



CF/2-0-25 ZONE 2A ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ID 434)

**ZONE 2A ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 21, 2013**

Attendees:

Ted Cabral (TC) – Member
Ned Orrett (EO) - Member
John Fitzgerald (JF) – Member
Bob Martin (BM) - Member
Teresa Barrett (TB) – Member/City of Petaluma
Kent Gylfe (KG) - SCWA
David Royall (DR) - SCWA
Susan Haydon (SH) - SCWA

Michael Thompson (MT) - SCWA
Dan St. John (DS) – City of Petaluma
Pam Tuft (PT) – City of Petaluma
Leonard Olive (LO) – City of Petaluma
Curt Bates (CB) – City of Petaluma
Hally Swan (HS) - SRCD
Christopher Cheek (CC) – public

NOTE: The next Zone 2A Advisory Committee Meeting will be March 20, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

1. **Opening/Introductions:** All attendees were self introduced. Chairman Cabral recognized Chris Cheek's consistent participation as an interested and dedicated member of the public, acknowledging his many years of interest, insight, and input. TC offered his sincere appreciation and thanked CC for his steadfast participation and decorum.
2. **Public Comment:** Christopher Cheek expressed concern regarding the existence of brush in the river, near Corona Road and Twin Bridges. However, just prior to the meeting, he observed that the area looked clear and improved. CC noted that the homeless encampments remain a concern near Corona Rd, where SCWA has easements. David Royall acknowledged conditions along river and agreed to contact CC to further discuss conditions and potential maintenance needs.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the November 21, 2013 committee meeting were unanimously approved (Jacobsen & Soper absent) with one correction noted by John Fitzgerald. Revision to Page 3, Item 5. Zero Net Fill Policy. C.6. JF indicated *concern of the over-zealous interpretation of agreement with the City's "building volume" criteria* (accounting for volume take up by building structures with the floodplain). SH revised minutes for record.
4. **Zero Net Fill Policy:**
 - A. A draft memorandum (no date) to the Director of Permit & Resource Management Department, County of Sonoma, from the Chairman of the Zone 2A Advisory Committee, prepared by Susan Haydon, was distributed for review and discussion purposes. The memorandum presents the committee's recommendations for improved consistency between County of Sonoma and City of Petaluma's flood related land use policies in the Petaluma River watershed.
 - B. Kent Gylfe provided background on the committee's expressed goal to encourage alignment of County and City policies within the Zone 2A (Upper Petaluma River) watershed. KG explained each of the draft recommendations and noted there were several areas where the

City's practices on base flood elevation and displacement volumes/area were not expressly codified. Curt Bates agreed to provide "policy interpretation" statements and reference citations to complete the memo.

- C. The Committee discussed various issues regarding how volume, water, and space are counted with regard to existing County and City policies. One suggestion was to refer to it as "zero net water displacement".
- D. Some discussion ensued regarding the City's new stormwater permit and JF commented that the City should start making preparations now for the next permit renewal because the requirements will be even greater.
- E. KG noted a revised draft memorandum will be prepared incorporating the City's edits for further review, discussion, and approval by the committee.

5. Projects and Budget for FY 2014/15:

- A. KG provided an overview of revenues and defined the \$1,355,000 line item of *Sub-Total Operational Services* and noted that this budget category very closely equals the stream maintenance program budget for the year. KG noted that SCWA is expending an amount on stream maintenance that is close to the total annual Zone 2A revenues, with an existing reserve which is allocated to projects. KG answered questions from committee members explaining various budget categories and expenditures.
- B. JF requested provision of a subtotal line for projects in future budget table for ease in referencing and categorizing various appropriated projects.
- C. JF also noted future need for funding for dredging of the river, noting there may be need to address dredging costs and possible relation to such from flood control perspective versus commerce. TC acknowledges that funds for dredging are a shortfall and USACE may have no funds to assist community. Mike Thompson recognized the dredging issue as an unfunded mandate placed upon the community. MT noted that the new Phase 2 stormwater regulations and need for dredging requires addressing, further noting that SCWA and City of Petaluma are aware and looking at these unfunded mandates. TC thought it wise for City officials to address need and funding for dredging in terms of climate adaptation, sea level rise and effects on downtown commerce. The City owes it to the community to address this complex issue as the USACE cannot be counted on. Ned Orrett expressed that we need to look at the systems view and the value of dredging, suggesting a future presentation to speak to this issue. JF will help to identify a speaker. Pam Tuft supports the comments and notes that the turning basin, sediment load, flooding, and river commerce are of high concern. Siltation is a problem and areas upstream of G & H are adversely affected by siltation. Dan St. John notes that costs will be several million dollars for dredging and associated work. PT offers consideration of taxation mechanisms and that Zone 2A share costs of feasibility. She also notes that the City's XPSWM model assumes dredging in its predictions and forecasting and suggests it may be warranted to consider a model run "with dredging scenario" to determine feasibility, which is unfunded. JF suggests that a feasibility analysis may need to be considered.
- D. KG distributed copies of a Nov. 2013 Project Objectives Report (POR) for the *Petaluma River Stream & Precipitation Gauge Installation* submitted by the City of Petaluma and the 2006 POR for similar. PT described the project and noted that the amount of funding provided for by 2006 POR is currently only sufficient to cover installation costs. The City is requesting that \$82,000 be added to project budget to include purchase of gauges. This project has been previously recommended by the committee for funding. SCWA is currently in-process of developing a funding agreement with the City. PT states that the project and draft agreement

was recently considered and approved by the City Council and that the City intends to issue an RFP for installation services. The issue of public information availability for the gauge data was discussed by committee. JF asked if any of the gauges are proposed outside the city? TC asked whether the public will be able to access the data and how the City will handle, referencing a letter recently submitted by Bob Martin. TC reiterates the utility and need for the gauges. He also notes that property owners would like access to real time data in order to best manage their properties. PT responded that the City intends to make data publicly available but requests more time to investigate what is involved (and costs) with regards to web access, liability, etc. and report back to the committee. KG suggests an additional amount of up to 10% of budget could be afforded to enhance the capability to install and offer public information component/data access, if determined feasible by City. If deemed feasible, new project budget would total \$174,000.

- E. KG distributed copies of the POR for *Adobe Creek Sediment Detention Basin Design* recently submitted by Sonoma RCD for \$97,332. The committee discussed the revised approach and location (just upstream) for the design proposed by the RCD. In 2009, the committee previously approved the *Adobe Creek Sediment Basin Design Feasibility* POR from the City. PT recommended that the committee approve the RCD's new POR and project approach, essentially retracting the City's project and substituting with the RCD's POR. PT notes that the project location is outside the city limits and although the sediment detention basin will benefit the City, the City will not be maintaining it. MT concurred with the proposed basin location and approach to managing sediment on Adobe Creek which has long been issue for City and Agency crews. Hally Swan noted that the project, as proposed, affords a great opportunity to revisit the approach and design with Agency, City and engineering consultants to determine what's needed for an effective design. KG notes that the POR describes the RCD's intention to seek grant funding from other sources for the permitting and implementation phases. Total budget roughly \$103,000 which includes SCWA's project management and fund administration role.
- F. TC summarized the proposed budget allocations as presented by Agency draft FY 2014/15 budget and the two PORs under consideration (Petaluma River Stream Gauge Installation and Adobe Creek Sediment Basin Feasibility). TC thanked Pam in advance, for moving forward to address the public accessibility of stream gauge data. EO expressed his support in making data accessible. BM made the suggestion that a disclaimer could be used with regards to the use of such data obtained from city website. TB motioned to approve the Stream Gauge project with additional 10% to accommodate public access to data (\$174,000). Motion carries with second by JF. EO motioned to approve the RCD's project request, *Adobe Creek Sediment Detention Basin Design*, total budget \$97, 332. Motion carries, seconded by TB. TB motioned to approve the Agency's Flood Control Zone 2A FY 2014/15 budget as submitted with the additions as approved by committee. Motion carries, seconded by JF.

6. Reports and Comments:

- A. JF shared that there was a blood drive that evening.
- B. CB announced a 12/3/13 meeting held by FEMA re: Bay Coastal Studies mapping. FIRM maps and issues- 2/19/13 with Nathan Quarles, Sonoma County PRMD.
- C. TB noted a fabulous exhibit featuring coastlines currently showing through February 2014 at the Oakland Museum.

- D. TC requested consideration of a future opportunity for public outreach to address the issues of sediment management, status of river dredging and needs.
- E. JF notes that a certain member of the Advisory Committee has not consistently attended meetings and recommends another member be appointed. JF makes a motion for TC to draft a letter recommending a new appointment. Letter to be circulated for others review. Motion second by TB, motion carries.
- F. In response to previous committee request, KG identified Jay Jasperse, SCWA Chief Engineer, as speaker to address climate adaptation strategies at the next committee meeting. TC reiterates the key issues of flood management, sea level rise, and need for river dredging and requests consideration of speakers that can address these issues for the committee and the community. He knows someone from California Geological Survey who may also be able to serve as speaker. PT suggests a primer on the City's H&H model, XPSWM, and suggests WEST consultants speak to the group. Several committee members suggest consideration of including the broader community and perhaps holding a forum-style meeting with speakers at Luchessi Center.

7. Public Comment:

- A. CC commented regarding flooding along the Denman Reach of the Petaluma River. He notes that the reach was designed for gates and pumps. CC also suggests an outdoor theatre (like a Greek theatre) at the Denman Reach trailhead park. The reach needs an anchor in addition to the interpretive signs and parking area supporting public access. PT notes that unfortunately the 2006 flood event lost the improvements (pathway, irrigation and native plantings).

8. Next Meeting:

- A. Next meeting will be scheduled for March 20, 2014 at 2:00pm.
- B. Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.