

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
7:00 PM TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2014
AT LARKSPUR CITY HALL
400 MAGNOLIA AVENUE, LARKSPUR**

Board Members Present

Tom McInerney (TM), Chairperson (Arrived at 7:04pm)
Peter Hogg (PH)
Richard Gumbiner (RG)
Dan Hillmer (DH)
David Weinsoff (DW)
Sandra Goldman (SG)
Chris Martin (CM)

District Staff Present

Craig Tackabery, Assistant Director
Scott Lyle, Ross Valley Program Manager
Russ Eberwein, Senior Civil Engineer
Felix Meneau, Project Engineer
Carey Lando, Senior Planner

Board Members Absent

None

Item 1. Approval of meeting minutes for September 16, 2014

Action by Board: approve September 16, 2014 minutes as written.

M/S: DW/SG, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** TM, **Abstain:** CM (Absent during past meeting)

Item 2. Open time for items not on the agenda

No comments were received.

Item 3. Observations From Recent Storms (December 3rd & December 11th Events)

Staff and Advisory Board discussed observations from recent December 3rd and December 11th storm events.

RG commented marin.onerain.com did not display rainfall information for upstream areas of the Ross Valley Watershed.

Public comment was provided by Laura Lovett of Larkspur:

- Cars are lost after every storm.
- Limited warnings issued about arriving floods.
- Detention Basins are not the solution unless they can catch 50% of hillside flow.
- Riviera Circle, Lucky Drive, and South Elisio also have similar problems.
- Creek bank erosion has removed 8 feet of shoreline adjacent to homes and will be very expensive to repair/restore

Public comment was provided by Arlene Fox of Hillview and Elder Gardens:

- Flood Zone should fund a creek gage at Bon Air Road Bridge.
- Gage reporting frequency should be increased as the current 15 minute frequency is not enough to help forecast flooding.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

- Larkspur Fire Department should be investigated as a partner in performing future Flood Zone outreach efforts.
- The Skylark Apartment drainage lines need to be videotaped and/or snaked.
- More information should be provided on mud plugs.?What?
- High water in creeks caused flooding next to Corbets Hardware Store. Similarly, high water in creek caused flooding next to M&G burgers.

Public comment was provided by Ruth Kiskaddon:

- More amplification of the Advisory Board members is needed when speaking.

Public comment was provided by Pam Grant from Kent Avenue unincorporated neighborhood:

- Only received two day notification prior to Advisory Board meeting, one week notice is preferred.
- District Staff answered the question that Circlepoint outreach contract is for approximately \$95,000.
- Recommends drain clearing equipment be pursued to prevent street flooding observed such as the equipment used by City of San Rafael.
- Request for ledger report on Flood Zone 9 flood fees spent to date.
- Recommends coordination of street sweeping with neighbors to prevent flooding caused by leaves underneath cars not moved before sweeping such as in the College Court area.
- Fire Department and College of Marin should be notified in advance of floods so cars can be moved ahead of floods.

TM asked District Staff to follow up with Pam Grant on parking/street sweeper suggestion.

DW suggested a Flood Zone 9 six-month notification could be sent collectively with PG&E or Sanitary bills.

Public comment was provided by Rich Trumino from Niven Park neighborhood in Larkspur:

- The cove near his house is silting-in quickly with 6 or 7 inches below high tide and that it should be dredged as a possible. This is a cheaper alternative than constructing detention basin projects.

Item 4. Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Update

The following topics were discussed by District Staff, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

- a) Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Open House
District Staff discussed the Open House held December 13th 2014, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

TM suggested future outreach events be held in similar high traffic areas.

- b) Annual Report
District Staff discussed the recent release of the Annual Report, and that work had started on the FY 2013/2014 Annual Report with assistance being provided by outreach consultant.

TM asked that the Annual Report be distributed to Ross Valley Town and City Managers.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

DH asked that phases of Detention Basin Projects be shown. TM suggested the next Annual Report could clarify if projects are still “subject to environmental review”, “preliminary”, and/or “conceptual”.

c) Technical Working Group (TWG)

District Staff discussed the TWG meeting which was held on December 3rd relating to the Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project within the Larkspur City limits, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

District Staff confirmed, as requested by DH for the record, that the original set of six criteria from the Ross Valley Storm Drainage Fee ballot language was revisited during the TWG meeting held December 3rd.

District Staff answered TM that it would be possible to add a new TWG member containing a new and specific area of expertise.

District Staff answered SG that addressing erosion issues downstream can be added to the project if desired by TWG members.

d) Strategic Communications Plan Update

District Staff discussed that a draft Strategic Communication Plan is expected to be presented at the next Advisory Board meeting, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

DH suggested District Staff obtain email notification lists from each of the Cities and Towns of the Ross Valley that could then be used to further outreach efforts for future Flood Zone 9 meetings and events. DH also asked District Staff to consider a strategic and possibly watershed-wide mailer to be sent.

Item 5. Project Status Updates (Information Item):

The Current Cost Estimate covering environmental and feasibility studies, design and construction of 10-year Work Plan Baseline Measures is included as **Attachment A** to the Staff Report, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#). A summary of project descriptions, cost estimates, and grant funding sources is included as **Attachment B** to the Staff Report, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

Staff discussed possibility of reorganizing the order of projects shown in the 10-year Work Plan Baseline Measures to match with the order reflected within the Staff Report.

Staff recommended a budget subcommittee be created to further review budget information for each project and for the overall program. TM recommended the subcommittee consist of DH, RG, and PH. District Staff suggested the 1st meeting of the subcommittee be held in January.

DH inquired if the CH2MHill detention basin site selection review will be completed before the first budget subcommittee meeting. Staff answered the CH2MHill site selection review is expected to be completed in May of next year, and the first budget subcommittee meeting is recommended for end of January.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

DW asked why the 1st subcommittee budget meeting should be held prior to completion of CH2MHill site selection review. Staff answered it would be possible to proceed with development of a more refined cost estimate for the other projects in the program prior to completion of the detention basin site selection review by CH2M Hill, and the costs spent to date can also be reviewed for all program projects.

General consensus by the Advisory Board was reached for creating a budget sub-committee.

a) Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Retrofit Project

District staff provided an update to the Phoenix Lake IRWM Retrofit Project, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

A presentation was made by consultants with CH2M-Hill regarding benefits and drawbacks for proceeding with different types of environmental compliance documents (program verses project specific) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

DH asked the following:

- Will a City or Town serve as lead agency under CEQA?
CH2M Hill replied that a City or Town may serve as lead agency under CEQA.
- What will be the process, if desired by the Town or City, for a project to be approved by both the Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board and a City or Town Council?
CH2M Hill replied the City or Town can serve as one of the agencies with discretionary approval power over a project residing within its City or Town limits. Approval of the program environmental document will be made by the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board serving as lead agency. The City or Town would serve as the responsible agency.
- When are the mitigation costs added to the project cost estimates?
CH2M Hill replied anticipated mitigation costs for each project will be added when developing the programmatic Environmental Impact Report.

SG asked if National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) will be pursued at this time also, and CH2M Hill replied that this should be considered but focus for this presentation will be on CEQA process.

TM asked what the recommended timeline might be to develop a programmatic CEQA document, and CH2M Hill staff answered it should be started as soon as possible. The detention basin site selection review being performed now will then be included in the programmatic CEQA document as part of the alternatives analysis.

Public comment was provided by Steve Emery of San Anselmo inquiring if residents should bring up anticipated project impacts during CEQA process or if anticipated project impacts will be brought up ahead of resident's voicing their concerns? CH2M Hill replied that all anticipated project impacts will be described as part of the CEQA process, and that any comments made by the public must be responded to within the final CEQA document by law.

Public comment was provided by Brad Rippe of San Anselmo regarding:

- Request for clarification on what CH2M Hill was hired to do for Phoenix Lake IRWM Retrofit project.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

CH2M Hill replied that they will be performing final design, CEQA process, and evaluation of alternatives to the detention basin project.

- How will there be any opportunity to act on viable alternatives to the current detention basins if CH2M Hill is expected to complete the alternatives evaluation in May 2015, yet the budget subcommittee meetings are expected to start in January?
DH responded that the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board will determine if any viable alternatives should be acted upon.

b) Memorial Park Dual-Use Facility

The Town of San Anselmo submitted a grant application to California Office of Emergency Services in May 2014 for \$3 million. The Town was recently informed by FEMA that they were not selected for this grant, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

Public comment was provided by Matt Brown of San Anselmo:

- Who is advised by the Flood Control Zone 9 Advisory Board?
DH answered they advise the Marin County Flood Control & Water Conservation District Board and staff. DW further added the Advisory Board helps refine issues in preparation for approval by the Board of Supervisors.
- The ball fields in Memorial Park are what causes the project cost to be higher than the Loma Alta Detention Basin project.
- Cascade Canyon would be a more viable alternative detention basin site than Memorial Park.
- Detention Basins will only bring the level of flood protection up from 5-year level to a 9-year level, whereas the creek capacity improvements will bring it up to a 60-year level of flood protection.
- The detention basin projects are a financial burden to currently available program funds and deprive the community upstream and downstream. They should only be pursued after other measures have been implemented.

c) Lefty Gomez Field Dual-Use Facility

Staff described the status of the Lefty Gomez Field Dual-Use Facility, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

Public comment was provided by Steve Emery of San Anselmo requesting an explanation why 3:1 detention basin slopes were recently recommended for Lefty Gomez Field whereas steeper 2:1 slopes are currently shown for Memorial Park detention basin. District staff replied that the Lefty Gomez recommendations were preliminary and were obtained from the site-specific geotechnical recommendations by URS Corporation to obtain stable and safe side slopes. These slopes may be changed once the environmental process is further along. The side slopes currently proposed for the Memorial Park detention basin were based on very preliminary data and more geotechnical investigation is needed prior to finalizing side slope design.

d) Loma Alta Dual-Use Facility

Staff described the status of the Loma Alta Dual-Use Facility, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Public comment was provided by Steve Emery of San Anselmo asking for explanation why the dual-use designation applied for the alternative detention basin site residing within Open Space area. District staff answered that the dual-use designation should only be used for the alternative site residing within White Hill Middle School and not for the alternative site residing in Open Space.

e) Bridge Replacements in Town of San Anselmo

District staff described the status of the Building Bridge 2, Nokomis, Madrone, and the Sycamore/Center Boulevard bridge replacements residing within Town of San Anselmo limits, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

f) Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Ross

District staff described the status of the Winship Avenue bridge replacement within Town of Ross limits, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

g) Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Fairfax

District staff described the status of Azalea Avenue bridge replacement in Town of Fairfax, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

DH commented that more outreach should be made to members of the public regarding process for each project of the program. DH recommended as much local involvement be sought as possible for each project, and that public hearing locations be held within the local project area.

h) Corte Madera Creek Units 3 and 4 Project

The District organized and led a meeting on November 13, 2014 with the newly appointed Lieutenant Colonel at the USACE San Francisco branch, see [Staff Report dated December 16th, 2014](#).

i) Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvement Project

Project status covered under Agenda Item 3.b) Technical Working Group.

Public comments were provided by Laura Lovett of Larkspur:

- Outreach is critical for this program, as we all share the same stream and watershed and are all paying into the fee.
- When will the dredge happen as have noted three inches of siltation per year and have been waiting for 15 years?

PH replied from 2010-2013 no siltation has been observed within bathymetric survey recently completed.

DH replied the City of Larkspur has noted siltation as an issue and is looking outside of just the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Corte Madera Creek Channel Project. The removal of silt will be pursued ASAP.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

Item 6. Set Meeting Schedule for 2015

The Advisory Board and staff set tentative meeting dates in 2015 on the third Tuesdays of the following months:

- February 17th
- March 17th
- June 16th
- Sept 15th
- Dec 15th