

**MINUTES OF
THE FLOOD CONTROL ZONE ONE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD THURSDAY, February 28, 2008,
999 RUSH CREEK PLACE**

Board Members Present

Mark Byers
Ray Wrysinski
Dietrich Stroeh

County Staff Present

Bob Beaumont
Tracy Clay
Hannah Lee

Board Members Absent

Terry Molloy
Bill Long

Other

Glenn Young, City of Novato

ITEM 1. Approval of Minutes: July 26, 2007

Meeting began at 6:32 pm. RW reported that people were mistakenly told to attend this meeting for emergency services. He noted this is not a meeting for emergency response.

M/S DS/MB: Approval of minutes of the July 26, 2007 Advisory Board meeting, as written with no amendments.

Ayes: All Present

Nay: None

Abstain: Two Absent

ITEM 2. Open Time for Items Not on the Agenda

A. New Staff member

Staff introduced the new Zone 1 Engineer, Hannah Lee.

B. Upper Novato Creek Issues

A member of the public noted that bank erosion and fallen trees are a problem in Novato Creek in the area upstream of Grant Avenue. Staff reported that a recent study conducted by Questa Engineering evaluated bank erosion and provides a suite of bank stabilization designs that integrate flooding and habitat enhancement needs along the upper reaches of Novato Creek. The upcoming Watershed Stewardship Program will investigate funding opportunities for this type of project. In addition, the District has a comprehensive vegetation management plan for creeks countywide, including Novato Creek, which provides guidance for removal of fallen trees within active creek.

C. Novato Creek Maintenance - General

Several Nave Garden residents requested that storm debris and vegetation be removed as soon as possible after storms and that Novato Creek and Warner Creek be dredged more frequently. Staff reported that we have an active storm preparation and response program in which we check drainage facilities before, during and after storms and remove debris and vegetation and make repairs as needed. In addition, Novato Creek dredging is performed on an as needed basis based on the level of sediment accumulation related to channel design. In the past, sediment levels have dictated that we dredge once every 4 years. The next dredging cycle is scheduled for this summer, 2008.

ITEM 3. Report on 2008 Winter Storms

Staff reported that during the January 4th storm high tides (~ 100 year tide) and high precipitation rates (~10 to 25-year precipitation) contributed to high waters along Novato Creek. Observed water levels approached the 50-year level in some neighborhoods along Novato Creek.

It was reported that although there was standing water in many streets in the Nave Gardens area, the Novato Creek Flood Control Project performed according to design. During the design process in the 1980's, several options were considered. The final project selected balanced flood protection and cost by keeping the 50 year storm flood waters low enough to not flood homes, but in some locations, allowing limited roadway flooding. This is exactly what happened in January.

One of the main elements of the ultimate design of the Novato Creek Flood Control Project is a permanent overflow weir downstream of the Redwood Highway and the adjacent railway crossing that would act as a relief valve that would come into effect just before flooding occurs upstream. The overflow weir has not been constructed yet. In the interim, flood control staff monitor the water surface elevations in the creek at this location during critical storm events and breach the levee to provide a similar relief valve effect when required. It was noted that the timing of the breaching is critical. You cannot breach too early because the area behind the levee will fill up with water before the peak of the storm hits and will not be available for storm water storage when needed later in the storm event.

Efforts are underway to begin planning for the by-pass weir, lower Novato Creek channel improvements and local drainage solutions in the Nave Gardens area. Most recently the District applied for an \$80,000 grant from the Regional Water Quality Control Board for hydraulic study of the area.

A member of the public asked if there are any inexpensive short-term solutions that could be pursued to alleviate flooding in Nave Gardens such as check valves or portable pumps. It was noted the local drainage in this area is maintained by the City of Novato. The City noted that regulatory and maintenance problems are issues with these types of facilities.

ITEM 4. Watershed Program

Staff provided a briefing of the Watershed Program. See summary in *2/28 STAFF REPORT*. It was announced that a formal presentation of the WSP will be presented to the North Bay Watershed Association in the spring. Also it was noted that no additional Flood Control staff will be hired at this time to support this program however one new senior planner position was added to implement this program and will be funded through the County General Fund.

ITEM 5. Vineyard Creek Flood Control Improvements

Staff provided a report on Vineyard Creek Flood Control Improvements. See summary in *2/28 STAFF REPORT*. It was noted that several regulatory permitting and easement acquisition issues have been encountered and has slowed progress. If all the easements don't come in before project is ready to go out to bid then the project will be split in to two phases, one this summer and one for summer of 2009. Staff reported that a public information meeting will be held on this project prior to construction.

The Memorandum of Understanding defining cost sharing and responsibilities is being executed by the District and City of Novato. Engineer's estimated cost for the Improvements Project is approximately \$2 million. The City of Novato will provide 58% of the cost for the Center Rd Crossing therefore the total cost to Flood Control Zone 1 is \$1.4 million.

ITEM 6. Novato Maintenance Dredge Project

Staff provided a report on Novato Maintenance Dredge Project. See summary in *2/28 STAFF REPORT*. Pending identification of favorable spoils disposal location and environmental clearance, the District is on schedule for construction.

ITEM 7. Approval of By-Laws

Advisory Board noted that meetings should be more frequent than indicated in By-Laws.

M/S DS/MB:

Ayes: *All present*

Nay: *None*

Abstain: *Two absent*

ITEM 8. Schedule Next Meeting

As according to By-Laws meeting should be held on the 3rd Thursday of May.

M/S DS/MB: Selection of the next Advisory Board meeting date in May 15th at 6:30 pm 2008.

Ayes: *All present*

Nay: *None*

Abstain: *Two absent*

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.