



**Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee
Minutes
Regular Meeting**

**March 10, 2015
Historic Canoa Ranch**



Quorum was established and Chair Sheridan called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

Committee members present: Chair Tom Sheridan, Vice-Chair Dan Brocious, Stan Riddle, Nan Walden, David Yubeta, Dr. Wade McLean
Members absent: Patricia Preciado – Martin, Amanda Castillo, Karen Cesare
Staff Present: Robert Vaughn, Valerie Samoy, Linda Mayro

Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

David Yubeta made a motion, seconded by Wade McLean, to approve the January 13, 2015 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Bond Update – Chair Sheridan provided a brief review of the last seven years of the Bond Advisory Committee (BAC). The total bond request presented to BAC was up to \$1.3 billion dollars of projects. Recently the Chair, Vice Chair and County Administrator met to whittle the project requests to \$640million. Canoa Ranch was cut from \$15million to \$10million. Chair Sheridan felt the CRCC should accept the cut and not challenge it as some projects have been completely eliminated and others have been cut. Dr. McLean concurred.

There has been discussion of additional bonding for roads - \$100million. If this occurs, it's possible the 1st bond election would be for roads, which would push the \$640million back another year. Chair Sheridan proposed writing a letter to BAC accepting the \$10million for Canoa, acknowledging the hard work and efforts of BAC and thanking BAC for supporting Canoa Ranch. Mr. Vaughn informed the CRCC that he has put together new numbers and stated that \$10million allows NRPR to move forward with the Master Plan, difficult but not impossible. Dr. McLean saw 3 hurdles: a) BAC vote b) Board of Supervisors support (BOS) c) generating public support Chair Sheridan and Dr. McLean emphasized that if BAC approves a bond package, then the attention needs to focus on obtaining support for bond election by BOS and support of bond package by voters. Nan Walden commented on the State Budget votes and cuts to education, child welfare and services...making a point that every vote counts in an election. Chair Sheridan suggested members of the CRCC step up tours and events at Canoa Ranch to raise awareness of Canoa and take Power Point Presentations (PPP) to community and business groups. Mr. Vaughn offered to open the ranch to anyone who would like to bring visitors and groups and stated that NRPR has a PPP it can offer to area groups. The County's Communication Office will be working on a new video for Canoa Ranch that will go on NRPR'S website. Dr. McLean made a motion, seconded by Nan Walden, to approve Chair Sheridan sending a letter of support to the Bond Advisory Committee accepting the \$10million project for Canoa and supporting a recommendation that the Board of Supervisors hold a bond election. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Canoa Ranch Conservation Mandate and Land-Use Constraints/DRAFT Document: Linda Mayro reviewed the draft memorandum from Office of Sustainability and Conservation, Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation and Regional Flood Control District to the County Administrator outlining the 3 departments views on what areas of the 4800 acres are constrained for land use development and areas where rehab and restoration should occur, with the understanding that the Master Plan is the guide for these efforts. Linda Mayro gave a brief overview of the proposed In Lieu Fee program, the Sec 10 Permit mitigation lands, the encroachments and easements on the property. Essentially the document outlines the approximate 120 acres that are developable in the ranch headquarters area (fig 1). Future bond monies would be used within the 120 acres. Regional Flood Control owns the floodplain and floodway of Santa Cruz. There are trails and public access areas through the mitigation areas. Robert Vaughn sees continued use of horse trails, hiking trails and the Anza Trail. The well sites are owned by private entities. The lease with the equestrian center runs to March of 2016. Very good tenants, providing income and being onsite 365 days a year and are a site steward, aiding NRPR in managing the ranch property. Linda Mayro stated that this document has been presented to CRCC asking for its concurrence. Dr. McLean made a motion, seconded by David Yubeta, to approve the Canoa Ranch Conservation Mandate and Land-Use Constraints Document as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Canoa Report – Handout report provided by Robert Vaughn dated March 10, 2015. Busy traffic at the ranch, Jan and Feb, various special events held at the ranch: Santa Rita Art League held a “Paint Out”, GV Gardeners will hold their annual meeting and luncheon and the Heritage Fair – largest event to date- raised \$1600 and all monies will be used for restorative work at ranch. Linda Mayro and the Office of Sustainability and Conservation came up with additional funding, \$75,000 to restore power and plumbing in Manning Jr/Schnaufer house. There will be more Stargazing Tours, Anza Day on Oct 25 and another Heritage Fair in the fall. Adobe wall maintenance and landscape improvements continue at the ranch. The National Park Service has designated Canoa Ranch as an official Anza Trail Passport Site. Donations for exhibits continue to arrive at the ranch – china cabinet, tools. The ranch has received great support from the Green Valley community.

Member Stan Riddle left the meeting at 5:25pm; no longer had a quorum and meeting ended.

(Note) There were three members in the audience and the remaining members of the CRCC listened to their comments.