



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Flood Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for October 26, 2011

Board Members Present: Scott Ward, Chairman; DeWayne Justice, Vice Chairman; Melvin Martin Secretary; Hemant Patel; Dallas Tanner; Wylie Bearup, Ex Officio; Bob Larchick, Ex Officio.

Board Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Tim Phillips; Julie Lemmon, General Counsel; Greg Jones; Kelli Sertich; Scott Vogel; Christopher Fazio; Tom Renckly; Bobbie Ohler; Gary Wesch; and Anna Medina.

Guests Present Nathan Ford, RBF; Doug Both, Hoskin-Ryan; Teri George, Baker; Hasan Mushtaq, City of Phoenix; Ash Patel, Wood Patel; Frank Henderson, Ritoch-Powell; Robert Worley, Luke AFB; Brent Ciboch, Luke AFB; Elliot Silverston, URS; Dave Jensen, Tetra Tech, Inc; Randy Harrel, Town of Fountain Hills; Carlos Carriaga; Dan Frank, Dibble; Zach Schmidt, Kimley-Horn; Ashley Couch, City of Scottsdale; Raymond Rees, Town of Fountain Hills; Charles Griffith, Atkins; Dan Nissen, City of Peoria; Frank Henderson; Ritoch-Powell; Chad Drago, Baker.

1) CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman DeWayne Justice called the meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board (FCAB) to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2011.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Scott Vogel introduced Bobbie Ohler, Employee of the Quarter and Project Manager with the District for 10 years. Ms. Ohler manages the design of projects for the District, including setting up partnerships with cities, scoping and managing design contracts, and supporting projects through construction. Recent successful projects include the Old Cross Cut Canal Project and the Pinnacle Peak Basin and Storm Drain.

4) APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 27, 2011

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Larchick to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

5) ELECTIONS OF FCAB OFFICERS

Presentation given by: Timothy S. Phillips, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager.

PURPOSE: To determine whether the Advisory Board should elect officers as nominated for the period November 2011 to October 2012 based on the slate recommended by staff or to open the nominations for officers.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Phillips explained that as is customary, there was a one slot rotation. Mr. Justice will serve as Chairman with Mr. Martin serving as Vice Chairman and Mr. Patel as the Secretary.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Patel to approve the item as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

6) APPOINTMENT OF FCAB STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 2011/2012

Presentation given by: Timothy S. Phillips, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager.

PURPOSE: To obtain the Advisory Board Chairman's approval for appointment of members to the FCAB Standing Committees.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Phillips stated that appointments to the standing committees are outlined in each member's packet. He also provided a visual slide that listed the appointments.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Larchick to approve the item as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

7) FISCAL YEAR 2013 CIP PRIORITIZATION PROCEDURES

Presentation given by: Amir Motamedi, P.E., Hydrology/Hydraulics Branch Manager.

PURPOSE: This item is for information and discussion only. No formal action is required.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Phillips prefaced the presentation by reviewing that the District completed an annual prioritization process, which is presented during the October Advisory Board Meeting. The prioritization process included the evaluation of projects submitted this year. He continued by stating that he has reviewed the final results. The Programs Committee has given their endorsement. He clarified that the evaluation was based strictly on what projects were submitted. As projects develop over time, there may be further efficiencies that can be leveraged.

Mr. Motamedi presented the results of the Fiscal Year 2013 CIP Prioritization, stating that in May 2011, notices were sent to municipalities and agencies for the submission of requests for prioritization. District staff recommendations were presented to the FCAB Programs and Budget Committee in October. A total of 11 submittals were received with a total estimated cost for the proposed projects at \$87.2 million with approximately \$50 million proposed to be paid by the District, and \$37 million to be paid by the submitting agencies. Mr. Motamedi provided a visual

slide that listed the agencies submitting requests. He then provided a breakdown of the 11 projects. Three projects are proposed to be moved for further consideration, one conditionally.

He reviewed the projects in more detail, beginning with a submission by Luke Air Force Base, in reference to Litchfield and Camelback roads. He explained that the majority of the base is west of Litchfield Road, although some housing and facilities exist on the east side of the road. He displayed a map and noted that much of the base is affected by a 100-year floodplain. The area has experienced flooding over the past few decades. As a solution to the flooding, the base is proposing an upgrade of an existing series of storm drains along with new channels and improvement to existing channels to collect the 100-year flow and direct it south to its current natural outfall, which is Bullard Wash at Camelback. Approximately 250 acres of base facilities will be removed from the floodplain by this project, including aircraft parking spots, 94 buildings, four aircraft hangers and other critical facilities and infrastructure. The total cost of the project is estimated at \$9.3 million, half of which is proposed to be paid for by the District and the other half by Luke Air Force Base.

The next project was submitted by the Town of Fountain Hills and involves the Ashwood Wash at Saguaro Boulevard. In 2000, the District and the Town joined in rehabilitating Golden Eagle Park, located to the west of Ashwood Wash upstream. As a result of the rehabilitation, the flows in Ashwood Wash increased, resulting in an increase in water surface up to a foot to a foot and a half. The Town has suggested and the District has verified that 13 more homes are now subject to flooding during a 100-year storm. As a proposed solution, the Town is proposing a channelizing of Ashwood Wash. However, the channelization alone will not remediate the flooding because existing crossings at Bayfield and Saguaro Boulevard currently have CMPs which are not capable of passing the 100-year flow and water is backing up. As such, part of the proposal includes replacing these crossings with concrete box culverts. The total cost of the project is \$1.5 million, half of which is to be paid by the Town and the other half by the District.

The third project recommended for further consideration is located at 115th Avenue and Union Hills and 107th Avenue, submitted by the City of Surprise. Mr. Motamedi explained that historically the subdivision located in the area of 107th Avenue and Union Hills Drive has experienced flooding. As a solution, the City of Surprise, City of Peoria, the District and MCDOT together propose a series of new storm drains and improvement on the existing channels. The idea is to add a new storm drain along 107th Avenue to collect the flows coming from the northeast as well as an improved channel at about 113th Avenue and utilization of an existing channel or improvement of an existing channel to take the flow south to the Agua Fria River. The project currently is proposed to provide to a 10-year level of solution. However, if the right-of-way is available, all involved would like to make it a 100-year level solution. The proposed cost for the project currently is \$15.2 million, 40 percent of which is to be paid by the City and 60 percent by the District.

Mr. Motamedi explained that during the meetings with the Programs and Budget Committee, a suggestion was made on taking a more direct route to the Agua Fria, rather than going south. This possibility was investigated and alternatives were looked at during the DCR (Design Concept Report) process. However, due to the flat grade between 115th Avenue and the Agua Fria River, a larger right-of-way and bigger box culverts were required. When the costs were compared, the upgrades to the current outfall along 115th Avenue were deemed the most efficient and cost-effective solution.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Ward asked about a solution where stormwater is collected and put on a private golf course. Mr. Phillips replied that fundamentally, stormwater is not a reliable resource. The investment required to create a method to capture and distribute the stormwater would be problematic also due to the existing sediment and trash carried in the stormwater. Board member Patel pointed out that in the past the District has used a golf course as part of the channel system, rather than for watering. Chairman Ward stated that by taking out one house, water could be trucked down or flowed into the river. He acknowledged that this might be complex and would involve an agreement that would not work in perpetuity. Mr. Phillips added to Mr. Motamedi's comments that the slope of the land is so shallow that it would require taking out more than one house. Chairman Ward asked about the cost difference between the two options. Mr. Motamedi responded that the recommended approach is at a cost of \$15.2 million with the alternative costing an additional \$5 million. Board member Martin suggested that future presentations include a topographical map, which would help to more effectively illustrate the details of the proposed solutions.

Mr. Motamedi discussed the next project, McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park submitted by the City of Scottsdale and involving Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale Road and Lincoln Drive. Some of the area has historically experienced flooding: the commercial corner, indicated on the map, and the Sands North Condominiums and the Ridden Rock apartments have experienced flooding in the past. As a solution, Scottsdale is proposing a channel that would take the flows in a southeasterly direction to an existing channel that would carry the flows to the Indian Bend Wash through the collector channel. A second system proposed is a storm drain along Lincoln Drive that will collect the flows and take them to a closed conduit to the Indian Bend Wash Collector Channel and then to Indian Bend Wash. The open channel would be a 100-year solution. The pipe storm drain is proposed as a 50-year solution. The total project cost is estimated at \$6.7 million, with 40 percent to be paid by the City and 60 percent by the District. Staff is recommending conditional approval. The District is commissioning the Lower Indian Bend Wash Area Drainage Master Study which will study the general area. As a part of this, they will confirm whether the flows used for this design are correct and define the most cost-effective solutions.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Ward asked about the possibility of creating a basin at the park, which could house the 100-year storm event, as opposed to taking the water east with an expensive channel or pipe system. Mr. Motamedi replied that part of the answer depends upon Scottsdale's plans for the park and whether a basin would be compatible. A City of Scottsdale staff member commented that when Scottsdale was developing a master plan for the area, one alternative considered was a basin in the park. He explained that there is not space available to construct an adequately sized basin for the magnitude of flows through the area to have any appreciable beneficial impact to downstream properties. As such, this alternative was rejected as not feasible. Chairman Ward asked about the possibility of purchasing adjacent vacant land for the creation of the basin. The Scottsdale staff member explained that the vacant land is within the City of Scottsdale while west of that point lies within the Town of Paradise Valley. He added that there are proposed development projects for vacant lands in both Scottsdale and Paradise Valley, including the Ritz Carlton project and the Palm Ray project. Board member Martin asked about the project breakdown for the two projects included in the plan. The storm drain down Lincoln is estimated to cost \$5 million with \$1.7 million being the cost for the open channel across the park.

Chairman Ward commented that in looking at the plan from a layman's view, he saw great expense in the solution illustrated in red, especially as it pertains to traffic and utility crossings.

He stated that he would welcome having Mr. Motamedi's group and the City of Phoenix staff approach Paradise Valley on the possibility of creating a basin on the Paradise Valley side. He also asked about public safety issues regarding Scottsdale Road and Lincoln Drive during a 100-year storm event. Scottsdale staff acknowledged that eyewitnesses have seen approximately two feet of flow going down Lincoln Road, far less than a base flood and inundating the commercial area on the northwest corner of Lincoln and Scottsdale, causing structure flooding. Scottsdale Road is also currently subject to inundation as is Indian Bend Road just east of Scottsdale Road.

Mr. Motamedi discussed the next project, submitted by the City of Phoenix. He noted that a decision on this project was deferred the previous year. The project is located at Scottsdale Road, Pinnacle Peak Road and the Loop 101 freeway in the location of the Palisene Paradise Ridge on state trust land. The City of Phoenix submitted the project for a cost-shared flooding solution and infrastructure on the parcel. Currently the District and the City of Scottsdale are toward the end of a study on the Pinnacle Peak South area, which encompasses Scottsdale Road on the City of Scottsdale side. They will also be starting a new study, called Pinnacle Peak West, incorporating the area on the City of Phoenix side of Scottsdale Road. Once these studies are complete, staff is confident that they can come up with alternatives. Looking at more broad solutions that will not only benefit the one parcel, but the area overall. As such, they would like to defer any recommendations on the projects until the studies are complete and alternatives explored.

DISCUSSION: Chairman Ward suggested that when staff returns to provide an update, that they also include the genesis of the wash area and include a topographical map as well as municipal boundaries.

Mr. Motamedi discussed that there were six submittals which were not recommended for further CIP (Capital Improvement Program) consideration. The main reasons for the decisions were that the projects were too local or the flood control component proposed was not as strong. Chairman Ward asked about the next steps in the process for these proposed projects. Mr. Motamedi explained that if the Advisory Board approves the recommendations, the submitting agencies for these six submittals can either resend their proposals as-is the following year or modify their proposals to include a better flood control component.

Mr. Motamedi reviewed the recommendations. Three submittals were recommended for further CIP consideration. One submittal was conditionally recommended, one was deferred and six submittals were not recommended for further consideration.

8) FISCAL YEAR 2011 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Presentation given by: Christopher Fazio, Finance Manager.

PURPOSE: This item is for information and discussion only. No formal action is required

DISCUSSION: Christopher Fazio discussed the results of the fiscal year ending in June. Beginning balance at the start of last fiscal year was \$90 million, ending at \$82 million with a normal level fund balance of \$30 to \$40 million. The fund balance was built up in anticipation of assessed values having dropped off. With regard to revenue, the District finished with more revenue than budgeted. It expended less than was budgeted. On the revenue side, they ended at 103 percent of revenue budget, with property taxes as a big driver in revenues. Most increases came from IGA revenue and miscellaneous revenue. For miscellaneous revenue, they were at

142 percent of budget, mostly driven by excess land sales totaling \$2.3 million. The remainder of the miscellaneous revenue came primarily from data sales.

Expenditures were at 89 percent. For CIPs, there was \$53 million in expenditures, representing the largest share of the budget. The other major components include the planning and maintenance programs. CIPs, maintenance and planning accounted for approximately three-quarters of expenditures. Other major categories include floodplain review and floodplain delineation activities. Broken down in an alternative manner, the totals included \$50 million for infrastructure and land, \$17 million for labor and \$17 million for services. Supplies, vehicles and equipment represent a minor portion. Mr. Fazio went on to pinpoint the most costly contracts, including the Camelback storm drain construction contract and the White Tanks FRS No.3 dam rehabilitation project.

He discussed Fiscal Year 2012, noting that they are four months into the year. The operating budgets are flat with respect to last fiscal year. Revenues and tax levies have dropped off. He added that during the current year, they will experience their biggest decrease on the fund balance by approximately \$15 to \$20 million. He noted that there is a capital purchase freeze in effect as well as a hiring freeze. He went on to discuss that they are beginning Fiscal Year 2013 budget planning, where they expect the first drop-offs in capital improvement program funding. Operating budget is expected to hold flat. They project that the tax levy for Fiscal Year 2013 will hold constant from Fiscal Year 2012, which is a drop-off from Fiscal Year 2011.

9) LAFAYETTE CONSTRUCTION IGA W/CITY OF PHOENIX

Presentation given by: Bobbie Ohler, P.E., Project Manager.

PURPOSE: Endorse and recommend that the Flood Control Advisory Board of Directors approve IGA FCD2011A012, for the construction, construction management, and operation and maintenance of the Lafayette Interceptor Drain and Outlet Project.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Ohler reviewed past authorizations, including the resolution and the design, rights-of-way acquisition and utility relocation IGAs. She depicted the project location on the vicinity map, located in the Arcadia area at Lafayette Boulevard and 44th Street. The area has been subject to historical flooding, resulting in major damages. Stormwater comes off Camelback Road and flows to the southwest through the streets and backyards and ponds behind the Arizona Canal. Ms. Ohler noted the canal is raised several feet above the adjacent ground level. In the past, there was no substantial outlet for the stormwater. The District recently extended the Old Cross Cut Canal and installed a 102-inch storm drain. The plans are to move forward with a storm drain system to bring the water to the Old Cross Cut Canal outlet.

This led to numerous studies by the District, as well as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which included mitigation projects. The area identified is the last piece in need of flood mitigation. She provided a site map of the area. The Lafayette project will include a 102-inch storm drain up Arcadia Drive, an 84-inch storm drain along Lafayette Boulevard and storm drains along North Village Drive to Colter Street and up to 44th Street. In addition, there is a basin in the location owned and maintained by Arcadia Estates HOA. The project will include a large inlet structure to move collected water from the basin into the storm drain system. The project also includes numerous laterals, catch basins and roll curbing to get the water into the storm drain. Project

features include 8,400 feet of storm drain from 48 inch to 102 inch, the outlet structure at the Arcadia Estate's basin, and laterals, catch basins and curving at strategic locations. Benefits include 10-year flood mitigation with a plan to retain neighborhood characteristics and avoid impacts to historic trees. They will also provide a storm drain for any future local drains.

The IGA includes an 80/20 cost share between the District and the City. The estimated construction cost is \$8.3 million. The District will be the lead for construction and construction management. The City will maintain the project when complete. Currently, the District is at 60 percent design, with a goal to complete design by January 2012. They also plan to have all utilities located by January 2012. Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2012.

DISCUSSION: Board member Patel asked about the cost, noting the high price tag. Ms. Ohler replied that the largest cost is the storm drain, which is 102 inch and will serve as a trunk line for future storm drains to connect to it at a capacity of 990 cfs (cubic feet per second). Board member Tanner asked about a formula for the cost sharing. Mr. Phillips explained that the cost share is negotiated. He explained that a year ago the Advisory Board approved a modification to the fiscal policy that would allow, based on need, a cost share that was less than 50/50. The negotiations were predominately based on need.

There was discussion concerning the difficulty in avoiding the disruption of the trees, ditches and neighborhood characteristics. Ms. Ohler stated that in an effort to mitigate these concerns, the street will be closed to through traffic during construction. Chairman Ward proposed that Advisory Board members take a field trip to the location when construction begins. Mr. Phillips added that the downstream piece across the Old Cross Cut Canal had similar constraints. By using a quality contractor and good processes, the project was completed successfully.

Chairman Ward asked about a timeline for plan approval. Ms. Ohler advised that plans are scheduled for completion in January. Chairman Martin asked her to pinpoint the location of houses that are currently being flooded. She indicated the location on the map, including along 46th Street and noted that there are approximately 180 homes located in the floodplain along with a large condominium complex. The project will not completely eliminate flooding, but will greatly reduce its frequency. Board member Martin asked whether the budget includes all construction. Ms. Ohler explained that the right-of-way, utilities and design were a previous IGA with the City sharing a 50/50 cost split on those items. The current IGA goes to construction and construction management.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Martin and seconded by Mr. Patel to approve the item as submitted. The motion carried unanimously

10) COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER

Presentation given by: Timothy S. Phillips, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager.

PURPOSE: Information only, no action required.

DISCUSSION: No comments from Mr. Phillips.

11) SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS

Presentation given by: Timothy S. Phillips, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager.

PURPOSE: Information only, no action required.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Phillips directed Board members to their packets for a summary of the recent actions by the Board of Directors.

12) OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMENTS

No members of the public wished to address the Board.

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.