



Minutes

FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 2A – Petaluma River Watershed **ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING- Field Visit** July 16, 2015 ~ 2:00 P.M.

Attendees:

Ted Cabral, chairman	Michael Thompson, SCWA
John Fitzgerald, member	David Royall, SCWA
Craig Jacobsen, member	Susan Haydon, SCWA
Bob Martin, member	Dan St. John, City of Petaluma
Andy Rodgers, member	Erica Ahmann Smithies, City of Petaluma
Teresa Barrett, member, City Liaison	Sanjay Mishra, City of Petaluma
Chris Cheek, community member	Eric Gneckow, Argus Courier

1. OPENING/INTRODUCTIONS

Susan Haydon, SCWA, convened group and gave overview of field tour sites and goals with self-introductions from 14 participants. A field tour booklet including agenda, maps, and project information was distributed to all participants. Chairman Cabral welcomed new Advisory Committee Member, Andy Rodgers. Group met at Lucchesi Center parking lot and departed via carpools to tour sites at 2:15pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT- none

3. FIELD TOUR – CURRENT FLOOD MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Two field tour sites were visited: 1) Petaluma River, Lakeville Crossing (Madison at Lakeville) – Erica Ahmann Smithies, City of Petaluma and 2) Lichau Creek (Petaluma Hill Rd. bridge, near Penngrove Post Office). At Petaluma River stop, Senior Civil Engineer for City of Petaluma, Erica Ahmann Smithies, provided overview of the Army Corps- City Flood Control project noting construction commencing following week through October 15, 2015. City staff confirmed that the proposed river access trail connection is now part of the construction plan and will be completed by this fall.

At Lichau Creek stop, Michael Thompson, Sonoma County Water Agency's Assistant General Manager, gave overview of Stream Maintenance Program history and objectives in Petaluma watershed. David Royall, SCWA Engineering Technician, described work performed in Lichau Creek reach, using creek corridor as living example to illustrate practices, challenges, and issues. Additional work conducted this summer was discussed including Adobe Creek. Susan Haydon gave brief update on survey work being conducted as part of the modeling effort being performed by Agency's consultants, RMC and Balance Hydrologics, for the Upper Petaluma River Flood Control Project.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Cheek expressed his frustration with the lack of work (debris removal and vegetation management) performed along the flood-prone Denman Reach. Mr. Cheek noted existence of multiple downed trees, trees with deep roots, and Honda civic 'carcass' causing conveyance problems. He acknowledged the postponement of work this summer by the City due to protracted regulatory timelines and noted his frustration that Pamela Tuft, longtime project manager and advocate for flood protection in this area, is no longer employed by City. Erica Ahmann Smithies acknowledged the lack of permits in hand and the issue of timing of the construction season (to be allowed to work in the river) and shared same frustration not being able to move the project forward this season as planned. She also noted the complexities of both the City and County having jurisdiction along this section of the Petaluma River. Dan St. John, City of Petaluma, noted that the City is working currently with the County to remove debris underneath the bridge and on blackberry removal in this reach. Discussion was held regarding strategies to work with City law enforcement, COTS, and others to work with the homeless population along this reach. Mr. Cheek expressed the need to work together closely on management in this reach and advocated for youth involvement to manage vegetation more proactively.

Chairman Cabral acknowledged collaboration between Water Agency, City and other organizations and recommended robust stakeholder outreach be conducted and focus on garnering public involvement to help inform and support effective stormwater feasibility planning and groundwater management planning.

5. NEXT MEETING

Susan Haydon will query Advisory Committee members in advance before calendaring and noticing next meeting date. Next meeting agenda will cover several project updates and annual budget review.