



**North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council**  
 Notice of Meeting and Agenda  
**October 20, 2021**



**PLEASE NOTE:** In accordance with AB 361, Governor Newsom’s March 4, 2020 State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Sonoma County Public Health Officer’s Recommendation for Teleconferenced Meetings, and the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Resolution 21-0399, the North Sonoma Valley Municipal Advisory Council meeting will be held virtually.

**Join Zoom Conference Meeting:**

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/96238973483?pwd=cUpXSWZFLONUMlpJb241RFRWL1dSUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 962 3897 3483

**Passcode:** 472287

**Join by Phone:** 1 (669) 900-9128  
 5:30 p.m.

Contact: Hannah Whitman, Board Aide for Supervisor Susan Gorin – [hannah.whitman@sonoma-county.org](mailto:hannah.whitman@sonoma-county.org)

**1. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call**

**Absent:** None

**Present:** Dawson, Doss, Eagles, Newhouser, Dickey, Nardo-Morgan, Cooper, Oldroyd, Handron

**2. Approval of September 15, 2021 minutes**

Resolution

**Motion to Approve:** Handron

**Second:** Newhouser

**Vote:** 7-0

**3. Public Comment**

Receive

(Limited to items not appearing on the agenda)

**No public comment received.**

**4. Welcome New Councilmember, Susan Oldroyd**

Receive

**Dawson:** Will tell you a bit about our new councilmember, Susan Oldroyd. She is accomplished architect, served on design commission City of Sonoma, served as child advocate for children in courts. Welcome.

**Oldroyd:** I am an architect, access specialist, lots of work for state reviewing structures for handicap access. Live in Kenwood, issues care about parking, interest in all the issues the council covers.

**Dawson:** Had one other applicant, council all full now, but interested in future if opening. Glad interest in community, people applying for positions.

**No public comment received.**

**5. Supervisor Gorin Update**

Receive

**Gorin:** Breathing sigh of relief that we are experiencing rain. Board meeting 10/19, covered three major topics. First, Climate Adaptation Plan for Sonoma Water, has been in progress for five or six years. Think about how adaptation strategies being implemented as we speak. Hope you have time to take a look. Second item, report on vegetation management grants. First round of grants, captured some of the CEQA work needed to be done for grants in first round. Next round early next year, will be working on guidelines on what will be required to receive those grants.

PG&E funds allocated toward these grants, but one-time funds. Now coordinator in Ag and Open Space District managing these grants. How do we look at vegetation management, what is the best science behind this? Have some individuals on this council that have this expertise, ask you to think, what of these kinds of projects should we be funding? Prepare ourselves for future fires. Finally, in depth report on COVID-19, doing much better job reaching out to our diverse communities with regards to vaccine, thank you NSV MAC for organizing vaccine pop up. Booster shots will be offered. Still about 20,000 eligible in county who have not accessed vaccines. Means that we have not met requirements to remove masking, other requirements. Health Officer is amending health order to masking in groups of vaccinated individuals in closed environment. Next week, board will have report on Project Homekey funding, round two of this funding, for counties and cities to purchase hotels/motels/etc. to establish shelters/permanent supportive housing. Homeless Action Sonoma is among those applying for this funding, they will be presenting to Springs MAC, may come before NSV MAC in future. Hosting Virtual Town Hall on 10/27 on homelessness in Sonoma Valley, presentations from Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Overnight Support, Homeless Action and more. Final comment, long awaiting public meetings on the alternatives of the Sonoma Developmental Center upcoming November 13, know this is something all of you are interested in, also inviting NSV MAC, SVCAC, and Springs MAC for joint meeting, November 17.

**Doss:** Question regards to indoor masks, do churches fall into that category, in person meetings, would we fall into that category to no longer wear masks in church services?

**Gorin:** Know there are some special guidance for churches. Not sure if you are asking for proof of vaccination. Will get you some more information on that.

**Eagles:** Clarification on dates for SDC alternatives, know some things still up in the air. Is the expectation that the alternatives will be available some days weeks before meetings?

**Gorin:** Alternatives were scheduled to be released November 1, when that happens we'll send a note to all of you with link.

**Eagles:** Want to make sure we have the chance to look at them. Date of joint meeting – was that intended to be night of NSV MAC meeting?

**Dawson:** Yes.

**Gorin:** Also, Springs MAC changing regular meeting date beginning December to first Wednesday of the month. I know some of you do participate in that.

**Newhouser:** Climate Adaptation document – is this posted on the county website?

**Gorin:** I think on Sonoma Water website. Also on Board agenda website.

**Newhouser:** And you also mentioned fire preparation document – you referred to it as vegetation management –

**Gorin:** Yes vegetation management, it was just a report yesterday, information and PowerPoint on the Board meeting website.

**No public comment received.**

## 6. Sonoma Ecology Center

Receive

- Upper Sonoma Creek Restoration Vision
- Creek stewardship program

**Steven Lee, Sonoma Ecology Center:** Letting you know about things Sonoma Ecology Center is doing around creek restoration and creek stewardship. Looking at watershed of Sonoma Creek, for those who don't know, history of

watershed, Kenwood area groundwater levels all relatively shallow. Used to be, on other side of the valley, used to be lots of wetlands, clay soils that don't drain well, whereas gravel soils on other side drain well. Section of creek Adobe Canyon perennial flow whereas other parts dry up, why still have steelhead there. In Sonoma Creek, rain events, almost as soon as starts creek start rising, then when stops starts to drop immediately. When rain comes all at once down creek, as it does more and more these days, causes extreme erosion, creek to widen and steepen, that's what's been happening in the Sonoma Creek watershed. Bottoms of creeks getting further down, and when dropping, allows groundwater to drop to that further level. What we're trying to do is get that scenario down to some sort of restored conditions. Got money from Department of Fish and Wildlife to study Sonoma Creek north of SDC up Madrone Rd to Adobe Canyon, that's what talking about today. Community survey, studying creek patterns, checking sites, finding places where there are opportunities to widen the corridor. Another option, look for places to lower the floodplain that can no longer be accessed, place for creek to spread out and slow down. Have identified 20 separate sites, doing landowner outreach, identify projects and to 30% design process which is what you need to do to get funding. Settled on one project to make demonstration project, with landowner support, Morton site, remove fill that was put in to level out site in 40s or 50s to restore. Project all underway over next 2-3 years. Other sites of priority, some regulatory hurdles, getting traction with funding and regulatory agencies. Restoration vision for Sonoma Developmental Center. Also at Ecology Center, streamflow stewardship program, goal to work with landowners who need to use creek water for whatever work they're doing and find alternatives, get water in rainy season, not impact steelhead, store water. Rainwater harvesting and storage, if you have space to do this, can be real benefit to water security and help incrementally with flood issue.

**Erica Warren, Sonoma Ecology Center:** Creek program in response to community noticing, identification of need breadth and depth of trash, anecdotally an increase in trash. Activated by Susan Gorin's office, needs throughout Sonoma Creek, program about clean-ups. Piloted 4 clean-ups, removed over 9,000 lbs of trash. Partnerships with youth, community groups, address hot spots including Ig Vella Bridge. Coastal Clean-up date sites included Jack London, helping the coast by cleaning inland, including roadways. Also Agua Caliente, Larson Park. Debris from historic abandoned encampments, couches, metal scrap, stuff made its way down the creek. Many community partners, nexus of human and social services. Creating reporting tool that will be released, better identify needs. Hope to build out adopt a bridge program, intersections of creek and community issues, community cleanups and stewardship events. Shout out to everyone who makes these programs happen.

**Dawson:** Amazing work. Great to see how much you are doing on many different levels.

**Doss:** How does Adopt a Bridge program work?

**Warren:** Future vision of the program, be more proactive, not reactive. Community members using reporting tool to report observation, work with to organize clean-up. Also train people how to be stewards, trained on policies and procedures so can have most informed individuals maintaining creeks.

**Lee:** We've tried this before at the Ecology Center, it's hard to keep a program like this going. When try to fold into program, just hard to keep this going, takes funding. It will also take some ownership in the community to keep this thing going, we help support them, rather than it always being us organizing a community event.

**Warren:** This model has been underfunded. This example of community led effort works well in other sites, such as Montini, the people who already walk Montini. Same can be said for Sonoma Overlook Trail. Needs resources and community that cares already to make this happen.

**Doss:** Have lived here over 40 years, tremendous change to creek path over time along Sonoma Creek where enters next to Warm Springs Road. Can see where work needs to be done, but if was adopted, who makes sure/oversees that doing right thing, not making worse.

**Lee:** Nice at Ecology Center, having Erica, one point person for this kind of thing. A lot to do at Ecology Center, herding cats all the things we're trying to do.

**Eagles:** 9000 odd lbs of trash – is that an annual, or has not been removed in a while and maybe a few years? How much to expect?

**Warren:** Some deferred maintenance, fewer cleanup events due to COVID.

**Lee:** Will add, deferred accumulation of larger stuff like water heaters. In these kinds of events in past, lots of time picking up and cataloging paper cups, cigarette butts. Spent more time in this effort getting out some of that legacy stuff.

**Newhouser:** Great able to secure additional funding to move forward with planning and implementing projects. Regarding creek cleanup, having done that, unfortunately probably 90% trash associated with homeless encampments, so tied to social and economic concerns. Until those issues resolved, continue to have impacts to environment and streams. Know that you're working on that too through Sustainable Sonoma effort.

**Warren:** Lifting of all boats, talking to Alistair at City of Santa Rosa who does this at larger scale, same observation, 95% trash brought down from unhoused population. Thus important partnership with organizations that work with homeless population in Sonoma Valley.

**Nardo-Morgan:** Thank you, glad restoration plan is not just piecemeal plan, more effective. Question, though in planning stages: are you contracting out work, or Sonoma Ecology Center doing all on its own?

**Lee:** All of the above; modeled after Rutherford Reach in Napa County. RCDs, ecology centers, regulatory agencies, consultants, landowners all working together, larger approach – can get permitting, large part of the cost of this work. If you have to go through that for every little thing, not going to work. Find success for getting one permit for all kinds of work. Goal to get proof of concept, momentum going, to get large partnership done.

**No public comment received.**

## 7. El Camino de los Altares 2021 (added 10/15/21)

Resolution

- Discuss potential MAC participation in El Camino de los Altares 2021

**Dawson:** Project highlighting local publically available altars that will be on display for Day of the Dead celebration. Local organizations throughout the valley, including Springs MAC, will be participating. Each altar will be included on map that includes dates/times they will be available, as well as a QR code where people can check in when they visit them. There are some local observances, very moving beautiful. If we want to get involved, can partner with organization to create altar, can highlight existing altar, could create ad hoc, could contribute raffle prize. Supervisor Gorin pre-approved \$100, approve funding request

**Nardo-Morgan:** Virtual, or in-person altar?

**Dawson:** In-person from my understanding.

**Nardo-Morgan:** Last year, Day of the Dead ceremony on Jack London decks, may be able to collaborate this year.

**Eagles:** November or December? Maybe misheard.

**Dawson:** November, we only have a few weeks. Some ideas for places: bridge. Angela, have time to form ad hoc?

**Nardo-Morgan:** May not be able.

**Dawson:** Can form ad hoc, or perhaps collaborate with organization.

**Handron:** I can reach out to Art Escape to see if interested in collaborate.

**Whitman:** Believe Art Escape is collaborating with Springs MAC, maybe way for MACs collaborate together?

**Dawson:** Another spot, parking lot near Garden Court Café if owner would be okay with that?

**Nardo-Morgan:** Could contact BJ Blanchard, local artist. Consider collaborating with Glen Ellen Forum?

**Dawson:** Hannah, do we have to formally create an ad hoc, or can interested individuals just reach out informally to local organizations?

**Whitman:** Yes, that works, or you can assign to existing ad hoc. As long as not a quorum.

**Dawson:** Can we unmute Laurie from the Glen Ellen Forum?

**Laurie Pile:** Wonderful idea, forum projects committee could look into this. Forum can get this out, projects committee this Friday.

**Dawson:** Take a vote?

**Whitman:** Yes.

**Dawson:** Can I have a motion MAC support participating in the Camino de los Altares project?

**Eagles:** To clarify, support fellow councilmembers participation and use of preapproved funding?

**Dawson:** Yes.

**Vote:** 7-0

**8. Reports and Announcements from Councilmembers and Ad Hocs (3 minutes or less)      Receive**

- SVCAC

**Dickey:** Last meeting, heard project on Woodside Court off Madrone Rd. Residential project, don't normally hear small scale residential projects but wanted to hear because of encroachment plans, concerns that project would be above base flood elevation. Eventually supported project, understanding that part of project would be reexamined for how far into creek setback. Met all criteria when constructed, but does not meet criteria now. Also heard presentation groundwater management plan, scheduled requirements for meeting plan, from chief hydrologist for groundwater sustainability agency. Questioned about water recycling, pumping water up very expensive. Occurred to me that when SDC developed, perhaps water that would be coming into sewers should be treated there, rather than pumped down to valley, don't know what water will look like 20 years from now. Every drop of water we can recycle is important. Dovetails with comment I made at last meeting, would like to see SDC developed with some foresight, rather than reacting to current housing issues, fire issues, but looking into the future. Water issues should be addressed.

- Glen Ellen Forum

**Dawson:** Amanda Shone sent me something to read as update on the Forum: Dunbar Point cleanup, in process of obtaining authorization to improve areas of those easements/right of way. Bridge lighting on hold at the moment, person leading had to step down. If anyone interested in taking this on, reach out to Amanda. Firehouse triangle, Mark no update, awaiting response from Arielle. No new prospective locations for ballot box at this time.

- Communications Ad Hoc

**Dawson:** Table at Glen Ellen Fair, good time talking to community on what they're interested in, raffled off emergency supplies backpacks. Took down names of people who had thoughts on issues. Flyer about community bikeway.

- Preparedness Ad Hoc

**Newhouser:** Nothing to report, not sure what composition of our ad hoc will be. Is Daymon stepping down?

**Doss:** No, completing two-year term.

**Newhouser:** Okay, I was confused, that's good news. We need to meet again. Hoping to get comments on grant proposals so can re-submit at later date.

**Dawson:** At the end of this, hear from Hannah on when ad hocs have been in existence, I know they're not supposed to last for more than a year, or become standing committee.

**Whitman:** I will make note to check with Arielle when those were formed, and report back on next steps.

- Traffic and Safety Ad Hoc

**Eagles:** Nothing new to report at this time. Did want to ask, we're still going to have bike path discussion, because that's part of our purview?

**Dawson:** Yes, we hoped to have them today, not sure exactly what happened, but will come back.

- Eldridge/SDC Ad Hoc

**Dickey:** Nothing prepared. Do have questions for items for future agenda.

- Others as Appropriate

**Newhouser:** Did want to weigh in on firehouse triangle project. Was communication, Transportation and Public Works approves of design, with caveat that lane maintained for ballot box. Need to have follow up meeting with TPW to discuss details. Also follow up on finding alternative site for ballot box, triangle not an ideal place. Put in call to manager of Jack London Village to see if they would be open to hosting ballot box. Forum is excited about this moving forward. Also following up on bridge lighting, complex issue, agencies and Supervisor Gorin's office all involved.

#### **Public Comment:**

**Laurie Pile:** Dawned on me, very little time to set up altar for Day of the Dead. Maybe best route to go this year is Jack London Village, and then next year can look at another place. If that's okay, can send out email to project team and get started right away.

**Dawson:** If councilmembers Nardo-Morgan and Handron okay, go for it.

**Handron & Nardo-Morgan:** Go for it.

## **9. Consideration of items for future agenda**

Receive

**Dawson:** Next month, will be talking about alternatives in joint session with SVCAC and Springs MAC. Will keep bike paths on radar for future months. Anything else?

**Dickey:** I don't know if it's consideration for future agenda item. Has anyone else thought about, when SDC developed, population of Glen Ellen will more than double quite likely. Wondering, is there a plan for SDC becoming part of Glen Ellen? Become its own entity as Eldridge? Should consider incorporating as a town? Traffic, sewer, water, creek restoration, being broken into little parts all under Sonoma County doesn't work when community gets to a certain size.

**Dawson:** Can't get into discussion about this now, but maybe can have a future agenda item on governance, may also be part of what we talk about next month. Anything else? Seeing as current ad hocs will dissolve in near future, may have an item to talk about future ad hocs?

**Eagles:** Yes, and many of the topics ad hocs cover now seem like standing committees. Hannah looking into this, but can talk about more at future meeting.

**Dawson:** Agreed, could potentially have standing committee meetings before regular MAC meetings, but yes to discussing at future meeting.

## 10. Adjourn

Resolution

**Motion:** Eagles

**Second:** Handron

**Vote:** 7-0

**Adjourned 7:20pm**

*Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the North Valley Municipal Advisory Council after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors' Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.*

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Note: Consideration of agenda items will proceed as follows:

1. Presentation
2. Questions by Councilmembers
3. Questions and comments from the public
4. Response by presenter, if required
5. Comments by Councilmembers
6. Resolution, if indicated

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Web Links: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/North-Valley-Municipal-Advisory-Council/>