

**MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD TUESDAY 7:00 PM, MARCH 21, 2017
AT SAN ANSELMO TOWN HALL
525 SAN ANSELMO AVE, SAN ANSELMO CA, 94960**

Advisory Board (AB) Members Present	District Staff (Staff) Present
Richard Gumbiner (RG)	Russ Eberwein, Senior Engineer (RE)
Sandra Guldman (SG)	Hugh Davis, Associate Engineer (HD)
Dan Hillmer (DH)	Liz Lewis, Planning Manager (LL)
Chris Martin (CM)	Felix Meneau, Zone Engineer (FM)
Tom McInerney (TM), Chairperson	Tonya Redfield, Ross Valley Program Manager (TR)
David Weinsoff (DW)	Tony Williams, Principal Civil Engineer (TW)
Advisory Board (AB) Members Absent	Other Staff Present
Peter Hogg	Sean Condry, San Anselmo DPW Director (SC)
	Richard Simonitch, Ross DPW Director (RS)

Item 1. Election of Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair

Action by Board: Elect TM as chair and CM as vice chair:

M/S: DW/DH **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** PH

Item 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 20, 2016

Action by Board: approve meeting minutes from the December 20, 2016 meeting:

M/S: DW/RG **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** PH, **Abstain:** CM (Absent at Meeting)

Item 3. Open Time For Items Not On The Agenda

Public comment was provided by David Haskell of the Fairfax Chamber of Commerce representing 89 businesses in downtown Fairfax regarding that all downtown Fairfax flood reduction options remain on the table including the proposed detention basins at Lefty Gomez Field and former Sunnyside Nursery Growing Grounds.

Public comment was provided by Ross Asselstine of San Anselmo regarding suggestion to pursue programs such as home raising and flood gates, that the December 31, 2005 new year's eve flood may have been less than a 100-year flood event, and suggestion that Lefty Gomez Field be removed from the Program Environmental Impact Report and not considered for use as a potential detention basin site due to conflicts with allowable uses by the California Department of Education.

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Public comment was provided by Chris Lang of Fairfax recommending a study be performed of groundwater within Fairfax owned/leased lands to determine potential for Low Impact Development including at headwaters of the creek(s).

Public comment was provided by Garrill Page of Fairfax regarding the 100-year storm intensity, recent Board of Supervisors contract cancellation clause, and the concern for the viability of detention basins to reduce flood risk.

Item 4. Staff Updates

District staff TW provided an overview of the recent flooding, [see Storm Update presentation from November 1, 2016 to March 1, 2017](#) and discussed that alternate Advisory Board members are not recognized by the Board of Supervisors.

Item 5. San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project Update

District staff LL presented regarding the San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project, [see Staff Report dated March 21, 2017](#) and [presentation on San Anselmo Flood Risk Reduction Project](#).

Public comment was provided by Olivier of L'Appart Bistro in downtown San Anselmo sharing concern for flooding in this area and requesting alternate solutions be analyzed other than removal of building at 634-636 San Anselmo Avenue and should removal proceed that adequate relocation costs be provided to tenants/owners of the property.

Public comment was provided by Ross Asselstine of San Anselmo that storm intensity duration used to develop detention basin concepts was inaccurate.

Public comment was provided by Charles Goodman of Ross cautioning the current proposal for a one-time cleanup of sediment/debris in downtown San Anselmo would likely require additional follow-up sediment removal efforts as was required near the Lagunitas Road Bridge in Ross prior to the bridge's replacement.

District staff responded that by removing old concrete debris the creek may naturally lower its bed allowing it to move more sediment during moderate to heavy flows.

Public comment was provided by Lucy Wilson of Morningside neighborhood that the 2-Dimensional flood videos generated as part of the Morningside/Lower Sleepy Hollow Creek Study were effective communication tools and whether the Morningside neighbors could proceed to construct flood barriers without waiting for project funding.

SC of Town of San Anselmo responded that Morningside neighbors interested to proceed in constructing flood barriers on their property and/or near the creek should contact him first to look at permitting requirements/constraints.

Public comment was provided by Peter Sullivan of Larkspur Hillview neighborhood asking if downstream impacts to proposed projects in San Anselmo will be considered, and District staff responded that a

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computer flood model will evaluate proposed conditions from the upper watershed to the bay and analyze and mitigate any impacts noted downstream.

Public comment was provided by Garril Page of San Anselmo regarding that scour is an important concept and should be studied in detail and if economic impacts will be accepted as a pertinent public comment topic during the April 20, 2017 public scoping meeting.

TM asked District staff if there will be restrictions regarding specific topics which the public can comment on during the scoping meeting including economic impacts.

District staff responded that economic impacts is an important topic and of interest to the program and the National Environmental Policy Act however the upcoming April 20th scoping meeting is regarding the California Environmental Quality Act which does not specifically require economic impact evaluation. District staff stated that all public comments will be accepted during the April 20th scoping meeting.

Action by Board: Recommend District Staff complete contract negotiations with CH2M for performing Project CEQA Feasibility Engineering Services at a not to exceed cost of \$850,000 and request Staff proceed with taking the CH2M contract to the District Board of Supervisors for their authorization.

M/S: DW/SG, Ayes: All, Nay: None, Absent: PH, Abstain: None

Item 6. Program & Other Project Updates and Future Proposed Work in Fiscal Year 2017/18:

See [Staff Report dated March 31, 2017](#) for updates regarding announcement of recently Held public and technical work group meetings, Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management, bridges in Fairfax, San Anselmo, and Ross including Morningside/Lower Sleepy Hollow Creek Feasibility Study, Lower Corte Madera Creek Improvements, Corte Madera Creek Unit 2, 3, and 4, Program Updates including the Program Environmental Impact Report and Home Elevation Grant and Creek Maintenance Program.

TR discussed correction to Staff Report on bottom of page 4 for the Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Ross which described a meeting held October 2017 and this should have been written as October 2016.

Announcement of Recently Held Public and Technical Work Group Meetings:

TM asked what is the Sunnyside Neighborhood Committee and District staff responded the committee represents local Homeowner's Associations and the Towns of Fairfax and San Anselmo to seek input on environmental process of any District flood risk reduction project proposed within or near the former Sunnyside Nursery Growing Grounds.

SG noted the website link provided in the staff report regarding the BayWAVE upcoming meetings was regarding the Vulnerability Assessment in the Coastal Region, and District staff responded an updated link would be shared from RossValleyWatershed.org once available for the Bay Vulnerability Assessment.

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Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management:

District staff provided an update on the Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management Project, see [Staff Report dated March 21, 2017](#). District staff described that the MOU with MMWD is expiring September 1, 2017 and will need to be updated to continue with feasibility studies. The original project scope may be infeasible, as is currently shown in the draft engineering study, because of anticipated cost increases and schedule delays which no longer can satisfy the grant agreement terms. District staff discussed that several other project alternatives could be considered to meet the original criteria of the DWR grant agreement and program goals, which would be presented for consideration and inclusion in the grant amendment to avoid potential loss of up to \$7.6M in DWR grant funds.

CM asked if the project is dead, and District staff said no that the project is only in the first phase involving determining feasibility.

DW, CM, and TM asked for more details regarding what has been uncovered for Staff to expect the original project budget to be exceeded and cause a delay beyond the grant agreement.

RG asked if an additional option 6 can be added as a potential grant migration to Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management involving addressing the recent Granton Park neighborhood flooding.

Public comment was provided by Ross Town Council member P. Beach Kuhl requesting that direct communication be made with the Town of Ross regarding what appears to be a sudden proposed change in the originally envisioned Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management project scope. District staff responded a meeting will be planned with Ross representatives likely in May 2017 followed by a public meeting.

Candee Mitchell of Morningside neighborhood asked for confirmation that one of the potential alternative projects to Phoenix Lake listed as a suitable potential grant migration option was the Morningside/Lower Sleepy Hollow Creek plus upstream detention basin. District staff responded that yes this was correct.

District staff agreed to come back to the Advisory Board at the next meeting with additional information related to this Project update.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Units 2, 3, and 4 Project:

District staff provided an update on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Units 2, 3 and 4 Project.

SG asked with current federal outlook to receive future funding for the project if it is worthwhile to stay with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and District staff responded a recommendation by the Advisory Board and a decision by the Board of Supervisors will need to be in the future but that currently the project is continuing to receive Corps funding and that 65% of the construction for the project could be funded through federal funds. SG asked that Staff look into what would be required to cut ties to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and what possible ramifications would be.

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SG shared that the Coastal Conservancy could be a good funding source to remove portions of the concrete channel which District staff stated could be required as mitigation by permitting agencies.

Public comment was provided by Charles Goodman of Ross inquiring about the creek restoration concept in Ross Park discussed today and any plans to present it to the public. District staff responded it will be presented to the public if found by District staff to be a feasible alternative.

Public comment was provided by Garril Page of San Anselmo regarding the suggestion to evaluate the possibility, including any added liability, of no longer pursuing the project in partnership with the Corps of Engineers.

Program Updates:

TM asked for any additional details and next steps regarding the HMGP home raising grant, and District staff responded that per CalOES, April 30th is deadline when CalOES will request confirmation from District on how many of the homes that submitted grant applications are feasible and prepared to move to the next step.

DW asked with proposed upstream detention in place whether home raising is still needed. District staff responded some of the homes identified that submitted grant applications to raise their homes reside in lower reaches of the watershed and are more tidally influenced and not subject to reduction in water surface elevation from upstream detention as are some other homes in the upper watershed.

Public comment was provided by Lise Stampfli in response to the Hazard Mitigation Home Elevation Grant Update inquiring about the status of the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

Creek Maintenance Program:

TM asked status of the Creek and rain gauge program, and District staff responded that the District and Ross Valley Fire are coordinating regarding joint efforts to improve the rain and creek gauge network. TM asked for District staff to return to AB with proposed locations of new gauges.

Public comment was provided by Arlene Fox of Larkspur that:

- A new tide gauge is needed in the Lower Corte Madera Creek,
- Bon Air Road Bridge project should evaluate raised levees as ramps, flood gates are a viable mitigation measure for homeowners/businesses,
- A culvert may require maintenance under Magnolia Avenue under the Woodland Apartments,
- Can more information be provided about the Geomorphic Dredge approach, and
- Can Hillview neighborhood outfall drainage ways be maintained if needed along Corte Madera Creek prior to any anticipated sediment removal activities as part of the Geomorphic Dredge.

Public comment was provided by Candee Mitchell of Morningside neighborhood that Morningside Drive over Sleepy Hollow Creek would benefit from a new creek gauge.

Public comment was provided by Pamela Grant of Kentfield if any flood fee funds are being set aside to address future storm damages.

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Item 7. Program Planning Fiscal Year 2017/18

District staff presented the draft Fiscal Year 17/18 Work Plan and updated Cost and Revenue Estimate document, see [presentation posted online](#) of the [Draft Work Plan](#) and [Cost and Revenue Estimate](#).

SG asked if grant revenue and Corps funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Unit 2, 3, and 4 project was included in the draft Work Plan presentation. District staff responded that the draft FY 17/18 expenditure Work Plan document did not incorporate anticipated grant revenue or other revenue and assumed that Corps funding would continue in FY 17/18.

Item 8. Adjourn (Next Meeting Scheduled for May 16, 2017)

The Zone 9 Advisory Board confirmed the next meeting date of May 16, 2017. The Advisory Board requested that topics for the next meeting include Corte Madera Creek Units 2, 3 and 4 and the Phoenix Lake Integrated Regional Water Management Projects.