



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Flood Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for June 26, 2013

Board Members Present: Melvin Martin, Chairman; Dallas Tanner, Secretary, Scott Ward, DeWayne Justice; Hasan Mushtaq for Ray Dovalina; Ex Officio; Bob Larchick, Ex Officio.

Board Members Absent: Hemant Patel, Vice Chairman;

Staff Members Present: Tim Phillips; Julie Lemmon, General Counsel; Dennis Duffy; Christopher Fazio; Scott Vogel; Patrick Schafer; Tom Renckly; Felicia Terry; Linda Reinbold; Anna Medina; and Ed Raleigh.

Guests Present: Ash Patel; Wood/Patel, Dave Jensen, Olsson; Ying Xu; PFC, Chad Drago; Baker, Bob Elichinger; Kimley Horn

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Martin called the meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board (FCAB) to order at 2:20 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2013.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

John Ashley was recognized as the Employee of the Quarter. Mr. Ashley became registered as a professional surveyor in Arizona in April, 2013. He has been with the District for five years, working under the Chief Surveyor and has exceeded expectations with his outstanding fieldwork.

4) APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2013

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

5) SUPPLEMENTAL WATERSHED AGREEMENT FOR POWERLINE FLOOD RETARDING STRUCTURE

Presented by Felicia Terry, P.E., CFM

6) SUPPLEMENTAL WATERSHED AGREEMENT FOR VINEYARD ROAD AND RITTENHOUSE FLOOD RETARDING STRUCTURES

Transcriber's note: Agenda items 5 and 6 were discussed as a single agenda item.

Presented by Felicia Terry, P.E., CFM

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Endorse and recommend that the Board of Directors of the Flood Control Advisory District of Maricopa County approve the Supplemental Watershed Agreement for the Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Powerline Flood Retarding Structure.

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: It is recommended that the Flood Control Advisory Board endorse and recommend that the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County approve the Supplemental Watershed Agreement for the Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Vineyard Road and Rittenhouse Flood Retarding Structures.

Ms. Terry identified the location of the Powerline Flood Retarding Structure (FRS) as being within the Apache Junction and Gilbert watershed. She identified the Vineyard Road and Rittenhouse FRS as being within the Williams Channel watershed.

She stated that when the dams were designed and constructed by the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), the two watersheds were identified. Supplemental watershed agreements have been drafted for both.

The agreement shall be between the Flood Control District (FCD) and the East Maricopa Natural Resources Conservation District and with the Federal government, NRCS. The agreement involves three dams, Powerline, Vineyard and Rittenhouse, which are located in northwestern Pinal County and operated and maintained by the FCD of Maricopa County. Specifically, the dams are located south of Powerline Road and east of Vineyard Road and adjacent to the CAP canal. The dams are located on Arizona State trust line, in which is there is modified easement, acquired through the settlement agreement. The dams operated as an integrated system, with all three draining to the Powerline floodway, a channel which eventually outlets to the East Maricopa Floodway. All three dams are earthen.

The Powerline floodway is approximately 2.5 miles long, with a maximum height of 21 feet. It impounds approximately 4,000 acre feet of water and was constructed in 1967. Vineyard Road is approximately five miles long with a maximum height of 16 feet. It impounds approximately 4,000 acre feet of water and was constructed in 1967 and 1968. Rittenhouse is approximately 3.5 miles long, with a maximum height of 24.5 feet. It impounds approximately 4,000 acre feet of water and was built in 1969. The three dams are approximately 12 miles long, impounding approximately 12,000 acre feet of water before they begin to spill-out into the emergency spillways.

The area protected by the dams consists of approximately 100 square miles, including the CAP, the Phoenix Mesa Gateway Airport, the Loop 202 and approximately 150,000 residences, commercial businesses, churches and schools. The dams were originally constructed for a 50 year project life and are exhibiting the typical deficiencies of aging District structures, such as

cracking and foundation deficient outlet pipes. Along with these deficiencies are earth fissures along the Powerline FRS as well as land subsidence in the area.

The next remedial steps are to develop a supplemental watershed plan, which will serve to document the selected alternative. In addition, an environmental assessment must be performed to insure that there will be no significant impacts to the environment. The District has requested a supplemental watershed agreement with the federal government, including cost sharing. The project will then go to the design phase and eventually to the construction phase. At that stage, a cost sharing intergovernmental agreement will be drafted. The draft plans and the environmental assessment have already been prepared. A public meeting has been held, during which the selected alternative was presented and public comments were taken. Ms. Terry then presented the selected alternative. This includes replacing the Powerline FRS with a channel that would start at Baseline Road and would intercept the flow coming from the east and discharge the flows to the Vineyard Road Dam. It is recommended that Rittenhouse be converted to a levy. Rather than having water ponding behind it, it would intercept the flow and discharge the flow behind Vineyard Road FRS. Since Vineyard Road will receive additional flows from Rittenhouse and Powerline, it will need to be raised by approximately 10 feet and then rehabilitated to address aging infrastructure issues.

The projected total project cost is estimated to be \$80 million over several years. The watershed agreement would outline NRCS' funding at 65 percent of the eligible cost, or approximately \$50 million. The District would pay the remaining costs of approximately \$30 million. Once design is completed, a cost share IGA would be completed and would include a more detailed design description and outline of costs.

If staff receives approval, the project will go to engineering design later this year. After design, the first construction would take place at Vineyard Road FRS, as it is the outfall location at this time. Subsequently work would continue on Powerline and Rittenhouse.

Board member Tanner referred to the Powerline Dam, asking whether the old structure would remain once the new structure is built above it. Ms. Terry replied that it could be removed or breeched, however input would have to be obtained from the State, as this portion is on State land. Mr. Phillips added that the intent would be that it no longer acts as an impoundment.

Board member Tanner asked whether the construction consists of build-up burms or concrete structures. Ms. Terry replied that they are earthen structures.

Board member Tanner asked whether there is a list of aging structures by order of priority for the District. Mr. Phillips explained that the dams are the oldest structures. There are 22 dam structures throughout the County, which were predominately built in the 60s and 70s. They are typically designed for a 50 year useful life. There are 140 to 150 other different structures throughout the County that have been built since the early 50s that continue to age, but are being maintained.

Chairman Martin identified an area where staff had indicated in its presentation would be curved. He asked whether this portion was currently being funded and worked on. Mr. Renckly, confirmed that NRCS was funding approximately \$4 million of the costs and it is currently being constructed, at approximately 68 percent completion. It is scheduled for completion in October

of this year. The construction directs the dam from the fissure until such time in the future when a channel is constructed.

Chairman Martin inquired as to the budget amount for the project. Mr. Renckly quoted the cost at approximately \$5 million, with \$4 million in funding coming from NRCS. Chairman Martin asked for confirmation that this was a temporary fix. Mr. Renckly confirmed this, adding that it could provide mitigation for 10 to 15 years.

Board member Ward referred to a slide identifying the dam locations and asked whether there was a possibility that instead of raising the dam in the middle, the area behind it could be hollowed out, going lower to create a basin. Ms. Terry replied that this would require the excavation of a significant area. Mr. Phillips added that during the studies leading up to this preferred alternative, 20 or more options were explored. He added that the problem with hollowing out behind is the question of how it can be drained. Board member Ward commented that there is no fill dirt in the Valley currently, which prompted his suggestion.

Board Member Ward then asked about the possibility of amenities behind the location. Ms. Terry stated that during the process, multi-use opportunities were examined. She acknowledged the amount of vegetation in the area, which would be kept to preserve a natural, open space area. However the additional area behind that could be used for soccer fields or other active recreation. She noted that the District would not be able to fund these areas. Mr. Renckly pointed out that the District does not own any of the property and only holds easements.

Chairman Martin asked for confirmation of the project location. Mr. Phillips confirmed that all three structures are located in Pinal County. Chairman Martin noted that Pinal County utilizes a flood control tax and he asked whether the District would have access to any of these funds. Mr. Phillips replied that the structures were built to protect Maricopa County originally. There is some incidental land that is downstream in Pinal County. However, they were fundamentally built with the District as the local sponsor to protect Maricopa County and that Pinal County has no obligation or desire to cost share. Chairman Martin asked about the location of the County line, which Ms. Terry pointed out on the map. Chairman Martin further commented that there are taxpayers located on the west side of the dam that are paying flood control tax and questioned why part of these funds would not go toward this project. Board member Justice commented that Pinal County is not required to provide funds and therefore, will not do so.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Tanner and seconded by Mr. Ward to endorse staff's recommendation that the Board of Directors of the Flood Control Advisory District of Maricopa County approve the Supplemental Watershed Agreement for the Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Powerline Flood Retarding Structure. The motion carried.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Tanner and seconded by Mr. Justice to endorse staff's recommendation that the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County approve the Supplemental Watershed Agreement for the Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Vineyard Road and Rittenhouse Flood Retarding Structures. The motion carried.

7) COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER

Presented by Timothy S. Phillips, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager

PURPOSE: Information and discussion item only. No formal action is required.

Mr. Phillips announced that the Board of Directors had approved the budget at approximately \$72 million. They have not yet set the tax rate. He noted that the budget has dropped over the last four to five years by approximately \$20 million. He noted that this results in an education in the CIP in the out years. The Board has approved a \$40 million CIP for this coming year. It will continue to drop into the \$20 to \$30 million levels in the five year CIP. He estimated that the District has already built approximately \$2.5 billion worth of flood infrastructure in the last 30 years. According to the list of projects prioritized by the Board, there is another \$1.8 billion in projects. What remains that has not yet been prioritized totals approximately \$2.2 billion.

Board member Tanner asked about the quantity of applications for permits and flood plain review. Mr. Phillips replied that actual permitting requests are approximately at the same level as the previous year, however there have been more inquiries.

8) SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS

Presented by Timothy S. Phillips, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager

PURPOSE: Information and discussion item only. No formal action is required.

9) OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMENTS

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

PURPOSE: Information and discussion item only. No formal action is required.

There was no other business and no comments from the public.

The meeting adjourned at 2:49 p.m.