santa Cruz Mountains.

Assistant General Manager Ana Ruiz reported she and Director Siemens attended a Historical Heritage Commission meeting in Santa Clara County. County Planning staff recommended that the Historical Heritage Commission not make a formal recommendation to the Board of Supervisors at this time but to take more of a deliberate careful informative process before recommending the Mt. Umunhum Radar Tower for listing the property on the Heritage Resource Inventory which the District also supports. Ms. Ruiz stated the District will be working with Santa Carla County to conduct a site tour of Mt. Umunhum with the commissioners followed by

one or two workshops to talk about the criteria that the county uses to consider eligibility for listing and forwarding the analysis to the Board of Supervisors.

General Manager Abbors reported the District has responded to the Civil Grand Jury's request for following up on the "Will Implement" and "Will Study" type responses to the 2013-2014 Grand Jury Reports, providing them with the information on the status of implementation and noted that he will be seeking the voluntary Special District Leadership Foundation Special District Administrator Certification by the end of the year.

General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner expressed her appreciation to the Public Affairs Department for their work in the public outreach program.

C. Director Reports

Director Harris gave a briefing on the Redwood City San Mateo County Chamber of Commerce Annual Progress Seminar.

Director Harris reported that per the recommendations of the Public Affairs Manager Shelly Lewis she wrote a 250 word essay about the earth in the April issue of the Half Moon Bay Review.

Director Cyr reported he recently hiked the Santa Teresa County Park and also joined district staff on April 15 for a wildflower hike lead by Sr. Resource Management Specialist Cindy Roessler.

Director Hassett reported that he will be attending the May 7 Ancient Oaks Trail ribbon cutting.

Director Hassett reported that he attended the PMAC meeting.

Director Hassett reported that on May 14 he will be hiking with Tom Stienstra in El Corte De Madera.

The Board submitted their compensatory forms to the District Clerk.

ADJOURNMENT

President Siemens adjourned the Regular Meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Maria Soria
Deputy District Clerk