



# Flood Control District of Maricopa County

## Flood Control Advisory Board

**Meeting Minutes for August 24, 2016**

**Board Members Present:** Melvin Martin, Chairman; Richard Schaner, Vice Chairman; Gregg Monger, Secretary; DeWayne Justice; Hermant Patel; Ray Dovalina; Bob Larchick

**Staff Members Present:** William D. Wiley, P.E., Chief Engineer and General Manager; Wayne Peck, General Counsel

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board (FCAB) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2016.

**2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**3) APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2016**

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

**4) RIGHT-OF-WAY PERMIT KAIZEN & ONLINE PERMIT SUBMITTALS & REVIEWS**

Presented by Ken Proksa, Deputy Director; Mike Jones, Senior Civil Engineer

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

Mr. Proksa stated that a 22-member ad hoc task force had been appointed to look at what improvements could be made to better serve FCD customers. The task force came up with 17 recommendations for improvements which were adopted by the BOS on 9/8/2014. The number one recommendation was "To promote the lean management philosophy throughout the department by conducting several facilitated Kaizen events with customers, staff, and management on specific processes directly impacting services to citizens."

One of the processes identified for improvement was the right-of-way permit process. About 100 right-of-way permits were issued per year, and multiple submittals were associated with each permit. Staff and stakeholders felt the permit process was cumbersome and inefficient. A Kaizen team was put together and spent three and a half days looking at the issues and possible solutions. The team came up with 23 recommendations. Key recommendations included streamlining the

internal permit review process and a web-based online application and payment process. The next year and a half was spent meeting biweekly to discuss implementation which included the creation of an organized workspace and the establishment of centralized files, the publication of standards for customers, the institution of permit pre-application and application customer checklists, and the development and implementation of an online permit application system.

Mr. Jones stated the online application system would save the customers a lot of time and a lot of money. The system went live on 8/1/2016. It allowed customers to submit plans for review online 24/7 and would save the customers \$1,000 or more per submittal. Nine permits were submitted through the online system to date and one was already approved. The system is faster and more efficient. The online system was demonstrated and reviewed by Mr. Jones. Online payments and a mobile inspection application for inspectors are expected to be implemented by 12/31/2016.

Board Member Patel asked if any information was public information under the current paper-based process. General Counsel Peck stated a Freedom of Information request was needed to get copies of any permits or applications.

Chairman Martin asked if an architect was required to send the permit application in. Mr. Jones stated anyone could submit the application; however, the plans would still need to be signed and sealed by an architect. Board Member Dovalina added there was a process of self-certification that allowed the registered architect or registered engineer to do the inspection, but they had to be certified with the city. General Counsel Peck asked if it could be same architect that drew the plans or it had to be an independent architect. Board Member Dovalina replied he would need to verify that. Chairman Martin replied it could be the same architect as long as they were registered by the city and approved by the city. A special bond was also required.

Chief Engineer Wiley stated the reason for the online payment not going forward yet was due to security issues and the fact that the county had some requirements before money was submitted. At some point, they also wanted to expand the online permit application system to flood plain use permits.

## 5) **FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Presented by Chris Hall, Finance Manager

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

Mr. Hall stated the county had switched over to a new accounting system in July which was the same system the state had adopted last year. The only issue they were having was pulling data out of the system, so the numbers he was presenting had not be validated in the system but should be verified shortly.

An overview of the budgeted fund sources and actual fund sources was presented. The total budgeted fund sources was \$111.5 million and the actual fund sources was \$107,567,254. One discrepancy was in the area of intergovernmental which related to the NRCS dam rehabilitations. There was an arrangement for them to reimburse 65 percent of the costs, but some of those projects were delayed and some of the phases were not paid out in a timely manner. It was a

three to four year process, and the \$6.2 million was not lost but would roll into the current year. The other major discrepancy was in the area of data sales and excess land where they were \$1.8 million to the good. This was attributable to two land sales that were not anticipated at the beginning of the year. The county purchased the parcel on 27th Avenue and Durango for \$326,000, and the parcel at the Power Road and McDowell area in Mesa appraised for \$690,000 and sold for \$1.75 million at auction.

Budgeted and actual expenditures were reviewed. NRCS expenditures were at around 51 percent of the total expenditures, with another large area of expenditures being other capital improvements. The anticipated expenditures were \$100.8 million, and actual expenditures were 20 percent short of that at \$80.1 million. The vast majority of the discrepancy was in the CIP budget due to projects getting started later. The projects were multi-year and they would catch up. For grants, at the beginning of the year, they had a Gila River Indian Community grant to do some salt cedar studies. There had been \$345,000 remaining on that grant to spend this year. Mid-year, they were also awarded a FEMA grant to do a study of Indian Bend Wash.

Board Member Monger asked how O&M was cut down by \$1 million. Mr. Hall responded that 70 percent of their costs were tied into personnel, so most of the discrepancies would probably be due to vacancies.

A chart of the 16 small projects approved for the last fiscal year was reviewed, and all 16 were completed on time.

Board Member Dovalina asked if the beginning balance was a fund balance or some other carryover. Mr. Hall responded it was the carry forward fund balance the district had on hand.

Mr. Wiley stated the parcel that had appraised for \$690,000 and sold for \$1.75 million was in a very highly sought-after area, and the selling price had not been anticipated.

## **6) 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 monsoon season was in full gear. Monsoon season officially starts June 15th and goes through September 30th. In general, it doesn't start raining most years until July, however, there is often rain in the latter part of September. FCD has seen substantial rain in different areas of the county with Wickenburg and New Rivers areas receiving the most rain to date. Earlier this year FCD formed a partnership with MCDOT, Emergency Management and Rock Products in order to be prepared, put out alerts, and provide sand to unincorporated county residents in case of an event. Overall summer 2016 looks like a normal to good year in terms of rainfall relative to average.

On August 15th, the Board of Directors approved an additional \$0.02 for the CIP budget which translated to an additional \$7 million per year in the CIP budget. The rate is now \$17.92 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation on an annual basis. In 2007, it was about \$20.52 per \$100,000 of valuation. Based on FCD averages a typical project costs about \$7 million, so that \$0.02 would

generally fund one additional project annually.

Public meetings would be held that evening and the next day at Lower Indian Bend Wash study area. There have been reports of flooding in the area.

FCD has received eight FY16 NACo awards, as well as two awards for our public participation work in the Rawhide Wash/Pinnacle Peak West area. Additionally, FCD is up for an international award from IAPP for this same work. The City of Avondale had submitted the El Rio design guidelines for Arizona Forward Environmental Excellence award; the award date is September 8<sup>th</sup>.

Board Member Patel asked if anything bad had happened as a result of the couple of large storms. Mr. Wiley responded that although there was sporadic flooding in several areas the worst effects were street and highway flooding.

**7) SUMMARY OF RECENT ACTIONS BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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 there had been several board meetings. Mr. Schaner had been re-appointed to FCAB on 6/22/2016 for a five-year term. Small projects with Mesa, Phoenix, Guadalupe and Queen Creek were approved and could be seen in the minutes. Because of rainfall, there was a renewed interest in people having rain gauges in their areas, and they were working with communities to install new rain gauges. There was some reallocation of money for the NRCS projects.

**8) OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

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

There were no comments from the public.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.