



Minutes

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 2A – Petaluma River Watershed

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 8, 2016 ~ 2:00 P.M.

Attendees:

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Ted Cabral, Chairman | Craig Jacobsen, member |
| John Fitzgerald, member | Fred Chapman, City of Petaluma |
| Ned Orrett, member | Tim Moresco, City of Petaluma |
| Bob Martin, member | Larry Zimmer, City of Petaluma |
| Andy Rodgers, member | Jason Beatty, City of Petaluma |
| Craig Jacobsen, member | Jon Niehaus, SCWA |
| Susan Haydon, SCWA | Chase Takajo, SCWA |
| Kent Gylfe, SCWA | Kara Kelly, SCWA |
| Valerie Minton, Sonoma RCD | |

1. OPENING/INTRODUCTIONS

Ted Cabral, Chairman, convened meeting at 2:05pm. Teresa Barrett, Advisory Committee member-City liaison, excused. Susan Haydon (SH) acknowledged the public meeting and posting of public meeting notice in two newspapers, Press Democrat and Argus Courier, SCWA website, and offices of SCWA, City of Petaluma, and Sonoma County Clerk. Susan Haydon gave special recognition to two long-serving, dedicated committee members, Bob Martin and John FitzGerald, who were both appointed in 1988, serving for over 27 years. Their service to the community is invaluable and very much appreciated.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None. TC suggests that this standing agenda item be modified to specify opportunities for public to comment only on items not on the agenda. TC requested advance review of next draft agenda to suggest modified language.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the March 24, 2016 meeting were approved as submitted.

4. Project Updates

City of Petaluma Projects

- 1) **Denman Reach Flood Terracing Phase 3:** New contouring and vegetation for the creek.
- 2) **Capri Creek Flood Capacity and Habitat Project:** Terracing and regrading with new habitat from revegetation. Construction was going to begin in September but a fiber optics line was found and set to be abandoned after the permitting deadline.

- 3) **Alert 2 Stream Gauge Upgrade:** Project is funded by DWR FERP grant. Alert 2 system assists to remove inaccurate data from the gauge system and allows for quicker alerts when flood water reaches the top of the banks. All data is publicly accessible and can be viewed real time on the City website: <http://www.cityofpetaluma.net/pubworks/raingauges.html>
- 4) **Zone 2A Projects included in City's Capital Improvement Plan:** Kelly Creek, Petaluma River overflow at Corona, Washington Creek Repair and Enhancement.
- 5) **Petaluma Stormwater Projects:** Creek maintenance program, winter storm preparations, Petaluma River dredging, Caltrans offsite mitigation off Corona Rd.
- 6) **Denman Reach Prop 1E Grant funded Project:** State grant funding from DWR awarded originally to flood reduction project in Sonoma has been forfeited in that location with grantor allowing Water Agency to substitute an eligible, worthy project in Zone 2A, at Denman Reach, Petaluma River. Proposed project includes several implementation components including: construction of a storage basin or additional terracing along Denman Reach and sediment removal downstream near Corona Road bridge.

5. STREAM MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Chase Takajo presented overview of stream maintenance work conducted in spring/fall season and gave status update on Water Agency's progress in obtaining permits to conduct future work in natural channels.

2016 Spring & Summer Stream Maintenance Work- The goal is to maintain river and creek reaches to maximize flood conveyance and support native vegetation with a light touch of routine maintenance performed in spring/summer season. Sediment and trash removal from Adobe Creek and East Washington Creek, respectively. Major vegetation management, including the removal of blackberry, was performed on the Petaluma River. Crews from Sonoma Youth Ecology Corp were involved in plantings of native vegetation.

Natural Channels Program- This program aims to provide expanded services in the rural areas (where permitted). The work would be restricted to vegetation management and bioengineering techniques by trained Water Agency crews. Water Agency would obtain the rights to enter from willing landowners and may contract with another entity to perform selected work. Sediment removal activities would not apply to this program. This new permit program would also not apply to streams or channels where there are endangered species.

2017 Sediment Removal Reaches- Water Agency plans to focus on Washington, Adobe, Corona, McDowell and Lichau Creeks.

6. BUDGET for Fiscal Year 2017/18

Susan Haydon presented the recommended Flood Control Zone 2A budget for FY 17/18, reporting that the budget was developed with goal to balance revenues and expenditures. Slight uptick in revenues due to property tax increases last year, however revenues may not be trend. Stream Maintenance continues to be the predominant expenditure category. Water Agency budget goals include: a) Stream Maintenance activities on existing channels with future activities on natural and modified channels as new natural channels permitting allows, b) pursue modeling and feasibility efforts to inform flood hazards and opportunities for stormwater capture, treatment, c) pursue multi-benefit projects and associated matching funds to achieve greater benefits, and d) to preserve a prudent reserve for emergency response to major storm events.

The Watershed Enhancement Project represents an expenditure category for stream maintenance work activities required by the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board. Water Agency is required to identify three enhancement projects and these include: trash and debris removal and habitat restoration on Adobe Creek. A third project is yet to be determined. This is first year with projected expenditures for this implementation funding with future funding needs expected.

Committee discussion. Chairman Cabral expressed concern regarding having sufficient revenues and sustainable long term funding to meet current and projected needs. The Water Agency is looking into other avenues for supplementing revenue.

A motion to approve the recommended budget was made by Ted Cabral. Second by Ned Orrett. Unanimous approval.

7. REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Upper Petaluma River Flood Control Project: Project is in feasibility stage with modeling and screening being conducted as first step by RMC Water & Environment. First and considerable portion of survey work has been completed and performed by Water Agency crews and data delivered to consultant. Second and third tier survey work has not yet been conducted. Due to Agency priorities and survey crew workload, the second and third tier survey work will be performed by RMC with amendment to RMC's agreement under way. RMC will present the modeling results at future committee meeting.

Suitability Analysis for Stormwater Capture, Treatment and Recharge: Research project being conducted by Dr. William Eisenstein from UC Berkeley, part of ReNUWit program (Re-Inventing the Nations Urban Water Infrastructure). Purpose to develop innovative site assessment tools going beyond traditional engineering feasibility and physical constraints to address cultural, economic, land values, and social criteria for siting stormwater capture and treatment type facilities. Interviews have been conducted and GIS assessment tool under development. Dr. Eisenstein will be invited to present research results at future meeting.

Southern Sonoma Storm Water Resource Plan: SCWA awarded \$485,000 in State Grant funds from State Water Resources Control Board. Purpose of the funds to prepare a Storm Water Resources Plan (SWRP) compliant with new state guidelines which catalog and identify priority stormwater capture and dry weather runoff projects. The Plan includes developing metrics for quantitative analysis and criteria for prioritizing projects in two watersheds: Petaluma River and Sonoma Creek watersheds. The planning process involves stakeholders, with establishment of a Technical Advisory Committee and public meetings. This is a voluntary plan, not regulated. Projects that are prioritized and included in the plan then become eligible for competitively sought state funding for implementation under Prop 1. Water Agency and Collaborating Entities are working together. Timeline for plan development is essentially one year to be ready to apply for Implementation funds in Round 2. Susan Haydon is managing effort with assistance from Kara Kelly. Similar plan is being developed for Russian River and Susan Haydon is working closely with Andy Rodgers, who is managing effort for Russian River where SCWA serves as a Collaborating Entity (partner) on a focused plan for Laguna-Mark West.

State grant funds are matched 50% through Zone2A funding (\$100,000) and other in-kind funding from six Collaborating Entities for Petaluma watershed: SCAPOSD, So Co PRMD, SoCo Reg. Parks, City of Petaluma, Sonoma Land Trust, Sonoma RCD, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. We anticipate the grant agreement going to the Water Agency Board for approval in February and a signed contract with State thereafter. A kick-off meeting will be calendared likely in February.

Adobe Sediment Management: County of Sonoma Transportation & Public Works has been performing maintenance in this vicinity. Water Agency's maintenance strategy has changed due to stream conditions and current permit restrictions based on newly renewed permit for this work by permitting agencies. The scope and Feasibility Study effort that proposed by City & then subsequently by RCD are no longer what's needed. RCD and SCWA agreed not to enter in agreement at this time. Water Agency staff will move forward with focused project meeting to determine future work needed based on current conditions and current permit authority.

Watershed Enhancement Project- San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board: Regional Board permit requires Agency to identify enhancement projects. Adobe Creek sediment management is one of those identified projects.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

9. NEXT MEETING

Next meeting is planned for March 16 or 23, 2017 at 2:00PM. Susan Haydon will confirm.