



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

April 30, 2018

DRAFT MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Director Harris called the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at to order at 2:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Cecily Harris, Larry Hassett, and Pete Siemens

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Acting General Manager Ana Ruiz, Acting General Counsel Hilary Stevenson, Acting Assistant General Manager Christine Butterfield, Acting Assistant General Manager Brian Malone, Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington, District Clerk/Assistant to the General Manager Jennifer Woodworth, Water Resources Specialist Aaron Hébert

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion: Director Siemens moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

VOTE: 3-0-0

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the March 20, 2018 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Minutes

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Siemens seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the March 20, 2018 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting.

VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Update to the Resource Management Policies, Water Resources Section (R-18-35)

Water Resources Specialist Aaron Hébert presented the staff report describing the history and regulations related to water use and allocation regionally and statewide. Mr. Hébert provided an overview of the District's water resources program structure and program activities, such as monitoring and reporting water use according to water rights, assessment and restoration of riparian habitats, and pre-acquisition evaluation of watersheds for potential land acquisitions.

Director Harris requested clarification of key stakeholders.

Mr. Hébert explained key stakeholders include the local farm bureaus and resource conservation districts.

Director Harris commented on the need to study and protect water consumption for wildlife and not only water consumption by humans.

Mr. Hébert reviewed proposed changes to the water resources policies.

Director Siemens suggested WR-1 be changed to read "Review *and comment on* outside projects..."

Director Harris inquired regarding whether other agencies and partners are developing drought management strategies.

Mr. Hébert explained other agencies are exploring drought management strategies, including incorporation of drought management strategies throughout its water policies

Director Siemens suggested water rights issues should be researched prior to District acquisitions.

Acting General Counsel Hilary Stevenson reported staff does research potential water issues prior to acquiring land, but water issues are often not readily apparent in title and other real property documents.

Mr. Hébert summarized several of the effects agriculture may have on water resource management, including storage of winter water, open space and pond habitats, and water quality.

Public comment opened at 3:15 p.m.

No speakers present.

Public comment closed at 3:15 p.m.

Director Harris suggested sharing the updated water policies

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Siemens seconded the motion to:

1. Direct the Acting General Manager to review the proposed revisions, with any changes as requested by the Committee, with key stakeholders.
2. Forward the policy updates to the full Board for consideration and approval.

VOTE: 3-0-0

ADJOURNMENT

Director Harris adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 3:17 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk