

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE NO. 9 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2014
AT SAN ANSELMO TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS
525 SAN ANSELMO AVENUE, SAN ANSELMO**

Board Members Present

Tom McInerney (TM), Chairperson
Peter Hogg (PH)
Richard Gumbiner (RG)
Dan Hillmer (DH)
David Weinsoff (DW)
Sandra Guldman (SG)

District Staff Present

Craig Tackabery, Assistant Director
Tracy Clay, Principal Engineer
Scott Lyle, Ross Valley Program Manager
Russ Eberwein, Senior Civil Engineer

Carey Lando, Senior Planner
Felix Meneau, Project Engineer

Board Members Absent

Chris Martin(CM)

Town of San Anselmo DPW

Sean Condry, DPW Director
Gerhard Epke, DPW Program Manager

Others

Supervisor Rice (KR), County of Marin

Item 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes: July 15th, 2014

Action by Board: approve July 15th 2014 minutes as written.

M/S: SG/PH, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** CM

Item 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

No comments were received.

Item 3. Ross Valley Flood Protection and Watershed Program Updates

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

a. Annual Community Meeting Planning

District staff provided an update to Annual Community Meeting Planning, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014](#).

RG asked if at upcoming annual meeting will public notification procedures be provided in the event of eminent floods. PH suggested notification procedures can be added within Frequently Asked Questions. District staff answered that these notification methods were all viable options.

b. Technical Working Group

District staff provided an update to Technical Work Group, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014](#).

SG clarified she represents Friends of Corte Madera Creek and not the Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board when serving on the Flood Zone 9 Technical Work Group.

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c. Program Funding – Grant and Cost Updates

District staff provided an update to Program Funding Grants and Cost Updates, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014](#).

TM asked why bridge cost estimates have increased within Staff Report's Attachment A spreadsheet. SC (San Anselmo Public Works Director) answered that original cost estimates were based on grant application cost which did not include CEQA and grant application costs which were later added to project cost. The CEQA and grant application project costs were not included in overall project cost at first because they were thought to be ineligible for Caltrans Local Bridge Program grant funding. However between \$150,000 to \$450,000 are thought be potentially eligible for reimbursement through Caltrans Local Bridge Program grant funds and are being pursued by Town of San Anselmo.

In addition, SC stated that Quincy Engineering, which was hired by Town to perform design and environmental phases for bridge replacement projects, was allocated all available design funding available for the bridge projects thereby leaving no other funds to cover any project charges by Town Staff.

TM asked if other projects in the 10-Year Work Plan have also possibly been omitting CEQA and grant application costs from their total estimated costs shown in Staff Report's Attachment A and Attachment B. District Staff answered CEQA and CM costs are included in the 10-Year Work Plan estimates.

RG asked if any funding shortfalls for projects will be provided by Flood Zone 9 funds. District Staff answered per Program Principles approved by the Advisory Board, up to 30% of project costs can use Flood Zone 9 funds, and if more than 30% is requested it would need to first be presented to the Advisory Board for approval.

Public comment was received from Ian Mossley, San Anselmo, recommending a summary document be provided listing who is paying for what and who is doing what. Mr. Mossley was informed that this information is available within Attachments A and B to the Staff Report.

d. Frequently Asked Questions

District staff provided an update to Frequently Asked Questions, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014](#).

TM asked what public distribution is planned once answers to Frequently Asked Questions are finalized. District Staff answered they would be posted on program website (www.rossvalleywatershed.org) and that additional distribution tools will be investigated and recommended by the outreach consultant.

Public comment was received from Steve Emery, San Anselmo, providing his opinion that the Frequently Asked Questions are not effective and should only state why something is to occur or not to occur.

e. Program Outreach

District staff provided an update to Program Outreach, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014](#).

DH asked if updates of the Corte Madera Creek bathymetric survey will be presented to City of Larkspur during the program overview presentation. District Staff answered that a meeting will be

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held with City Staff prior to meeting with their City Council to discuss the presentation content but the intent of the City Council presentation is to provide a general overview of the program. DH recommended outreach regarding status of dredging project be held in Hill View neighborhood, and community by Lancaster Ave where it abuts the Creek.

TM asked if Town of Ross will be briefed regarding status of Unit 3 and 4 project, and Staff answered they already have met informally with them in the past regarding the project. TM suggested District Staff meet again with Town of Ross regarding Unit 3 & 4 because of new membership within the Town.

f. Communications and Outreach Plan

District staff provided an update to Communications and Outreach Plan, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014](#).

District Staff described stakeholder interview process recently performed by outreach consultant. TM praised efforts made by consultant to obtain a wide-swath of input, including from stakeholders new to the program.

Public comment was received from Nancy Oswald, San Anselmo, regarding a suggestion for more public noticing of upcoming meetings and events through live postings of upcoming meeting agendas and through additional program outreach.

Action by Board: designate DH as representative to participate in the planned review session. PH and SG will also continue to attend as Technical Work Group members.

M/S: TM/RG, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** CM

Item 4. Project Status Updates (Information Item):

a. Phoenix Lake IRWM Retrofit Project

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

Public comment was received from Steve Emery, San Anselmo, asking about timeline for CH2M-Hill CEQA process, request for clarification on number of detention basins proposed at Lefty Gomez Field, and suggestions regarding content of Frequently Asked Questions. District Staff answered 1st task by CH2M-Hill will obtain recommendation on CEQA compliance strategy, and the 2nd task by CH2M-Hill will provide a report reviewing past studies that had identified current detention basin site selection and will include fatal flaw assumptions. District staff expects Task 1 to be completed in one month time, and Task 2 to be completed in approximately 6 months' time.

TM asked if after the report is completed by CH2M-Hill will there be opportunities to discuss the report findings with the Advisory Board and through public comments? District staff answered yes.

Public comment was received from Brad Rippe, San Anselmo, regarding if combined CEQA/NEPA document will be completed by CH2M-Hill, and if any future ideas can still be incorporated into the program that might remove the need for a Memorial Park detention basin. District staff answered that system-wide alternatives will be evaluated as part of the combined CEQA/NEPA process. If cheaper and better alternatives arise and are found to be favored by the community during required CEQA outreach, then these alternatives can still be incorporated into the program. District staff also stated additional CEQA outreach is anticipated to occur above and beyond the minimum

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required by law.

DW confirmed with District staff the original program assumption that only public sites be pursued as suitable as program detention basins will also be reviewed by CH2M-Hill. DW described a potential alternative site in Town of Fairfax with a potential public benefit but residing within a privately owned site.

b. Memorial Park Dual-Use Detention Basin Facility

District and Town staff provided an update to the Memorial Park Dual-Use Detention Basin Project, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014](#).

DH asked District Staff for breakdown of what portion of project components will be funded using Flood Zone 9 funds. District Staff said the cost breakdown will be available soon, and that grant funding will be applied to those funds not covered by Flood Zone 9 funds. SC (San Anselmo Public Works Director) said the multi-modal aspects of the project was required to obtain DWR grant funding, and the benefit/cost analysis has recently gone up to 1.3 for Memorial Park and 1.6 for Building Bridge #2.

Public comment was received from Dolly Franz (sp?), San Anselmo, requesting:

- that a cost estimate be provided for annual restoration of Memorial Park, and
- information on where new tennis courts will be installed if any are to be removed as part of project.

TM clarified there will be a one-time construction cost for the project, and there will not be annual costs associated with restoring the park every year. TM stated that the project is only at concept stage, and public input would continue to be obtained on an agreeable configuration of the park, fields, and tennis courts.

Public comment was received from Brian Crawford, San Anselmo, asking:

- if larger volume of storm water detention might be available by using sites within Cascade Canyon. District staff will report back at next meeting.
- if cleanup of park after a storm event is included in estimated project cost. District staff answered that the District will pay for cleanup costs after large storms events and the Town will fund operating costs.

Public comment was received from Eric Richardson, San Anselmo, requesting process for public to vote in favor or vote against the project. District staff responded that residents voted in favor of the fee measure. Additional public input will be provided during the CEQA process which will take at least two years to complete. TM proposed a CEQA overview session be held outlining steps allowing for public input and comment. District staff agreed to setup the CEQA overview session and will incorporate it with the CH2M-Hill Task 2 strategy discussion.

Public comment was received from Darrel Cook, San Anselmo, asking if he would be required to pay higher property taxes after the project is constructed. District staff answered taxes would not be increased unless a majority of the people voted to do so.

c. Lefty Gomez Field Dual-Use Detention Basin Facility

District staff provided an update to Lefty Gomez Field Dual-Use Detention Basin, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014](#).

No public comments were received.

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d. Loma Alta Detention Basin Facility

Staff provided an update to Loma Alta Detention Basin Project, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014.](#)

Public comment was received from Steve Emery, San Anselmo, asking for clarification on the number of detention basins proposed at Lefty Gomez Field. District staff answered only one detention basin facility is proposed at Lefty Gomez Field.

e. Bridge Replacements in Town of San Anselmo

District and Town staff provided an update to the Bridge Replacement projects in the Town of San Anselmo, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014.](#)

Steve Lamb from San Anselmo inquired if cost estimate for Building Bridge#2 includes price needed to purchase the property. District and Town Staff answered that it does and two appraisals were obtained for the property, one appraisal was about \$1.2 million and the second was \$1.295 million.

f. Winship Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Ross

District staff provided an update to the Bridge Replacement project in the Town of Ross, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014.](#)

No public comments were received.

g. Azalea Avenue Bridge Replacement in Town of Fairfax

District staff provided an update to the Bridge Replacement project in the Town of Fairfax, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014.](#)

No public comments were received.

h. Corte Madera Creek Units 3 and 4 Project

District staff provided an update to Corte Madera Creek Unit 4 Project, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014.](#)

KR (Supervisor Rice) thanked the approximately thirty or so different watershed stakeholders that provided vital letters of support which were forwarded to federal legislators in order to request federal funding for the project. KR recapped the meeting held in Washington D.C. last July which included attendance by one of the highest ranked officials of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). KR described a recent meeting at the Marin County Civic Center held with Senator Feinstein's staff, and that a meet and greet is being planned with the recently appointed Lieutenant Colonel John C. Morrow of the USACE San Francisco branch.

No public comments were received.

i. Corte Madera Creek Sediment Management

District staff provided an update to Corte Madera Creek Sediment Management, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014.](#)

DH asked if the recent bathymetric survey completed within Corte Madera Creek will still be usable given the survey was performed during a period of drought. PH answered the drought should not significantly affect the survey results. District staff added that historical creek flows will be considered in the determination of sediment accumulation rates.

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No public comments were received.

j. Summer Maintenance Program

Staff provided an update to Summer Maintenance Program, see [Staff Report dated September 16th 2014.](#)

TM asked District staff why certain areas of the creek can still appear overgrown after creek vegetation maintenance has been completed. District staff answered typically only the 'active creek' channel is cleared of vegetation and flow obstructions leaving natural canopy within other areas of the creek as an environmental consideration. Town staff emphasized that recently removed vegetation can sometimes grow back very rapidly.

Town staff discussed planned Town of San Anselmo focus areas for this year's upcoming creek vegetation maintenance, primarily residing within Sycamore Avenue and downtown area. Town staff made recommendations for ways to expand the Ross Valley Creek Maintenance Program by providing additional funding mechanism to allow work within an entire creek corridor. District staff emphasized the creek program is intended to address creek maintenance issues first which should be addressed annually and is not meant to fund larger creek projects.

No public comments were received.

Item 5. Next Advisory Board Meeting

Advisory Board recommended the next Flood Zone 9 Advisory Board meeting be scheduled on December 16, 2014.

M/S: PH/RG **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None, **Absent:** CM

No public comments were received.