

**MINUTES OF
THE FLOOD CONTROL ZONE ONE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2010
999 MACHIN AVENUE, NOVATO**

Board Members Present

Bill Long (BL)
Dietrich Stroeh (DS)
Drew McIntyre
Ernie Ganas

County Staff Present

Tracy Clay (TC)
Pat Balderama (PB)

Board Members Absent

Ray Wrynski (RW)

Other

None

ITEM 1. Approval of Minutes: May 7, 2009

M/S DS/BL: Approval of minutes of the May 7, 2009 Advisory Board meeting, as written with no amendments.

Ayes: All Present

Nay: None

Abstain: One Absent

ITEM 2. Open Time for Items not on the Agenda

A member of the audience inquired about the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) requirement to remove trees from levees and its impact on the mitigation planting installed for the Novato Flood Control Project. Staff replied that the requirement is for levees built by the COE or levees needing COE certification. Zone 1 levees currently are not under either category.

A member of the audience has observed that fish are thriving in the recently improved Vineyard Creek but that birds are eating them all up. Staff responded that the matter will be referred to our staff biologist.

ITEM 3. Project Update

a. Watershed Program

Staff informed the AB that the watershed website is close to completion and should be fully operational by the end of this summer. It is being diligently updated as information comes along.

Staff is working with local Districts and the City of Novato to identify issues and needs. A summary of this information will be presented at the first technical work group meeting scheduled for this September. The primary topic for discussion at this Technical Work group meeting will be a discussion of a lower Novato Creek Flood Control and Restoration approach. This conceptual approach would evaluate opportunities to improve flood protection, sediment transport and restore wetland habitat. The discussion will also focus on upcoming grant opportunities to support watershed planning efforts.

Staff stated that the Watershed Program is on the wait and see mode pending a decision from the CA Supreme Court on the Ross Valley Watershed Program election litigation.

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

b. Vineyard Creek Flood Control Improvements Project

Construction for Vineyard Creek Flood Control Improvements Phase II was completed last October. As required under the project's environmental permits, 5 years of vegetation and geomorphic monitoring and adaptive management is being conducted. Shelterbelt Builders, Inc. completed installation of native riparian vegetation and its associated irrigation system on the Phase II project site early this month. At the end of last year Shelterbelt submitted the required annual plant survivorship report for plants that were installed following the first phase of construction, and recommended and implemented appropriate plant replacement strategies. A new contract is required to continue the vegetation monitoring as mandated by our permit conditions. We will bundle this effort with the on-going vegetation monitoring and reporting efforts at Novato Creek Phase 8.

Kamman Hydrology and Engineering, Inc. performed baseline geomorphic monitoring last summer and submitted their annual report with site-specific management recommendations. No contract modifications are required to complete geomorphic monitoring requirements.

c. Novato Creek Maintenance Dredging

Staff informed the AB that in anticipation of the next maintenance dredging of Novato Creek in summer 2012, staff has started the search for dredge disposal sites. Several prospective sites have been identified and contacts with representatives of the sites have been made. A member of the Board suggested contacting the BMK CSD engineering representative about the BMK's own disposal site.

ITEM 4. Annual and Preventative Maintenance Work Program

Staff mentioned that cleanup and vegetation management of about 18 miles of creeks maintained by the Zone is contracted through the North Bay Conservation Corps (formerly Marin Conservation Corps) at a cost of \$200,000. Also, this summer four pumps at three different stations will be reconditioned at a cost of \$110,000. The deteriorated outfall pipe at Cheda PS will be replaced at estimated cost of \$30,000.

ITEM 5. Zone 1 Budget FY 10-11

Staff presented the budget summary for FY 10-11 and the 5-year cash flow projection for the Zone. It was noted the Zone would have adequate funds for routine maintenance activities but would not have funds for major overhaul and/or replacement of Zone facilities (e.g. pump stations) or for any capital projects on the Zone's high-priority project list. An AB member commented that long-term projection shows a shortfall in the out years and that a tax measure may be needed. Additional fiscal review would be required before pursuing such course.

A Board member requested that a column for the previous year's expenditures be added to the budget summary.

M/S DS/BL: Recommend that the BOS approve the 2010-11 Budget as presented.

Ayes: *All Present*

Nay: *None*

Abstain: *One Absent*

ITEM 6. Schedule Next Meeting

Per the Zone By-Laws the next meeting was scheduled on the 1st Thursday of August 2010. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm