

**MINUTES OF
THE FLOOD CONTROL ZONE ONE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2007,
999 RUSH CREEK PLACE**

Board Members Present

Bill Long, Chair
Ray Wrynski
Dietrich Stroeh
Mark Byers
Terry Molloy

County Staff Present

Bob Beaumont
Tracy Clay
Reuel Brady
Liz Lewis

Board Members Absent

None

Other

David Harlan, City of Novato
Rick Jorgensen, Winzler & Kelly
Syd Temple, Questa Engineering
Susan Stompe, Marin Conservation League

The following minutes are a summary, created by Staff, of the meeting of the Flood Control Zone 1 Advisory Board.

ITEM 1. Approval of Minutes: February 15, 2007

Meeting began at 6:30 pm with a brief welcome by BL the chair.

M/S BL/TM: Approval of minutes of the February 15, 2007 Advisory Board meeting, as written with no amendments.

Ayes: All

Nay: None

Abstain: None

ITEM 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

No items were discussed.

ITEM 3. Review and Motion to Recommend Approval of Zone Budget for FY 2007/2008

- Staff presented the FY 2007/2008 budget with item breakdown sheets and reviewed future year projections with forecasted shortfalls. \$1,000,000 shortfall predicted due Vineyard Creek improvements and Novato Dredge project. Options to cover shortfall include loans and State grants.
- TM asked how many bodies are included in salaries. Staff indicated that three bodies are represented.
- DS asked how much money was being contributed from the City of Novato for the Center Road Culvert Replacement. David Harlan said that the City will pay half of the construction cost up to \$500,000 and assumed it would be from their general fund. Staff indicated the current estimate is \$900,000 for the Culver Replacement of which the City will pay \$450,000.
- DS expressed concern for the large amount of money being spent for Vineyard Creek when there are areas in need which are receiving nothing.
- TM asked if there was a direct correlation between the cost of projects and staff time. Staff indicated that on-going maintenance and project developed keeps the salary/staff time from

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

dropping but that if more projects were undertaken the staff time would likely go up. TM said another revenue stream will be needed to fund forecasted shortfalls.

- RW asked to see additional information in the item breakdown sheets and requested a budget summary for last year's expenditures. Staff said it was in work with a new accounting system that has just come on line and should be available soon. The actual level of detail needed was discussed, and staff agreed to develop greater detail but with Advisory Board concurrence staff would not sacrifice time to the priority of completing projects and developing funding to achieve greater accounting detail.
- RW asked whether the funds/taxes collected by the County for the special flood district are identified as such. Staff offered to direct the question to the County Auditor Controller and suggested a call from RW himself to the Auditor would be appropriate if there were concerns as to the correctness of the budget information provided.
- Staff commented that in the past the budget has been fluid due to winter storms, very high bids, etc., and that there needs to be a level of trust between the Advisory Board and staff to maintain a focus on priorities. MB asked if the Advisory Board would be setting priority this evening. Staff indicated that at the last meeting the Advisory Board had picked Vineyard Creek as the top priority project and that the on-going maintenance dredge of Novato Creek was mandatory as well. Staff said that these two projects are the only ones that are funded at this time, and that the order of the other unfunded projects is not necessary as staff will not be able to start on them for a couple of years.
- BL asked where are we going to get the money to get our Flood Zone 1 projects done in our lifetimes. BL asked that staff present funding options with time tables to complete projects at the next Advisory Board meeting.
- TM asked if there was coordination with other agencies and stakeholders like the Bel Marin Keys Advisory Board and the State Coastal Conservancy to create synergy. Staff suggested the next agenda item would cover this.

M/S DS/TM: To recommend approval of the zone budget for FY 2007/2008.

Ayes: All

Nay: None

Abstain: None

ITEM 4. Watershed Management Program

Staff presented the Watershed Management Program per the Staff Report. This program will be a comprehensive approach to unifying the watershed stakeholders to identify needs and advocate for large grants within watersheds. Currently the program is fully staffed per that requested from the Board of Supervisors last year. Staff will be asking the Board of Supervisors in late August for permission to initiate watershed planning and approve extra hire positions for needed services like GIS. Staff requested that the Advisory Board commit two members to a stakeholder committee that would be forming in September and cover all of Marin County. The committee commitment would be heavy for 6 to 8 months to scope plans for each watershed and would last for up to 18 months. It is anticipated that watershed staff in cooperation with staff from other agencies will perform the research and planning identified by the committee. Other stakeholders in the Novato watershed are the Friends of Novato Creek, Sanitary and Water Districts, Coastal Conservancy, Regional Board, Fish and Game, North Bay Watershed Association and others. RW asked if this watershed approach was being driven by the Regional Board. Staff replied that it was the Board of Supervisors that wants a program in light of the winter damage in Ross Valley and due to the large amount of grant funding available for an intergraded watershed plan that makes sense. Staff commented that this Watershed Management Program will be required in the future to get grant funding, and that this program puts Flood Control Zone 1 in a wonderful position to start applying for State funding. DS asked that

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

development of the program not take too long and that to the extent possible the work be expedited. DS & TM volunteered to serve on the new technical working group sub-committee of stakeholders. It is anticipated that the first meeting will be October/November. RW asked how much the Flood Control Zone was paying for the Watershed Management Program. Staff said the current budget does not include funding and that the program is presently paid for from the County General Fund.

ITEM 7. Novato Flood Control Project, Phase VIII

Board moved item 7 ahead of items 5 & 6 due to PowerPoint setup delay.

Staff presented an update of the revegetation of the Novato Flood Control Project channel. Staff presented a handout highlighting the vegetation used along Novato Creek. Staff also discussed how plant roots will over the long term stabilized banks. The Corps of Engineers and the Regional Board required monitoring report will be submitted to them in early December. For the project 2,000 plants were grown by a local nursery in Chileno Valley and the same approach is planned for the Vineyard Creek project. To date the revegetation contract has just one change order which is to provide potable water by hand watering. Currently, the hand watering is taking place and so far the plants and channel are doing well.

ITEM 6. Novato Creek Bank Stabilization Guidelines

Board moved item 6 ahead of item 5 in order to allow more time for residents to arrive who expressed an interest in item 5.

Staff indicated that the Novato Creek Bank Stabilization Guidelines were not paid for from Flood Zone 1, but paid for from discharge fines collected by the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Staff introduced Syd Temple from Questa Engineering to review guideline procedures. Syd said the goal was for a homeowner to easily find a solution to bank erosion on their property. Staff indicated that a web based approach is in discussion and may be available soon so the public can access the stabilization flowcharts easily. BL and DS expressed concern over individual homeowners impacting Novato Creek without a uniform and integrated watershed approach that may include an Assessment District. Syd disagreed that a homeowner should be able to protect their property and that an integrated approach would require easements over the entire creek and be problematic gaining consensus from a large number of property owners. Many of the Board expressed disagreement with this viewpoint. Staff also confirmed that a Watershed Management Program/Approach is the direction of the Board of Supervisors. Board members were supportive of guidelines, but recommended that staff investigate measures to implement the guidelines on reach wide scale as opposed to parcel by parcel. DS encouraged partnership with the Marin Conservation Corps to implement biotechnical bank stabilization measures wherever feasible.

ITEM 5. Vineyard Creek Flood Control Improvements

Staff introduced the lead design engineer Rick Jorgensen (RJ) of Winzler & Kelly Consulting Engineers. RJ's presentation included the attached handouts and improvement overviews for three reaches (Reach A from east of Center Road to the upstream end adjacent to Arbor Circle, Reach B from the east edge of Center Road to Rena Court, and Reach C from Rena Court to McClay Road). The design improvements are based on developing passage for the Q₅₀ storm, which is consistent with Novato Creek and on remaining within public right of way. Reach A will include vertical walls, bank widening, bank sloping, revegetation and replacement of the Center Road culvert. RJ is anticipating replacing the culvert with a bridge that includes one-foot of freeboard to eliminate a mid creek wall from the double box culvert option. Reaches B and C have Q₅₀ capacity and the work in those reaches will be that of creek restoration. Improvements will include benching and planting. Rock will be used to stabilize the toe of the low flow channel, provide erosion control and bank stability in areas

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

subject to undercutting. The existing sewer line that crosses the creek just west Rena Court will not be moved. In Reach C low flow benches will increase effective width to reduce frequency of debris jams and to enhance habitat while maintaining effective sediment transport. MB asked if the widening in a narrow portion of Reach C would allow the hundred year storm to pass. RJ said in that area the widening would reduce the velocity (reducing scour) and the n or fiction value would increase with vegetation so any increased capacity would likely be marginal. DS asked if downstream of McClay could handle the improved flow. Staff indicated that it has already been re-engineered to pass a Q₅₀ storm. RW asked about overflows from Novato Creek that were not included in the design flows discuss at the last Advisory Board meeting. Staff said this was addressed in a memo from Hydrologist Rachel Kamman that said Novato Creek is designed to handle the fifty year storm and that any overland breaches should be address in Novato Creek not designed for in Vineyard Creek. Staff will provide RW a copy of the memo as soon as possible. RJ concluded his presentation with a summary of expected costs that total up to \$2,640,000. BL asked if there was enough money to pay for the project. Staff said yes, that this year's budget has \$1.2 million, next year's budget has \$1 million, and the City is providing half the bridge costs estimated at \$450,000.

Resident, David Porter, indicated that he has creep in his backyard and that the pool decking is coming away. An engineer who came out to his house at 50 McKeon Court suggested his problem was coming from loss of creek bank with creep or settlement occurring from loss of support. David asked if this would continue to happen. Staff said they could not address what has happened up to this point, but that it is the intention of the Vineyard Creek project to stabilize the creek toe where down cutting should not occur. Dredging if required would be confined to the low flow channel and rock Rip Rap will buttress banks next to the residences along McKeon Court. Staff suggested that he should wait until the project is completed to fix his pool. Staff also discussed how the Capital Improvement Program will need to included additional funding to insure maintenance of our bio-technical creek projects and that this funding will be critical to insure Vineyard Creek is kept in the design alignment year after year. David asked if the hydraulic model was accurate without a lot of storm data. RJ indicated that it was and that it would also be refined as data is collected over the next two years. Staff concurred that the existing level of detail is what is used throughout California and confidence should only get better with more confirming information. Usually approximate means are almost always more conservative than actual data, but Staff indicated that changes would be made if that was not the case. DS asked if there would be any special treatment between Reach B & C where the creek turns. RJ said that part of the creek already has a lot of Rip Rap and the proposed work will likely include planting willows in between the existing rock.

Resident, Doug Micheuev of 90 McKeon Court asked if a wall could be installed in Reach B to make sure the water stays in the creek away from McKeon Court. RJ said we believe the storm that cause flooding on McKeon deposited water not from the creek but from water that left the creek upstream and came down the street flooding homes on its return to the creek. If walls where built then the water (sheet flow) could not get into the creek from the homes exacerbating back yard flooding.

BL asked where the City was on its contribution to the District for Vineyard Creek Improvements. David Porter said he would check into it and get back to Tracy Clay.

BL asked what would be done this year and what would be done next year. Staff said the planting and minor bank stabilization that was schedule for this year has been delayed to coordinate restoration with the major bank stabilization and final improvement access. Also, the planting was delayed to achieve an economy of scale with the watering infrastructure. Currently, all improvements are scheduled to be built next summer in 2008, and staff is working on a compressed timeline to make that happen.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

BL asked if the City was on-board. David Harlan indicated that the City would have to review the Center Road bridge structure design and would have additional concerns with adequate vertical curve and sight distances. Staff indicated that the design is preliminary and that they would be working with the City staff on the items David brought up. BL said that everyone will be pleased if the City and the Flood Control District can work in sink on this with one ribbon cutting in 2008.

ITEM 8. Summer Maintenance

Staff presented Summer Maintenance per the Staff Report.

Creek maintenance began in May with Marin Conservation Crews under the direction of Bené da Silva. District maintains about 30 miles of channel and the work will proceed until November. The same Marin Conservation crews will be back out in winter checking hot spots and restriction in the creeks. Goals are to maintain channel flows by reducing obstructions, to enhance habitat where possible, and to provide erosion control where needed.

Staff discussed the need to repair several pumps at the Lynwood station that have been scheduled for replacement on the Lynwood Pump Station Replacement project that was cancelled due to insufficient funds. Pump Repair Service is the contractor and repairs are proceeding as planned on two pumps and a motor at the Lynwood Station and on a pump and motor at the Farms (Nunes) facility.

ITEM 9. Novato Maintenance Dredge Project

Staff presented a brief project update per the Staff Report. Staff reported that access to the Hamilton Wetlands Restoration Project was appearing doubtful for 2008. The District planned to access the site through a temporary haul road was rejected by the State Coastal Conservancy who had previously agreed to provide the District with an easement. The Conservancy felt it was in its interest to reject the temporary haul road so the District would support access through a new (permanent) route proposed north of the existing Todd Road access. This new route has many stakeholders some with competing viewpoints and consensus has been difficult to achieve with delays unpredictable. Recently, the District discovered that the Sonoma Central Landfill was accepting clean fill and has begun negotiations with the Landfill. The Landfill is expected to charge under \$10,000 to accept our fill, but with short hours of operation and closure on October 1st it will be challenging to get all our spoils there in one season. Current estimate is \$1.5 million and work is progressing on a compressed timeline for construction in 2008.

DS asked is it possible to find a permanent site we can use every three to four years. Staff indicated work is on-going with the State Coastal Conservancy on the Todd Road Alternative. District has made it clear that it is willing to partner with whoever builds the road so that the Bel Marin Key V Project can be that long term spoils site. The Bel Marin Keys V area is forecasted to last for many dredge episodes.

ITEM 10. Rush Creek/Cemetery Marsh Culvert Improvements

Staff presented a brief project update per the Staff Report. Recently a contract was awarded to Maggiora and Ghilotti out of San Rafael to replace the two culverts with tide gates the control flows at the cemetery marsh. The existing tide gates were damaged by a large piece of debris that came down Black Johns Slough during a winter storm. The first working day is July 30th and the last working day is August 24th. To date staff had not heard from the contractor on his availability for a pre-construction meeting. Staff anticipates this contractor finishing on time.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

RW asked is the cemetery marsh was primarily salt water or fresh water. Staff said with the tide gates working it is primarily fresh water. With the damaged gates this has changed and caused concern to complete this project as soon as possible. It may take until the next rains to reduce the marshes salinity. Staff discussed the need to upgrade several other large diameter culverts that need repair and suggested that they might be funded through Operation and Maintenance funds. RW indicated that several swans have taken up resident in the marsh and it is exciting to see them there.

ITEM 11. Schedule Next Meeting

Staff recommended that from a flood control perspective that the next meeting could be next May; however, from a Watershed Management view the next meeting should be sooner. DS suggested a meeting in November. Staff suggested meeting when key decision points are necessary. With the Watershed Program just getting started and with two Advisory Board members on the Watershed committee staff responded that a later meeting was preferred. The Watershed Program Manager offered to inform the three Advisory Board members who are not on the Watershed Committee with what is happening by developing a report. With the report the members would not need to worry about violating the Brown Act in relaying information prior to a later Advisory Board meeting. BL said he is very interesting in hearing what staff has to say regarding financing projects and that he felt uncomfortable with the fifteen year delivery projection. TM said the large number of agenda items and length of the meetings could be reduced if meetings occurred on a shorter interval. MB pointed out that January and February are the peak storm months and that a meeting then may be difficult for Flood Control staff. Staff indicated that February should be a time when several decision points will be near and if there are no emergency that staff could support a meeting then. If there is flooding then the meeting would be rescheduled.

BL commented the Flood Control staff on the Staff Report distributed with the agenda package. RW requested that the detail flood flow information used for Vineyard Creek be provided to him. His feeling is that these flows are very low. Staff accepted RW's offer to perform a free hydraulic review and would put him in contact with Winzler and Kelly.

M/S RW/TM: Selection of the next Advisory Board meeting date in February, 2008.

Ayes: All

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

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