



Midpeninsula Regional
Open Space District

PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Administrative Office
330 Distel Circle
Los Altos, CA 94022

January 19, 2016

DRAFT MINUTES

ROLL CALL

District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth called the Special Meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Woodworth continued the meeting to 2:30 p.m. due to a lack of quorum.

Director Riffle reconvened the Special Meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee to order at 2:30 p.m.

Members Present: Larry Hassett, and Curt Riffle

Members Absent: Jed Cyr

Staff Present: General Manager Steve Abbors, General Counsel Sheryl Schaffner, Assistant General Manager Kevin Woodhouse, Natural Resources Manager Kirk Lenington, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator Coty Sifuentes-Winter, Senior Resource Management Specialist Cindy Roessler, Operations Manager Michael Newburn, and District Clerk Jennifer Woodworth

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

No speakers present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Director Riffle offered a friendly amendment to add a staff update to the Planning and Natural Committee regarding several ongoing District matters.

Director Hassett accepted the friendly amendment.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Cyr absent)

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

1. Approve the October 20, 2015 Planning and Natural Resources Committee Minutes

Motion: Director Hassett moved, and Director Riffle seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the October 20, 2015 Planning and Natural Resources Committee meeting.

VOTE: 2-0-0 (Director Cyr absent)

2. Ten-year Status Report and Recommended Continuation of a Slender False Brome Integrated Pest Management Program (R-16-06)

Director Cyr arrived at 2:45 p.m.

Integrated Pest Management Coordinator Coty Sifuentes-Winter described the classification of slender false brome as a noxious weed and invasive species and described the locations of various infestations in Thornewood, El Corte de Madera and La Honda Creek Open Space Preserves. Mr. Sifuentes-Winter described the District's partnership with the San Mateo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) to treat slender false brome populations on the District's preserves and on private properties. Finally, Mr. Sifuentes-Winter described the Board's option to include the Slender False Brome Program into the District's larger Integrated Pest Management Program and/or use a District-focused or regional approach to control infestations.

San Mateo Resource Conservation District Executive Director Kelyx Nelson spoke regarding the RCD's work with private and public land owners for more than sixty years. Ms. Nelson spoke in favor of working with land owners to understand how to be better stewards of the land. Finally, Ms. Nelson spoke of the ongoing partnership between the District and the RCD to support resource management, including a joint resolution to recognize volunteer efforts to remove slender false brome.

Director Riffle inquired when the District would know slender false brome had been eradicated.

Mr. Sifuentes-Winter explained that eradication would occur once five years of monitoring was completed following the end of the germination period of the last known seed bank.

Director Riffle expressed his concern that District staff may not be aware of all of the infestations, and the District may incur additional costs if and when additional infestations are discovered.

Mr. Lenington explained that District staff would like more certainty that the infestations have been fully mapped; however, funding is not available. Mr. Lenington stated his belief that the map is largely accurate based on the involvement of the community and San Mateo County. Mr. Lenington recommended further outreach to partners to increase knowledge.

Mr. Sifuentes-Winter explained the District is working with partners, including Calflora and East Bay Regional Parks District, to share data. Mr. Sifuentes-Winter explained volunteers could best be used to notify staff of possible infestations, so staff could further investigate and map infestations if they exist.

General Manager Steve Abbors suggested a large scale volunteer event may be organized in the future to search for and identify slender false brome infestations.

Director Riffle suggested promoting the District's efforts in a more public way.

Mr. Lenington explained that a renewal of the Slender False Brome Program could again raise the profile of the District's and RCD's efforts.

Public comment opened at 3:27 p.m.

David Moss spoke in favor of a regional effort to control slender false brome. Mr. Moss suggested property owners be contacted regarding all invasive species each year. Mr. Moss inquired if manual removal includes pulling the weeds in addition to seed removal.

Mr. Lenington explained that manual removal includes complete removal of the plant.

Public comment closed at 3:34 p.m.

Directors Hassett and Cyr spoke in favor of continuing the Slender False Brome Program to protect the District's land and resource assets.

Director Riffle encouraged District staff to begin budgeting, including long term forecasts, for resource management efforts to protect the District's land assets.

Mr. Abbors stated staff can begin researching and including overall weed management costs as part of the annual budget cycle.

Motion: Director Cyr moved, and Director Hassett seconded the motion to recommend to the full Board of Directors a continuation of the Slender False Brome Program on District preserves and nearby private parcels for an approximate program cost of \$1,250,000 over the next ten years.

VOTE: 3-0-0

3. Staff Update Regarding Recent Mountain Lion Encounter at Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve

Mr. Lenington provided an update regarding a recent encounter with early morning runners and a mountain lion along a trail at Rancho San Antonio. Mr. Lenington described ongoing work with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to tag and discourage the mountain lion from approaching people. Mr. Lenington stated that tagging will also allow staff to confirm that only one lion is involved with the encounters.

Operations Manager Michael Newburn reported that new hours of operation have been instituted at Rancho San Antonio to match the hours for the rest of the District's preserves. Mr. Newburn stated staff will evaluate the operating hours going forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Riffle adjourned the meeting of the Planning and Natural Resources Committee of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District at 3:50 p.m.

Jennifer Woodworth, MMC
District Clerk