



Flood Control District of Maricopa County

Flood Control Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes June 26, 2019

Board Members Present: DeWayne Justice, Vice Chairman; Richard Schaner, Kyle Tilghman, Ray Dovalina

Staff Members Present: Michael Fulton, Director; Jean Rice, General Counsel; Kristine Rabe

1) CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Justice called the meeting of the Flood Control Advisory Board (FCAB) to order at 2:07 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3) 2019 MONSOON UPDATE

Presented by Daniel Henz, Meteorologist

Mr. Henz stated he would be speaking about the coming monsoon and what we anticipate based off of the data we have been getting from the Feds, what we are seeing ourselves and from other local agencies. Mr. Henz noted that there were a few key topics to talk about. Monsoon started June 15 and runs to September 30 but onset of thunderstorms doesn't start until July. Last year, rainfall was just under 3" or so around Sky Harbor. Around 3" is the county average. The District keeps track of rainfall across the entire county. Last year was near normal at Sky Harbor and above normal for the rest of the county. Mr. Henz showed a graph looking at the last 36 years of monsoon average rainfall. The averages were across the 350 gages the District has around the county. We have wet years and dry years with no noticeable patterns. The last three years were around normal averages and 2014 was very wet.

Monsoon means a seasonal shift or change in wind or precipitation pattern. We usually see storms across the higher terrain in late June, early July. Mr. Henz discussed how monsoons form and it is all about ridge locations. We had a very active July and August last year. Official forecast for the summer, temperature odds favor warmer than average, no pattern in rainfall. We have had a dry start to the monsoon. Currently, we are in a weak El Nino that will persist throughout the summer. There are warmer than average sea

surface temperatures which are expected to persist into winter. This last winter was very wet and cold across the western half of the US. Cool and winters can cause a later start to the monsoon. During hurricane season in 2018 we had 23 named storms, 13 hurricanes, 10 of which were major. This year, the National Hurricane Center is predicting above normal favored outcome with 15-22 named storms. Ultimately, we are expecting a late onset storm activity with a drier than normal start. We will have a drier than normal July. Second half of summer, August and September maybe even into October, expect that it will be more active than normal. Mr. Henz asked if there were any questions and there were none from the Board or the audience.

4) APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2019 MEETING

ACTION: It was moved by Mr. Dovalina, and seconded by Mr. Schaner, to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion carried unanimously, and the minutes were approved. Mr. Justice asked that it be noted that Mr. Tilghman abstained from voting because he was not on the Board at the March 27, 2019 meeting.

5) ACTION ITEM – SMALL PROJECT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, RESOLUTION FCD 2009R003C

Presented by Michael Fulton, Director

The SPAP started about 10 years ago. When Mr. Fulton started a year ago, staff already had a plan to do a program evaluation. Some of the results from the program evaluation are part of the recommendations for modifying the program. Mr. Fulton stated that they are requesting that the FCAB endorse and recommend to the Board to amend the Resolution authorizing the District to do a few things to the program. One is increase the District's cost sharing limit for each project. Second is to include project design as an allowable cost and third is to increase the allowable time for project completion.

Mr. Fulton gave some history of the SPAP. Since its inception 10 years ago, the SPAP program has received 119 applications from 13 Maricopa County municipalities. It is intended to deal with non-regional, smaller projects. It funded 64 projects for nine municipalities and contributed \$13.3 million of \$17.2 million in total project construction. They are smaller projects that usually get implemented in a pretty quick time. The District solicits new projects annually in August and normally receives about 10 proposals but received zero last year. This led the District to asking more questions and to the evaluation program. The District asked the cities and other participants what they thought of the program and if they had any suggestions for improvement. The District sent out the survey and heard a few things. One of the comments was that money is an issue. Projects are competing for funding in cities. Another comment was that some cities were not aware of the program which could be due to turnover. The District may need to double our efforts to educate communities about the existence of the program. The third thing we heard was the one year project completion time constraint is a challenge. Another suggestion was the

District should consider increasing the funding cap and/or allow design costs to be funded. Design costs were not included primarily because the District wanted to make sure that we didn't spend a lot of money on studies that never got built. The last suggestion was project eligibility should be expanded. The District doesn't fund things like street draining and street flooding. All but the last suggestion was addressed.

So, the summary of what the District is proposing is to increase the District cost sharing contribution to seventy-five percent (75%) of project construction and design costs, not to exceed \$500,000 per project instead of \$250,000. The District is also proposing to increase the allowable time for project completion from one to two fiscal years. There is one administrative change, changing the title of "Chief Engineer and General Manager" to "Director or Chief Engineer and General Manager" for all Program Authority.

In regards to design costs, the District will be wording the agreements for the SPAP that we will not reimburse for design costs unless the project is constructed. Mr. Fulton asked Don Rerick if he left anything out and Mr. Rerick said no. The District is proposing updating the Resolution. In the Board's agenda packet are the amendments to the resolution and updates to the SPAP guidance manual on tab 4. Our hope is to have the changes approved by the FCAB Board before we solicit new proposals in August.

Mr. Justice asked if there were any questions from the Board. Mr. Dovalina commented that he really appreciated Mr. Fulton and Don's effort on this project and the opportunity for Phoenix and other cities. Mr. Schaner asked if utility relocation and right-of-way acquisition were included or not. Mr. Fulton responded that they were not included and it was the project sponsor responsibility to take care of. Mr. Fulton mentioned that if we start adding these types of things then the program starts resembling our CIP program.

STAFF RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING ACTION: the Flood Control Advisory Board endorses and recommends that the Board of Directors of the Flood Control District of Maricopa County adopt Resolution FCD 2009R003C for modifications to the Small Project Assistance Program.

ACTION: Mr. Justice moved the recommendation adoption by the Board of Directors and it was approved by Mr. Dovalina and Mr. Tilghman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6) COMMENTS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Presented by Michael Fulton, Director

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

Mr. Fulton stated he would review some legislative action that is impactful to the District, awards the District has received, and some of the planning projects coming up. The District

has an Adopt-A-Structure program and Mr. Fulton wanted to recognize Black & Veatch for being the first to participate in the program by adopting the structure at East Fork Cave Creek and doing a cleanup there in early June. A representative from Black and Veatch shared a little about their clean-up experience. The event was very successful and they will be doing it again in November. Mr. Fulton thanked them for their help. Mr. Schaner commented that he thought the program was a great idea.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has an annual awards program and the District had three winners this year from our Engineering and ALERT Center group. Mr. Fulton asked Scott Vogel to come up and describe the projects and how they will improve District operations. The first was a photo documentation tool for flooding hazard and field investigation. Mr. Vogel explained that when you take photos out in the field, they are geo-located on your phone. When you get back to the office and download all the photos, the software puts all the photos into a PowerPoint presentation that includes a map showing where all the photos were taken.

Mr. Vogel explained the second award, Predicting Flood Risk from Dams. This is a tool that allows the District to collect ALERT data from rain gages and stream gages during storm events. This enables us see what flow is coming into dams and predict when a dam will get full. Our third award was for the Gilbert Flood Response Plan which identifies where the hazards are and what response should be taken due to those hazards. Mr. Fulton noted that the Gilbert Flood Response Plan required a lot of interaction with the city and that is one of the categories that NACo looks for, intergovernmental cooperation. And, this was a key part of the development of the plan.

Mr. Fulton also noted that Dan Henz was recently at the National Hydrologic Warning Council conference where the District was awarded the Operation Excellence Award. The Operational Excellence Award is awarded to an organization that has developed or maintained an exceptional hydrologic warning system.

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

Presented by Michael Fulton, Director

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

Items approved for the March 27, 2019, Board of Directors meeting included a contract with AECOM moving ahead with work for McMicken dam and an IGA with MCDOT for earth work at McMicken. The District is heading towards a lot of work starting for McMicken. McMicken was built by the United States Army Corp of Engineers and now the District is trying to remodel the Dam. The project is a multi-year, \$110 million project.

On April 24, 2019, agenda item for Bid and Award for Mandan Street Flood Mitigation Project was approved. The District has been working with the City of Phoenix on this project. The project will help protect almost two dozen homes.

On May 22, 2019, agenda item for a Detention Basin at Town of Queen Creek East Park Sports Complex was approved. There was a ground breaking there late last month. This will be a multiple use project.

On June 12, 2019, the On-Call Final Design Contract for 27th and Olney Avenue Storm Drain Project was approved by the Board. This is a project in the Laveen area that will help improve the flooding situation. The District has been working with the City of Phoenix on this project.

Several items were approved at the June 26, 2019, Board meeting. One of the items was the Amend Authorization to Award for White Tanks Flood Retarding Structure #4 Outlet Facility. This will connect the White Tanks #4 to the Loop 303 Outfall Channel, which outfalls to the Gila River. Agenda item for Bids and Award for East Maricopa Floodway Low Flow Channel Germann Road to Power Road Project was also approved. The District will be putting in a low flow channel that will help it flow and drain better.

Mr. Fulton brought up legislation that could impact the District. House Bill 2580 which established a grants program to be run through the state's department of Forestry and Fire Management. It will make money available for projects aimed at non-native vegetative species eradication.

8) OTHER BUSINESS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments by members of the public.

Mr. Justice stated that the meeting was adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.