

**Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District**

**MINUTES OF THE  
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE NO. 1 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 6, 2014, NOVATO FIRE STATION NO.1  
7025 NOVATO BLVD, NOVATO**

**Board Members (AB) Present**

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

**District Staff Present**

Tracy J. Clay, Principal Engineer  
Roger Leventhal, Senior Engineer  
Hannah Lee, Associate Engineer  
Liz Lewis, Principal Planner  
Pat Balderama, Assistant Engineer  
Dave Nicholson, Assistant Engineer

**Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: May 22 2013**

**Action by Board:** Approve minutes as written with no amendments.

**M/S:** EG/DM, **Ayes:** Five, **Nay:** None, **Abstain:** None

**Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda**

1. TC announced PB's retirement and introduced DN as the new Zone 1 Engineer.
2. A resident in the audience requested that a fallen tree that is impeding flow and catching debris within Vineyard Creek be removed. Staff informed the individual that the area where the tree has fallen is within the City of Novato jurisdiction and that the City staff has been notified.

**Item 3. Storm Report**

With the below normal rainfall amounts for the year, District Staff conveyed that there has been no reported flooding in any of the creeks within Zone 1.

**Item 4. Pacheco Pond Management Plan Update**

LL reported the following regarding reoperation of Pacheco Pond in response to odor complaints:

1. West Nile Virus-carrying mosquito larvae were detected within the pond so the Marin Sonoma/Mosquito and Vector Control District is treating it.
2. Tide gates have been opened to increase flushing action in attempt to reduce the bad smells and mosquito larva populations.
3. District Staff is coordinating with California Fish & Wildlife to see about keeping the tide gates open over the summer.
4. Draft plans will be posted on the Marin website ([marinwatersheds.org/Novato.html](http://marinwatersheds.org/Novato.html)).
5. Updates will be provided to the Bel Marin Keys (BMK) Community Services District at their regular Board meeting.

EG volunteered BMK Waterways Manager assistance in gate operation.

**Item 5. Novato Creek Watershed Program**

RL reported on the status of the Watershed study. Along with the items noted in the staff report, RL informed the AB that one project being investigated under EPA funding involves realignment of levees in lower Novato Creek with the goal to improve sediment transport and habitat.

## ***Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District***

### **Item 6. Annual and Preventive Maintenance Report**

District staff provided an update on the habitat restoration success on the Vineyard Creek restoration project per the staff report. Despite meeting project environmental permit requirements for plant survivorship, there was concern from a few audience members regarding the success of tree growth within the upper reach of the project.

**District Staff Action Item:** Property owners were invited to select and plant trees in the flood control easements on their property in coordination with District staff. District staff shall report to the AB on the status of coordinating with the property owners.

### **Item. Novato Creek SMART Train Rail Bridge**

PB described a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the District and SMART to fund an improved bridge design per the staff report. The proposed bridge trestle will be more open and will allow for better water/debris flow under the bridge than the existing bridge. The MOU is going to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration on 3/11/14.

**Action by Board:** Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the MOU to fund the improved bridge design.

***M/S: EG/DM, Ayes: Five, Nay: None, Abstain: None***

### **Item 8. Zone Budget for FY 2014-15**

The proposed FY 2014-15 budget summary attached to the staff report was reviewed by staff and AB with the following requests:

1. EG recommended that the word "miscellaneous" in the budget be replaced with "contingency".
2. DM requested to lump together professional services costs by type.
3. DM asked why we don't rely on the U.S.G.S gauge and District staff said they would report back on this.
4. AB requested a final year-end expenditures report for prior fiscal year.

**District Staff Action Item:** Email a link to FY 2012-13 expenditures report to the AB and in the future include prior year expenditures information in the budget summary.

**Action by Board:** Recommend the Board of Supervisors approve the FY 2014-15 budget.

***M/S: DM/EG, Ayes: Three Nay: None, Abstain: Two (JG and DS due to potential conflict of interest with mention of CSW/Stuber-Stroeh Engineering Group on the summary)***

### **Item 9. Next Meeting**

Staff suggested that the next meeting be scheduled following the results of the Watershed Program's Hydraulics & Hydrology Study expected in June.