

**MINUTES OF
THE FLOOD CONTROL ZONE ONE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2012
7025 REDWOOD BLVD., NOVATO**

Board Members Present

Bill Long (BL)
Dietrich Stroeh (DS)
Drew McIntyre (DM)
Ernie Ganas (EG)
Jim Grossi (JG)

County Staff Present

Tracy Clay (TC)
Hugh Davis (HD)
Pat Balderama (PB)
Liz Lewis (LL)
Craig Tackabery (TC)

Board Member(s) Absent

None

Other (s)

ITEM 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 16, 2011

M/S DS/DM: Approval of minutes of the May 16, 2011 Advisory Board meeting, as written with no amendments.

Ayes: Four

Nay: None

Abstain: One (JG abstained – not a member of the AB when meeting was held)

ITEM 2. Open Time for Items not on the Agenda

Some residents of Arbor Circle reported that there was an apparent lack of weed maintenance and some of the plants installed behind their residences in conjunction with the Vineyard Creek Improvement project done three years ago have failed to thrive. BM Stroeh suggested that staff prepare a report to address these issues.

ITEM 3. Advisory Board Matters

Staff informed the AB that BM Wrynski has resigned from the AB and that Supervisor Arnold wrote a commendation letter thanking BM Wrynski's for his 16-year service to Zone 1. For his replacement the BOS appointed Mr. Jim Grossi to the post. With the resignation of BM Wrynski the post of Vice Chairman was made vacant. BM Stroeh moved to have BM McIntyre appointed to the position. Also, Hugh Davis was introduced as a new staff member and supervisor of flood control capital improvement projects and flood control operations and maintenance.

ITEM 4. Project Update

a. Novato Flood Protection and Watershed Program

Staff provided a status update of watershed program activities. Discussion ensued regarding funding mechanisms, hydraulic modeling and public outreach. BM Long suggested that a public information campaign should be initiated to keep the public informed and involved about the program, including getting professional help, if necessary.

b. Routine Maintenance Activities (RMA)

Staff reported that an RMA is CEQA-supported permitting mechanism by which routine maintenance items in the District, such as minor sediment removal, vegetation management,

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pump station work, are consolidated into one program. The District is in the process of applying for permits with various regulatory agencies (DFG, RWQCB, USACOE).

c. Novato Creek Sediment Removal

Staff reported that we were awaiting final approval of resource agency permits following lengthy discussion to control cost associated with the request for additional sampling, testing and analysis of the sediment for levee re-use. Ultimately these discussions saved the Zone \$54,000 in permit fees. Staff mentioned that sediment removed from the creek is planned to be stockpiled at Gness Field for future levee maintenance at the airport. BM Ganas raised the issue that the proposal to bring the sediment to Gness Field was not previously conveyed to the Airport Commission.

d. Cheda Pump Station

Staff described the reconstruction of the Cheda PS showing slide photos of the old pumps, various stages of construction and the finished structure. Staff mentioned that the project was completed under budget. BM McIntyre suggested that site plans should be included in future presentations to give the AB a sense of location of the projects being presented.

ITEM 5. Annual Preventative Maintenance Work Program

Staff mentioned that the District will be conducting the usual cleanup and vegetation management of all the creeks and infrastructures maintained by the Zone employing the services of the Conservation Corps for about \$200,000 per year. The work will be done in late summer early fall of this year. In addition the Conservation Corps services will be used in the fish relocation program to be performed in conjunction with the Novato Creek sediment removal project.

ITEM 6. Novato Creek Sonoma Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) Railroad Bridge

Staff provided an extensive report on the SMART Railroad Bridge that crosses Novato Creek, including design options being considered and the pier spacing impacts on potential for debris jams. SMART provided an estimate of \$4.5 M to construct a bridge with a 40-foot pier spacing. This cost is \$2.3 M above SMART's base bid amount of \$2.1 M. The District is working with SMART and the City of Novato to identify funding for the 40 foot pier spacing bridge.

The Advisory Board requested a budget analysis be performed to determine the level of Flood Zone 1 funds available to spend on the SMART Bridge, including the possibility of obtaining a loan to cover the District's share of the cost.

M/S EG/DS Recommend that the District continue to work with SMART, and other potential funding partners, to identify funding sources and the most cost effective bridge design with the least impact on upstream water surface elevation and debris loading with the understanding that the desired bridge would have pier spacing of 40'-50'.

Ayes: Five

Nay: None

Abstain: None

ITEM 7. Zone 1 Budget FY 12-13

Staff presented and explained the budget summary for FY 12-13. A brief Q & A and clarification ensued.

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M/S DS/EG: Recommend that the BOS approve the FY 2012-13 Budget as presented.

Ayes: Five

Nay: None

Abstain: None

ITEM 8. Schedule Next Meeting

Per the Zone By-Laws the next meeting was scheduled on August 2, 2012.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm