



**Canoa Ranch Conservation Committee
Minutes
Regular Meeting**

**September 9, 2014
Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department**



Quorum was established and Chair Sheridan called the meeting to order at 4:10pm.

Committee members present: Chair Tom Sheridan, Vice-Chair Dan Brocious, Amanda Castillo, Karen Cesare, David Yubeta, Dr. Wade McLean, Nan Walden
Member absent – Patricia Preciado – Martin, Stan Riddle

Staff Present: Robert Vaughn, Valerie Samoy, Kerry Baldwin, Simon Herbert, Chris Cawein, Suzanne Shields

David Yubeta made a motion, seconded by Karen Cesare, to approve the July 29, 2014 minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

New Business

Suzanne Shields, Director of Flood Control, presented a power point titled, Canoa Ranch Environmental Restoration Plan. The plan is in the early concept stage. Consideration is to possibly use In Lieu Fees to restore riparian areas in the farm fields located east of the berm and historic ranch area of Canoa Ranch. Floodplain site provides opportunities to restore natural resource function. Plan would utilize storm water harvesting and tributaries to restore native grasses, shrubs and mesquites and bring areas back along the Anza Trail for bird watching; increasing the habitat value. Plan would establish vegetation for wildlife and improve wells and storage to increase water supply and irrigation – largest cost. Entire area is in the 100 year floodplain. Ms. Shields mentioned Flood Control has a restoration project currently on the Santa Cruz between Ajo Way and Silverlake Rd – Paseo de las Iglesias. The Canoa Ranch Environmental Restoration Plan may be presented to the Army Corps of Engineers as an In Lieu Fee Project. Other funding sources would also be considered. Committee members talked about the wildlife and birds that would return to the area with such a project and were favorable of it. Ms. Shields would return to the Committee when a plan was finalized before taking it to the Board of Supervisors.

Unfinished Business

1. Committee reviewed draft of By-laws. It was established by the Committee that when the Executive Committee convenes, it is an open meeting, subject to the Open Meeting Rules. Dr. McLean made the motion, seconded by Amanda Castillo, to approve By-laws. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Robert Vaughn provided a handout to the Committee outlining activities at Canoa Ranch from January 2014 – June 2014. Report includes, paved entryway, work on well, restoration work on corrals and gates, expanded program and activities, number of visitors to ranch and donations made to ranch.

3. Robert Vaughn went over future events planned at the ranch: Kick In for Anza – September 13, 2nd Annual Anza Day at Canoa - Oct 26. Chair Sheridan made mention of the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance Annual Dinner following Anza Day at Canoa. Tours of Canoa Ranch will continue through the fall and winter as well as the Bats & Bugs program, and Stargazing events.

4. Robert Vaughn distributed Canoa Ranch Fact Sheets to the Committee. CRCC members discussed reaching out to the public to garner support letters for the Canoa Ranch bond item. Discussions to host the Bond Advisory Committee (BAC) for a tour of Canoa Ranch in October have begun. The Canoa Ranch Bond Item will come before BAC on Oct 24. Members of the CRCC plan to attend. Stan Riddle has procured 3 letters of support for Canoa from Green Valley Recreation, Mayor of Sahuarita and the Green Valley/Sahuarita Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Walden stated the Pecan Festival will be held Saturday, Nov 16 and offered the Committee a booth to handout Canoa Ranch materials.

5. Amanda Castillo agreed to Chair the Outreach Subcommittee. List of various groups and organizations will be provided to the CRCC for outreach.

Future Agenda Items

Chair Sheridan would like to discuss moving the meeting times to 4:30p.m.
Canoa Ranch Bond Item Update

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 9 at 4:00p.m.

Call to Public

Ellie Kurtz informed the Committee about the 3 tours hosted by Dawn Morley, Friends of Canoa and BAJA Sporting Club and attended by representatives of various organizations, to increase awareness and tourism of locales and sites from Nogales to Marana. Tour sites included: Nogales, Tubac, Canoa Preserve Park, Canoa Ranch, Sahuarita, Presidio Park, Mission Gardens and Marana.

Dr. McLean made a motion, seconded by Mr. Brocius to adjourn. Duly motioned and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 5:40p.m.