



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Flood Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for February 25, 2015

Board Members Present: Chairman, DeWayne Justice; Melvin Martin, Vice Chairman; Hemant Patel, Secretary; Hasan Mushtaq for Ray Dovalina; Bob Larchick, Ex Officio

Board Members Absent: Ray Dovalina and Gregg Monger

Staff Members Present: William Wiley, Ken Proska, Wayne Peck, General Counsel; Anna Medina, Analia Summers, Ed Raleigh, Deb Wilson, Aisha Alexander, Don Rerick, Karen Scott, Paula Reiswig, Christine Button, Frank Brown, Tom Renckly, Patrick Schafer, Douglas Williams, and Cathy Regester.

Guests Present: Elliot Silverston, AECOM; Jeff Bradley, West Consultants; Raj Shah, RPA; Patrick Wolf, RPA; Mark Fountain, HDR; Aimee Rigler, District 1; Dennis Richards, Premier Engineering; Reed Blochberger, JE Fuller; Ash Patel, Wood Patel; Todd Williams, Michael Baker International; Bob Haneline, Dibble Engineering.

1) **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Justice called the meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board (FCAB) to order at 2:04pm on Wednesday, February 25, 2015.

2) **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2015**

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Mushtaq and seconded by Mr. Patel to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4) **FISCAL YEAR 2016 PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET AND DECISION PACKAGE REVIEW**

Presented by Karen Scott, Financial Business Analyst

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Endorse and recommend that the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County approve staff's FY 2016 Requested Budget submittal, subject to adjustments made to reflect Board of Directors policy determinations.

Ms. Scott first reviewed revenues. In the previous year, the District's largest revenue source, property taxes, was 86 percent of total revenues. In the current year, it totals 55 percent of revenues, due to a large influx of money from NRCS to support dam rehab projects. Two

ongoing grants will be included in the 2016 budget. These include a FEMA grant for \$250,000, which will be used to support a study for ADMS to East Fork Cave Creek and Indian Bend Wash. The other \$95,000 is a grant from the Gila River Indian Community, which is to be used for salt cedar investigation and vegetation restoration along the Gila River. The intergovernmental portion of the budget in 2015 was \$5.7 million and is increasing to \$34 million in 2016. CIP expenditures are increasing by \$19 million due to the NRCS funds coming for FY 2016.

Ms. Scott added that the Office of Budget and Management instructed staff to hold the operating budget static. She reviewed factors that staff considered as they developed the budget. These included the tax rate. If the Board of Directors holds rates, the District will be able to maintain its regular maintenance projects and existing structures, but will not have surplus funds to partner on projects. In addition, the recent fall flooding prompted staff to ask cities for their input regarding flooding concerns and potential projects. The requests received were substantial. An important trend for the coming years is the decrease in NRCS contributions through 2020, at which time the CIP budget is projected to be \$25 million with a flat tax rate. She provided a historical review of revenues. In 2007, revenues totaled \$62 million. It increased to a high of \$74 million and is currently reduced to approximately \$43 million.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Patel and seconded by Mr. Larchick to adopt staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

5) FISCAL YEAR 2016 PROPOSED CAPITAL PROJECTED BUDGET AND FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM

Presented by Patrick Schafer, PE., CIP Supervisor

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Endorse and recommend that the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County approve staff's proposed FY 2016 Capital Project Budget and Five-Year Capital Improvement Program.

Mr. Schafer began by stating that for FY 2016, District staff is recommending a \$59 million CIP budget. This includes two main components, including primary activities totaling \$57 million as well as the Small Projects Assistance Program, totaling \$2 million. Overall, the program consists of 51 projects. Thirty-nine of these come from the primary program and 12 come from the Small Projects Assistance Program.

Project phases included project implementation, design, rights-of-way, construction and labor. The proposed budget for internal labor is \$1.8 million in the project reserve, which is set aside for project change orders throughout the year in addition to scope of work changes to existing projects and other miscellaneous items that may arise. Construction costs account for approximately 81 percent of the budget.

Eighty-eight percent of the budget will go towards implementation of dam rehab projects. These are projects in which the District is partnering with NRCS. IGA revenues are being received from NRCS, which allows for the higher budget and includes monthly reimbursement through NRCS. Channels, basin and storm drain projects account for eight percent of the budget and small projects account for three percent.

Mr. Schafer described design efforts for FY 2016, which consists of ten projects. The top three are channel improvements projects, the next level consist of dam rehab and dam reconstruction projects. The bottom two projects are where the District partners are the lead. These include Avondale's Van Buren Street Channel and Scottsdale's Granite Reef Wash Project.

In 2016, two projects will be started: The Sonoqui Wash Channelization Project, Phase 3B and the Buckeye FRS Number 1, Phase 2A projects. There will be three new construction starts. These include the continuation of the Buckeye FRS 1 Project; Phase 2 of the White Tanks FRS 4 Rehab Project; and the beginning of the Vineyard FRS Rehabilitation Project Phase 1. The construction for these projects is approximately \$48 million.

Mr. Schafer reviewed the Small Project Assistance Program. This year, staff received 17 submittals. Twelve were approved. He presented the 12 projects which were approved for funding. They come from five different municipalities: Gilbert, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Surprise. The majority of the projects are storm drain catch basin improvements. Also included are basins, flood walks and curb cuts. These 12 projects will directly benefit 259 structures that have been the subject of flooding in the past.

He discussed the proposed five-year CIP. Assuming a flat tax rate, staff proposed a \$210 million five-year CIP. In 2016, the total is \$59 million, decreasing slightly in '17 and '18 and then in FY '19 and '20, there is a significant drop-off to \$25 million, if the tax rate remains a flat secondary tax rate. In FY '19, all NRCS dam rehab projects will be completed and the revenue will no longer be present to support programs.

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Patel and seconded by Mr. Mushtaq to adopt staff's recommendation. The motion carried unanimously.

6) FISCAL YEAR 2016 DAM SAFETY PROGRAM AND DECISION PACKAGE ELEMENTS

Presented by Tom Renckly, P.E., Dam Safety Branch Manager

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

Mr. Renckly noted that the Flood Control District operates and maintains 22 Flood Control dams. The five Corps of Engineer dams are on major watercourses and the NRCS dams are across desert washes. He reviewed goals of the Dam Safety Program. First is to stay ahead of dam safety issues, to assure that there are no imminent threats to public safety. In 2000/2001, an earth fissure was located in close proximity to McMicken Dam. This was addressed through a rehab of the southern part of the dam. In 2007, an earth fissure was found within 35 feet of Powerline FRS. This has since been rehabilitated as well.

The primary objectives of the District are to monitor dams to reduce and manage risk. To reduce risks, dam rehabilitation and modifications are performed. The District primarily works with NRCS as a funding partner on these projects. Another objective is to maintain or improve upon the current level of flood protection to 100-year or 100-year plus flood protection. Risks are managed through the Dam Safety Program via quarterly and annual inspections by engineers, as

well as ongoing monitoring. There are two basic elements to the current dam safety activities, including assessments and repairs.

Every five years, staff performs a video outlet inspection of the 30-plus outlets present in the District, during which time maintenance issues are identified. Video inspections are occurring presently. In addition, a consistent component of the budget and program is utilized for identification and mitigation of dam safety issues. The budget for FY 2016 includes approximately \$500,000 for current dam safety activities and \$200,000 for assessment and repairs. He reviewed the progress of the program. Two overall rehabilitations have been completed. These include Spook Hill FRS and White Tanks FRS Number 3. Seven are identified for rehab or replacement and two have been identified for needed modifications.

Current work includes completion of Phase 1 of White Tanks FRS Number 4. Phase II is in final design with the awarding of the contract expected in August or September of 2015. Buckeye FRS I has been completed and work has begun on Phase II. Phase II includes completion of the center filter in the dam as well as rehabilitation of the auxiliary spillway and intake structure. A significant portion of the NRCS funds are going to Powerline FRS, Vineyard Road FRS and Rittenhouse. Eighty-one million dollars was received from NRCS last year, through a Farm Bill passed by Congress for infrastructure development. The District is required to complete and spend funding by September of 2018. He provided a brief review of current projects. The total budget for 2016 CIPs is approximately \$50 million.

7) FISCAL YEAR 2016 PLANNING PROGRAM AND DECISION PACKAGE ELEMENTS

Presented by Douglas Williams, AICP, Planning Branch Manager

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

Mr. Williams reviewed program objectives, including protection of the public through flood hazard identification. He added that efforts are made to evaluate structural and nonstructural alternatives as well as to advance multi-use opportunities. For the past several years, staff efforts were divided between examining existing urban flooding issues and getting ahead of development and anticipating hydrologic issues. Tools utilized by staff include; Area Drainage Master Studies, Area Drainage Master Plans, Design Concept Reports and Watercourse Master Plans.

In recent years, staff has used hydrology studies with concurrence from city partners to identify problem areas where hazards are concentrated. He briefly discussed a map identifying locations of all existing studies and those projected to begin in FY 2016. One project in particular consists of a watershed in north Mesa, north of U.S. 60. Several county pockets of mobile parks are located in the area, surrounded by new development in the City of Mesa. For the past several years during the monsoon season, there have been an increasing number of complaints regarding drainage issues. District staff is currently working with the City of Mesa to obtain their hydrology models for the area. The District goal is to offer suggestions and alternative concepts that homeowners associations might be able to implement for themselves.

Other projects include assistance to the cities of Phoenix and Laveen in their efforts to address and mitigate future flooding events such as the September, 2014 severe flooding. Additionally, staff is working to address issues within the El Rio Watercourse Master Plan. For FY 2016, staff

has included an update to the Agua Fria Watercourse Master Plan. If time and budget allows, staff may initiate re-delineation of the Hassayampa River.

Mr. Williams discussed the elements of the budget, and in particular, reviewed the \$300,000 grant from the Gila River Indian Community for vegetation management and fire control for the Gila River. He displayed a slide and referred Board Members to the list of upcoming projects. He identified that the cycle for studies is approximately two and one-half to three years. He added that, next year, there is an increase in funding for additional Design Concept Reports (DCR's). Board Member Patel asked about a line item on the budget for owl relocation. Mr. Williams explained that the \$5,000 is for Wild at Heart. He explained that owls are a threatened species and in some areas of Arizona they burrow holes in the sides of washes to create their habitats. The costs cover the safe removal and relocation of the owls prior to any construction activities.

8) FISCAL YEAR 2016 FLOODPLAIN DELINEATION PROGRAM AND DECISION PACKAGE ELEMENTS

Presented by Cathy Regester, P.E., CFM, Hydrology/Hydraulics Branch Manager, Acting

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

Ms. Regester explained that floodplain delineations are completed to comply with Arizona State Statutes as well as the National Flood Insurance Program. They are also performed in order to keep people out of harm's way and to minimize the loss of life and property. During the studies, information gained can be used in future planning studies for development, review and CIP projects. Over 4,000 miles of floodplains have been delineated in Maricopa County.

She reviewed progress, highlighting that in recent years, staff has focused its attention on completing detailed delineations, which establish base flood elevations as opposed to an approximate study, where base flood elevations are not established. Several projects have been carried over from the current FY into FY '16. Two of these include the Lower Gila and Lower Salt Rivers. These studies are nearing completion. A study of Luke Wash is just getting underway, consisting of 28 miles of approximate Zone A's west of the Hassayampa that will be completed as detailed delineations.

She next identified an area from Cotton Lane to Camelback Road to Waddell Road just west of the 303. Staff is currently working on an update of the hydrology in the area, with the anticipation of a decrease in flow rates along the wash.

A new delineation of two to three miles of Happy Valley Wash is planned. In addition, along Grand Avenue, between Cactus and Northern, an update of the ponding area behind the railroad will be completed. Both of these studies have been requested by the City of Peoria.

In Wickenburg, there are a couple of miles of approximate Zone A's where new detailed delineations will be performed on existing washes.

Ms. Regester identified the Coyote Wash mapping project, located west of the Hassayampa. The first step in performing a new delineation study is to obtain detailed mapping. There is an 11-mile stretch of Coyote Wash that is currently an approximate Zone A that staff would like to study as a detailed delineation. Mapping will be the first step.

She next addressed the Vekol Wash mapping project, located in the southern part of the county, southwest of the City of Maricopa. Currently, the District has no detailed mapping, hydrology or delineated floodplains in the area. Staff would like to obtain delineations. The first step would be to complete mapping.

Ms. Register presented the operating budget, noting several carryover studies, including the Lower Gila, Lower Salt, and Luke Wash areas. Staff plans to get on-call contracts for the other delineations, including Cotton Lane, Grand Avenue, Happy Valley Wash and Wickenburg. Mapping contracts will be obtained for Coyote and Vekol Washes. Staff has budgeted for an elevation certificate program for some recently completed delineations. In addition, there are FEMA and other miscellaneous fees.

Board Member Larchick asked about the relationship between FEMA floodplain mapping and the delineations performed by the District. Ms. Register replied that the District will complete a study, after which time it is submitted to FEMA for review. The mapping is eventually included on the FEMA maps.

9) COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER

Presented by William Wiley, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager

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

Mr. Wiley clarified that staff had presented the budget action items based on the assumption that there will be no forthcoming tax rate relief. Staff was asked to do so by the Office of Management and Budget. He noted that staff was fortunate, because of due diligence, to receive funding from NRCS for some of the major dam projects that were identified and under development.

There have been discussions with the Board of Directors on whether or not they would support a tax rate change, adding that about every one cent increase in taxes would result in an increase in the budget of approximately three million dollars. Even without a tax rate change, staffing levels are stable, because the construction budget is currently being supported by the NRCS dollars. Costs for other operations, including ongoing maintenance will be covered with the current income levels. Staff has plans to have Board of Directors members survey completed projects as well as areas where there has been substantial damage. The Board of Directors has also charged staff to continue to seek out other funding opportunities.

Mr. Wiley addressed drought concerns. If water is not available from the Colorado River, residents will use groundwater. He pointed out that groundwater pumping is somewhat responsible for subsidence and fissures.

He then addressed customer service and stated that there is a Flood Stakeholder group that meets the second Thursday of every month, in an effort to improve communications. He added that he will be making visits to communities. He discussed the District website and the upcoming move to a more user-friendly platform. The new website is scheduled to go live by the end of March.

Staff has also been asked to work on some of their processes. They have just completed a review of right-of-way use permits. He displayed a list of the main issues that were raised during the process. One critical identified issue was the absence of a pre-application checklist. Recommendations included being able to submit plans electronically. Other suggestions included the implementation of an integrated data base of standards and details. The next process for review will be the floodplain use permit.

10) SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Presented by William Wiley, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager

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

There were no recent actions by the Board.

11) OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

There were no comments from the public.

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.