



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Flood Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes for September 23, 2015

Board Members Present:

Robert Dewayne Justice, Chair, (Supervisory District 4)
Richard Schaner, (Supervisory District 1)
Bob Larchick, Ex Officio Member/Salt River Project
Hasan Mashta on behalf of Ray Dovalina, Ex Officio Member/City of Phoenix

Board Members Absent:

Staff Members Present:

William Wiley, Chief Engineer and General Manager
Wayne Peck, MCAO Legal Counsel
Patti Thoemke, Executive Assistant to Mr. Wiley

Guests Present:

Burke Lokey, P.E., CFM Project Manager
Catherine Regester, P.E., Hydrology/Hydraulics Branch Manager
Mark Frago, AICP, CFM, Mitigation Planning Analyst Floodplain Management & Services
Chris Hall, Finance Manager

1) CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Justice called the meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board (FCAB) to order at 2:01 p.m. on Wednesday, September 23, 2015.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The assembly recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

3) APPROVE THE MINUTES OF APRIL 22, 2015

There were no minutes available for approval.

4) NORTHERN PARKWAY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS PHASE II IGA WITH MCDOT

Presented by Burke Lokey, P.E., PPM Division Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Endorse and recommend that Board of Directors of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County approve IGA FCD 2015A012 for the Northern Parkway Drainage Improvements Phase II Project.

Mr. Lokey reviewed the details of the IGA, stating that there would be a cost sharing with right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation, construction and construction management of the regional

drainage improvements for Phase II with MCDOT. Phase II goes from Dysart Road to 111th Avenue. The facilities are designed as a hundred-year channel and basin system with outfalls to the Dysart Drain and the Agua Fria. MCDOT has coordinated the final design with the District over the past year and a half. MCDOT has been informed that the District's funding obligation is contingent upon funding availability. The current estimated cost is approximately \$6.8 million, with the District bearing a cost of \$3.4 million, which includes \$1.5 million for right-of-way and \$1.9 million for construction and construction management. All O&M will be handled by MCDOT, until which time operations are turned over to Glendale.

In response to a question from a Board Member, Mr. Lokey explained that there are underground utilities on the east side of Dysart Road that would need to be moved.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Larchick and seconded by Board Member Schaner to recommend approval of IGA FCD 2015A012. The motion carried unanimously.

5) **FLOODPLAIN ELEVATION CERTIFICATES IGA WITH GILBERT**

Presented by Cathy Regester, Hydrology/Hydraulics Branch Manager

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Endorse and recommend that Board of Directors of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County approve IGA Number FCD 2015A011 for the Floodplain Elevation Certificates within the Chandler/Gilbert Floodplain Delineation Study Area.

Mr. William D. Wiley, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager, stated that FEMA publishes physical map revisions based on past studies. Staff was recently notified by FEMA that 99 of approximately 495 such maps for Maricopa County are being published, effective November 4th. Floodplain delineations are changing; some homes that were not included in floodplains previously will be located in floodplains, while others are being removed from a floodplain. Today's proposal would allow coordination with the City of Gilbert to offer elevation certificates for those homes that are newly placed into floodplains within their city.

Ms. Regester explained that an elevation certificate, which is completed by a registered land surveyor, relates the elevation of the lowest floor of a home or structure to the elevation of a hundred-year flood. Certificates are used by insurance companies to determine premiums. The higher the elevation, the lower the premium. In the past, the District has had a policy of preparing elevation certificates for homes that are newly added to the floodplain. On November 4th, FEMA will issue 99 updated flood insurance rate map panels for ten studies across the County. The studies were completed between 2008 and 2012 and include approximately 730 newly mapped homes in a floodplain, with a breakdown as follows: Chandler: 25, Gilbert: 270, Scottsdale 1, and over 400 in unincorporated Maricopa County.

This specific IGA refers to the 270 located in Gilbert. The Town of Gilbert approached the District with an offer to share the costs of the elevation certificates. The area involved is north of the railroad to approximately Baseline and east to Higley Road. The IGA includes a 50/50 cost share between the District and the Town of Gilbert with an estimated \$67,500 maximum cost per partner. The District will hire the surveyor and will oversee the preparation of the certificates. Gilbert will handle distribution of the completed certificates to residents. The District will begin

sending offers for elevation certificates to the newly mapped property owners in October with survey work scheduled to begin in November and completion by March of 2016.

In response to a question from a Board Member, Ms. Register explained the current delineations were completed as early as the 1990s and since that time, advances in technology have provided greater refinement in modeling techniques and subsequent findings.

A Board Member inquired about affected homes outside of Gilbert. Ms. Register confirmed that the District would be offering elevation certificates to these residents as well at no cost to homeowners.

Mr. Wiley commented that he had previously briefed the Board of Directors on this issue, noting that some residents may now be required to purchase flood insurance, where they had not in the past. The Board of Directors felt that the one-time offer for a certificate is a good gesture and that the County should support this approach. In the case of the Town of Gilbert, the Town itself has stepped forward to pay for half the certificates to its affected residents. He added that more homes are actually being removed from floodplains than are being added in.

ACTION: It was moved by Board Member Mushtaq and seconded by Board Member Larchick to recommend approval of IGA FCD 2015A011. The motion carried unanimously.

6) FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT PLAN 2015

Presented by Mark Frago, AICP, CFM, Mitigation Planning Analyst on behalf of Kelli Sertich, AICP, CFM, Floodplain Management & Services Division Manager, Floodplain Management & Services

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Endorse and recommend that that the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County adopt the Floodplain Management Plan 2015.

Mr. Wiley said that the District is a member of the National Flood Insurance Program which enables residents to acquire flood insurance. Membership also allows the District to participate in emergency declarations for flooding. One of the requirements for residents to get discounts on insurance is that the District publish a five-year floodplain management plan.

Mr. Frago stated that the Floodplain Management Plan is a record keeping tool for the National Flood Insurance Program and the Community Rating System, of which the District is a part. The Plan is a guide to address anticipated flooding issues for the next five years. The District is a Class Four community, providing a 30 percent discount for unincorporated Maricopa County residents who must purchase flood insurance.

The Floodplain Management Plan was begun in January/February of 2015. The District is required to develop the plan through a public committee in order to retain its Class Four status. Twenty-five organizations were invited to participate. Ultimately 14 members from industry, city and state departments, as well as County employees participated. Five meetings were held to review, discuss and complete the Plan as well as two public open houses. Over 100 stakeholders were notified and invited to comment on the draft Plan. Similar processes were executed in 2002, 2005 and 2009. The Plan had three main objectives: Identify flood hazards and problems, set

goals, and recommend action plans for the next five years. The document is 220 pages long, including written portions, appendices and maps.

In order to assess flood hazard problems, the group used watershed maps from the 2009 comprehensive plan. In addition, area drainage master studies and area drainage master plans were reviewed and discussed.

The group developed six main goals:

- 1) Continue to expand public outreach
- 2) Protect natural resources
- 3) Improve quality of life
- 4) Strengthen the role as the regional leader
- 5) Develop a list of resources
- 6) Enforce and enhance regulatory standards

Two major priorities were identified:

- 1) To increase CIP program funding
- 2) Educate the public on flood risks

NOTE: Subsequent to the 2014 monsoon season, the District's General Manager and County Manager sent letters to all the cities in the Valley soliciting requests for structural improvements. Seventeen responses were received, which, combined with the District's existing tier one and tier two requests for CIPs totaled approximately \$2.3 billion.

The group also developed a five-year action plan, which included 36 action items including an implementation process with yearly monitoring. Approximately two-thirds of these have already been put into practice.

A yearly summary on the action plans will be sent to committee members and the Board of Directors.

In response to a question from Board Member Schaner, Mr. Frago listed public outreach avenues, including Facebook, Twitter, traditional media and public events. Additionally, the District has recently hired a public information officer. Mr. Wiley added that he has asked the new officer to put together a communication plan by the end of December, 2015.

ACTION: Board Member Mushtaq made a motion to endorse the Floodplain Management Plan for 2015. Board Member Schaner seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7) FY 2015 YEAR-END UPDATE

Presented by Chris Hall, Finance Manager.

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

The 2015 fiscal year ended June 30th. The carry forward balance for the previous fiscal year was \$41.4 million. Revenues totaled \$52 million. Revenues originated from land sales, grants, interest income, intergovernmental agreements, fees for permits, property taxes and in lieu payments. The property tax assessment was slightly less than 14 cents per \$100 of value. (This will increase by two cents in the new fiscal year.) Expenditures totaled \$59 million.

Identification, (which includes mapping and modeling) regulation, remediation, capital projects and repairs totals 70 percent of total expenditures. Outreach, education and public meetings accounted for \$2.2 million. The remaining balance of just less than \$8 million includes administration. Personnel costs totaled \$16 million, of which 64 percent consists of salary and wages. The ending fund balance was \$34.6 million.

The District has partnered with the NRCS to rehabilitate Soil Conservation Service built projects that the District now owns. NRCS will carry 65 percent of the costs. The District fronts all of the costs initially and NRCS reimburses the District on a monthly basis. In response to a question from a Board Member, Mr. Hall elaborated that the NRCS support totals approximately \$100 million over several years. For the coming year, NRCS will be reimbursing the District approximately \$30 million.

8) COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND GENERAL MANAGER

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

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

Mr. Wiley stated that the money being received from the NRCS must be spent on five specific projects. The largest of these is Vineyard, a dam in Pinal County that protects Eastmark and the former location of the Williams Air Force Base and GM proving ground at total cost of \$40 million. The total award of funds must be spent by 2019.

Staff went through a strategic planning process with the Board of Directors and after acknowledging the effects of flooding of last year, the Board agreed to raise the secondary tax that supports the District. This will add approximately \$6 million of funding for capital projects (CIP).

Current significant projects include the salt cedar problem located in the Lower Gila River from the Agua Fria to Painted Rock Dam. A delineation has been completed which adds 7.5 square miles to the floodplain. The expansion is primarily due to salt cedar growth in the river bottom. Another project is with the City of Phoenix in response to last year's flooding in Laveen. The basin is located at 27th Avenue and South Mountain. The City of Phoenix is providing upfront funding with the District providing reimbursement.

A task force was formed last year that charged us with conducting an annual meeting to provide an overview of the District functions, funding for the year and issues being faced, including regulatory issues. The annual meeting was held on September 8, 2015. One of the regulatory issues the District is facing is the new EPA rule on Waters of the U.S. If District structures are deemed Waters of the U.S., this could potentially require the District to meet new permitting requirements. Related to this is the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard, which was the result of a Presidential executive order in January. If federal monies are used for a project, it must meet standards based on climate science, 500-year floodplain or the project being two to three feet above the hundred-year floodplain.

Mr. Wiley commented that over the previous week, he had the opportunity to meet some federal partners at the FEMA Region 9 offices in Oakland, as well as EPA leadership at EPA Region IX

offices in San Francisco. Additionally he met with the Pacific District of the Corps of Engineers. The primary topic of this latter meeting was the salt cedar issue along the Lower Gila. Estimated costs to address this specific project range from \$100 million to \$500 million.

9) 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.

10) 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 3:00 p.m.