



Sonoma County Consolidated Oversight Board

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2022

8:30AM – 10:00 AM

Recording of Meeting:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK9LPN_8eV4

1. Call to Order

- At 8:33 A.M. the meeting was called to order by Chair Rogers
- Board Roll Call was taken:
 - Present: Grant Davis, Bill Arnone, Kate Jolley, Nance Jones, Vice Chair Herrington, Chair Chris Rogers
 - Absent: none
 - Vacant: one seat

2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Matters

Mr. Lloyd Guccione stated he sent comments via email to Community Development Commission (CDC) staff the day before the meeting in which he requests to meet with a member of the Board. He asked if his comments would be read out loud into the record or if he should read it. The Chair informed Mr. Guccione that the Board members did receive his comments and they would be included as an attachment to the meeting minutes. There was no further public comment.

3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2021

Motion by Vice Chair Herrington to approve the meeting minutes of August 27, 2021 and seconded by Board member Arnone.

There was no public comment.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Board member Davis, Board member Jones, Board member Arnone, Vice Chair Herrington, and Chair Rogers

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Board member Jolley

The motion passed.

4. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2021

Motion by Board member Arnone to approve the meeting minutes of December 3, 2021 and seconded by Board member Davis.

There was no public comment.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Board member Davis, Board member Jolley, Board member Arnone, and Chair Rogers

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Board member Jones, Vice Chair Herrington

The motion passed.

5. City of Rohnert Park Bonds

Staff from the City of Rohnert Park gave an oral report on the expenditures of Excess Bond Proceeds. There were no questions from the Board. There was no public comment.

6. Successor Agency Recognized Obligation Payment Business

The cities of Cloverdale, Cotati, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Rohnert Park, Santa Rosa, Sonoma, the Town of Windsor, and the County of Sonoma Community Development Commission staff each gave an oral presentation on their respective recognized obligation payment schedule for fiscal year 2022-23 (agenda items 6.1 through 6.9).

After the presentations, Board member Jones asked the Board how long are the cities and the county able to use the \$250,000 allocation for administrative costs. Board member Arnone and Vice Chair Herrington answered that the administrative budget is statutorily set and that as long as the city or county has bond debt they are able to claim the \$250,000.

Public Comment: Mr. Guccione spoke and stated that the \$250,000 budget is the maximum allowed by the Department of Finance and expressed his displeasure in that over the last 10 years each city and the county have claimed the maximum amount without any justification. He asked that the Board not approve the administrative budget requested by the County, because the County has not provided justification for their expenses and has not accounted for the \$8.1 million of Russian River redevelopment funds. There was no additional public comment.

Chair Rogers called on the City of Santa Rosa staff to assist in explaining if the budget of \$250,000 covers the cost to implement the program. Staff explained that the administrative budget covers staff's salaries and benefits for accounting staff and consulting services used by staff. Vice Chair Herrington clarified further that during the regional consolidated board meeting and at the first County consolidated board meeting, each agency has to validate their expenses and they are analyzed at that time. Since these are recurring expenses that don't change very much, they do not have to be re-analyzed. Chair Rogers concurred with the Vice

Chair's comments. Board member Arnone added that the reports submitted will be reviewed in detail by the Department of Finance (DOF). Afterwards, Vice Chair Herrington clarified that if they are returned by DOF, then the City/County will have to come back to this Board.

Board member Arnone moved to approve each of the requests made by the cities, town, and county and thereby adopt each resolution presented, subject to abstention by Chair Rogers for the request made by the City of Santa Rosa for which Vice Chair Herrington stepped in to assist. Vice Chair Herrington seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Board member Davis, Board member Jolley, Board member Arnone, Board member Jones, Vice Chair Herrington, Chair Rogers

Noes: None

Absent: None

Abstain: Chair Rogers for request made by City of Santa Rosa.

The motion passed.

7. Board Communications

Vice Chair Herrington asked how will this Board comply with AB361 in continuing to hold remote Board meetings due to the pandemic or does the County declaration of emergency and resolution allowing remote meetings extend to the functions of the Consolidated Board, thereby not requiring one to be made. The Board discussed this amongst themselves and staff stated they would follow up with County Counsel.

Public Comment: Mr. Lloyd Guccione spoke in favor of resuming in-person meetings for the sake of democracy.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Lloyd Guccione
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January 27, 2022

To: Oversight Board – Consolidated Oversight Board Sonoma County as Successor Agency
Members of the Board
Ms. Veronica Ortiz de Anda
Mr. Dave Kiff, Interim Director CDC
Ms. Lynda Hopkins, 5th District Supervisor

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

I apologize for having missed some of your recent meetings. The last notice of a meeting I received was the one for the January 24, 2020, which I attended. I am glad to have been again informed of your meeting – this one of the 28th of January, 2020.

Perhaps you recall that at the last meeting I again reminded you of the continuing failure (refusal) to provide an accounting of the funds of the Russian River Redevelopment Project Area fund balances remaining (in layman’s accessible terms) according to the last publicly provided financial report which showed 8.1+ million dollars in cash remaining. Also, perhaps you will recall my admonition to you not to turn the Oversight Board into a travesty by becoming rote, unthinking, and (as some will put it) a meaningless rubber stamp convention. In other words, I wanted more from you and I wanted to warn you of the direction you were headed. Do you remember now? I also sought to remind you, and encourage you, to fulfill your obligations under the law for *fiduciary responsibility and accountability*.

After reading the minutes of your previous meeting I acknowledge that my well-intended words had apparently no effect upon the depth or quality of your work. Perhaps it is all due to my not having a horse to perch upon – perhaps I lack the perspective.

If it is a lack of perspective then let me remind you that I have made repeated attempts to converse with members of the Board but have been unsuccessful. Most recently Mr. G. Harris allowed me to wait for ten minutes while he conversed with another in the lobby after the meeting, knowing well enough I also wished to speak with him, and then turned and proceeded to leave with hardly a second thought: His only words – ‘I’m in a hurry.’ He did not bother to follow through later even though he had my address, telephone number, and email address. His case is not unique.

So, I bring to your attention (again) the fact that there is still no detailed accounting of the Russian River funds in layman’s accessible terms, and (in effect) the 8.1+ million dollars goes blithely who knows where. The “Wickman” report does not address this issue and is nearly useless for the purpose. It does however further illustrate (or direct attention to) the improper use of Russian River funds.

I again request that you agendize an item to address the issue of the Russian River funds and their accounting and use.

While I have strongly criticized please keep in mind that it (in part) is motivated by a desire to see you do your very best, and to meet the obligations you purportedly undertook when you accepted the position on this Board and took an oath.

Kindly yours
Lloyd Guccione