



MINUTES

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 2A – Petaluma River Watershed

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 28, 2020 ~ 1:00 P.M.

Meeting held virtually using Zoom. Link to recording:

<https://scwa-ca-gov.zoom.us/rec/share/1Hyc5kFYZ-Gbakzspb0CebypW1FGHaoNFzQeTRCnHEzUYS5BT6yv3XFAs-SQpSfA.ZR4JDcNUi0YwzEv8> Passcode: PiJ4w#vr

Committee Member attendees: Ned Orrett, John FitzGerald, Teresa Barrett, Craig Jacobsen, Andy Rodgers, Paul Efron. City: Gina Benedetti-Petnic, Ken Eichstaedt, Sonoma Water: Grant Davis, Kent Gylfe, Carlos Diaz, Susan Haydon, Chase Takajo. County Transportation & Public Works, Johannes Hoevertsz. Woodard & Curran: Christy Kennedy, Millie Cowley-Crawford. Balance Hydrologics: Ed Ballman, Eric Riedner. Prunuske Chatham.: Lukas Walton. Sonoma Resource Conservation District: Katie Robbins, Anya Starovoytov. Pat Gilardi, District Director Supervisor Gorin. Sonoma Land Trust: Kendall Webster. Public: Rick Savel, Chris Cheek.

1. OPENING/INTRODUCTIONS

Ned Orrett called meeting to order at 1:05pm. Susan Haydon (SH) acknowledged the public posting of meeting notices on Agency and County Clerk websites and notices in Press Democrat and Argus Courier newspapers. SH identified committee members present: Chairman Orrett, John FitzGerald, Teresa Barrett, Craig Jacobsen, Andy Rodgers, and Paul Efron. Bob Martin, absent.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT- None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John FitzGerald motioned to approve minutes of the December 5, 2019 meeting. Second by Teresa Barrett. Motion carried.

4. UPPER PETALUMA FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT MODEL SCREENING RESULTS- Informational Item

Project update by Sonoma Water, Susan Haydon and presentation by Woodard & Curran, Balance Hydrologics. Sonoma Water, with contractors Woodard & Curran and Balance Hydrologics, has now completed its first step in Feasibility Study through completion of building a hydrologic and hydraulic model of the Upper Petaluma Watershed. This model is a highly refined tool and is used to understand the conditions and flows during storm events and used to estimate flood management benefits for various project types. Mille Cowley-Crawford, Woodard & Curran, presented the initial screening results and provided explanation of the types of project concepts and estimated flood benefits. These included detention basins and floodplain enhancements with discussions on considerations of scale, upstream tributary or headwaters locations.

Model is consistent with City's surface water model and FEMA's modeling approach through ongoing coordination with City and their consultants, WEST, as well as coordination with other data inputs. Next step in Feasibility Study is to study feasibility for various project concepts and benefits by location.

Several committee members seeking additional information and requested additional opportunity for follow-up session to learn more. Full presentation materials and discussion available in meeting recording.

5. PETALUMA RIVER DREDGING- Informational Item

Project update by City of Petaluma, Gina Benedetti-Petnic (GP)

City successfully completed river dredging project with \$9.5M funding from USACE. Work commenced 9/15 and was completed in 6 weeks. City outlined challenges of 32% more material (sediment and trash) than was anticipated and had to be removed by 10/15. Amount of non-silt debris was significant and slowed down the operation. Flows were higher and city crews worked round the clock with dredgers. Daily monitoring was performed to manage dissolved oxygen levels. D Street Bridge was lifted for 11 days to allow barge and generators to provide power to dredge, easier maneuverability and maintain schedule. Additional challenges were: fencing and noticing to assure safety for Shollenberger trail users, stolen City vehicle, and unsecured dredge pipe. Debris included: shopping carts, bike and car parts, 10 bowling balls, tools, big pieces of concrete, asphalt cuttings logs and general trash and debris. GP noted if we can keep our river clean we won't have this kind of impact. We need to re-double our efforts on debris and trash management and increase public outreach.

John FitzGerald notes dredgers were pumping 17,000 gpm at peak. Mayor Barrett commends City staff for response to needs and the changes on daily basis. She acknowledged the effort as a tremendous accomplishment and is proud of the preparations made to ensure success. City was ready at the right time with dedicated staff to make it happen.

6. LICHAU CREEK FLOOD AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT CONCEPTS

Item tabled.

7. UPPER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Presentation by Anya Starovoytov and Katie Robbins, Sonoma Resource Conservation District (RCD). RCD provided overview on types of climate beneficial practices, existing programs and countywide initiatives to promote soil health and water conservation. Carbon farm plans, conservation plans, and soil health field demonstration projects were highlighted as current strategies underway, contributing to multiple benefit stormwater management. RCDs and through coordination with partners are working to accelerate stormwater management practice adoption through landowner incentives, technical assistance and education. The adaptation and resilience planning of Petaluma River Baylands and the Update of the Petaluma River Watershed Enhancement Plan efforts were discussed with information on stakeholder involvement and opportunities for public participation.

Chairman Orrett sees many opportunities to leverage this work.

8. STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM UPDATE

Item tabled.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Jacobsen requested more information on the Upper Petaluma Flood Control Project and recent modeling and screening evaluations to better understand modeling assumptions and size, scale of detention being envisioned.

Rick Savel requested additional discussion as follow-up on Upper Petaluma River modeling and feasibility work and requested update and information on Lichau Creek modeling and assessment work. He also noted questions remain regarding status and functionality of weir and relation to Caltrans work, design assumptions.

10. NEXT MEETING – Tentative date: Dec. 10th, 1pm.

Chairman Orrett adjourned meeting at 3pm.