

Marin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE
FLOOD CONTROL ZONE 5 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
HELD THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018
STINSON BEACH COMMUNITY CENTER, BELVEDERE AVENUE**

Advisory Board (AB) Members Present

Toby Bisson (TB) Chair
Barry Harris (BH) Vice Chair
John Washington (JW)
Jamie Sutton (JS)
Howard Schechter (HS)

District Staff (Staff) Present

Hannah Lee, Associate Civil Engineer

Others Present

Supervisor Dennis Rodoni, District 4

JW called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

Item 1. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

HS nominated TB for chairperson.

Action by Board: Elect Toby Bisson as Chairperson for the Zone 5 Advisory Board.

M/S: JW/JS, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None

HS nominated BH for vice-chairperson.

Action by Board: Elect Barry Harris as Vice-Chairperson for the Zone 5 Advisory Board.

M/S: JW/TB, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None

Item 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes: April 26, 2017

Action by Board: Approve minutes, as written, with no amendments.

M/S: BH/JW, **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None

Item 3. Open time for items not on the agenda

- A. JW requested the County put pressure on Caltrans to reduce the hazardous ponding on Highway 1 at Audubon Canyon Ranch, particularly following the motorcycle fatality that occurred. Supervisor Rodoni said he has been in contact with the Caltrans director about this ponding as recently as last week. He explained Caltrans is aware of the issue and is in need of private landowner cooperation. The motorcycle fatality and whether Caltrans has contacted Audubon Canyon will be topics for the Supervisor's follow-up conversation with Caltrans in the near future.
- B. JW also inquired about a culvert that hadn't been cleared out by Caltrans recently, which crosses Highway 1 near Calle del Pinos. TB will clarify whether Caltrans' broader plans in the area includes excavating the culvert area with a backhoe.
- C. JW read about a dune project at Sandspit in the Point Reyes Light and was disappointed that the County didn't reach out to Flood Zone 5 about it in advance. TB mentioned that the County reached out to the water district for a letter of support. Supervisor Rodoni said that the article was in reference to a grant application that was recently on the Board of Supervisors' consent calendar. If awarded the grant, the County (not District) will carry out an outreach and planning process before the project is constructed.

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Item 4. Zone Staffing Changes

The position being recruited for overseeing Zone 5's administration, among many other duties, is a Senior Program Coordinator. The new recruit is expected to be onboard next month. In the meantime, zone-related communications can be routed through Hannah Lee at hlee@marincounty.org or 415-473-2671. JW requested immediate updates to AB regarding any staffing changes.

Item 5. Easkoot Creek Maintenance Update

See 2/15/2018 staff report for the Easkoot Creek 2017 maintenance expenditure report. AB was generally content with the cost of completing the sediment removal by County Road Maintenance crew staff, and vegetation management with the Conservation Corps North Bay (CCNB). JS brought up a gravel provider company in Nicasio that may be interested in doing this work for a good price.

JS also expressed interest in improving fish habitat. Several other AB members iterated a need to focus limited funding on flood risk reduction. Staff explained the CCNB follows a Marin County Stream Maintenance Manual, posted on the District website, which guides them in balancing the two goals of improving flood flow conveyance and maintaining fish habitat: <http://www.marinwatersheds.org/resources/publications-reports/marin-county-stream-maintenance-manual>. Staff also brought up that the County has a Fish Passage Program which seeks grant funding for fish passage projects in salmon streams.

i. Environmental Permitting

Staff reported that the District's programmatic permit for creek maintenance was finally approved last summer by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, but unfortunately cost savings are not expected as costs for permit fees and compliance activities keep rising. See 2/15/2018 staff report for more details.

ii. District-Owned Properties and Easements

See 2/15/2018 staff report details.

iii. Private Properties – Residential

HS's going door-to-door to inform property owners about the importance of this permission increased the number of properties providing permission this year. He got feedback from some property owners that they don't like the way CCNB's work looks. Staff pointed out that while CCNB is trained to maximize habitat benefit while improving creek flow, they aren't asked to trim the vegetation as aesthetically sensitively as landscapers as it isn't located in frequently traveled areas and grows back long before they return for annual maintenance. See 2/15/2018 staff report for more details.

iv. Federal Properties – National Park Service

Removal of sediment adjacent to Parkside Café is anticipated this summer prior to the expiration of the District's Special Use Permit with the National Park Service on September 30th. District will work with NPS to either renew the permit or engage in an alternative agreement. See 2/15/2018 staff report for more details.

JW inquired if sediment removal can be planned for the wet season. Due to limitations associated with protecting salmon, any sediment removal outside of the

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summer months would need to be performed under an emergency permit which can only be applied for when an emergency situation occurs.

Item 6. FY 2018-19 Budget Review

See 2/15/2018 staff report details. Staff reported that the format of the budget has changed this year to align better with the County's new accounting system. AB had a couple questions related to "actuals" vs. "budget," but gave only positive feedback on the new format. AB noted that the \$291,543 fund balance could be used for future projects and/or emergency purposes. They reviewed the process for recommendation of emergency projects by which they can hold either a special meeting with 24-hour notice, or an emergency meeting with no notice, in order to provide input in a timely manner.

Action by Board: Recommend Board of Supervisors approve budget.

M/S: HS/JW **Ayes:** All, **Nay:** None

Item 7. Schedule Next Meeting

At the recommendation of the AB and staff, the current by-law meeting date of Thursday, February 14, 2019 was not scheduled. Staff said that the by-laws for all the zones are being revised and a meeting will probably occur prior to that date to go over the proposed by-laws. In considering the regular meeting dates in the new by-laws an effort will be made to avoid holidays, but keep the meeting in February, which is a good time to meet due to the rainy season.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 P.M.