

MEETING AGENDA
TOWN OF CORTE MADERA
Flood Control Board

Monday February 8, 2016
7:00 P.M.

Corte Madera Town Hall Council Chambers
300 Tamalpais Drive, Corte Madera, CA 94925

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. OPEN FORUM FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS
3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES (JANUARY 11, 2016)
4. ENGINEERING STAFF UPDATE-Kelly Crowe
5. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Future Mariner Cove/Marina Village Curb Ponding Projects
 - B. FEMA Flood Map Outreach
 - C. Potential renaming of the Flood Control Board
6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
7. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1. Draft Minutes of January 11, 2016 meeting

*Note: Per Ordinance No. 821 of the Corte Madera Municipal Code, the **Storm Drainage Special Tax** has a 25 year term, beginning July 1, 1998 and expiring June 30, 2023.*

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Department of Public Works at 415-927-5057. For auxiliary aids or services or other reasonable accommodations to be provided by the Town at or before the meeting, please notify the Department of Public Works at least 3 business days before the meeting in advance of the meeting date. If the Town does not receive timely notification of your reasonable request, the Town may not be able to make the necessary arrangements by the time of the meeting.

FLOOD CONTROL BOARD
JANUARY 11, 2016
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
DRAFT MINUTES

Boardmembers Robert Bundy, Chair
Present: Bill Carlson
Patrick Shea
Ann Thomas

Boardmembers Stephanie Bennett
Absent:

Staff Present: Associate Engineer Kelly Crowe

1. Call to Order

Chair Bundy opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non-Agenda Items

Chair Bundy introduced Mr. David Bell, a Corte Madera resident who has expressed interest in serving on the Flood Control Board.

Associate Engineer Crowe asked the Board if they would prefer to hear his project updates as a brief overview of all project at once or as separate Discussion Items. Boardmember Shea stated he would prefer to hear them all at once if that makes things move faster. The Board agreed. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would give a quick update of projects in progress at one time.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (November 9, 2015)

M/s, Thomas/Shea and carried unanimously (Bennett absent) to approve the minutes of November 9, 2015 as submitted.

4. Discussion Items

A. Check Valve at Golden Hind/Cay Passage Update

Associate Engineer Crowe presented a staff report. He stated there were two parts to this project- the check valve was installed on New Year's Eve and is currently operating. Linscott Engineering did a great job. Chair Bundy asked if it was in the new vault. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "no" it was in the discharge box. The second phase pertains to repairs to the top of the valve box. He noted this check valve is a bit different but it is still a tide flex. He displayed a photograph of the valve box and discussed some of the problems that had occurred. Chair Bundy asked if the box itself was intact. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "yes" except for the top.

Chair Bundy stated he spoke to several residents who live near the easement where the pumps are located about sandbagging. One resident's yard was a bit higher and at high tide the water does not spill through- she would need to bring in a modest amount of fill. He stated there could be a problem because of the existing fencing. Associate Engineer Crowe stated the drone video showed that the houses on Golden Hind that seemed to be in good shape had poured stem walls around the yard. Building a fence on a stem wall was a good solution. Chair Bundy stated the Town could build a stem wall along the fence that it controls. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he thought that would be the homeowner's responsibility. Boardmember

Shea stated it could be a shared responsibility. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would check on that. Chair Bundy stated it was a nicely constructed fence but was not designed to be a barrier to water intrusion.

B. Marina Village Levee temporary sandbagging/2016 study

Associate Engineer Crowe presented a staff report. He stated the Public Works Department crew sandbagged the levee after getting approval from the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Audubon Society. Staff also talked to both agencies about future improvements and the plan to raise and improve the levee. Staff received good feedback from these agencies. The sandbags will give that area some added protection.

Chair Bundy stated he looked at that part of the levee further down San Clemente Creek and wondered if the sandbags had been placed on the Audubon property. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he did not think so- the Audubon property is about 50' from the northern most point of the levee.

Chair Bundy asked about the process going forward with getting permits to permanently bring those low spots up where the sandbags were placed. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he met with Mr. Eric Polson, Project Manager for Noble Consulting, and discussed the two phases- the study and the more detailed design engineering. They met out on the levee and discussed the project scope that goes from the piece that ties in down by the pump station past the low spot and extends further down that long piece of levee that extends towards the Audubon property. One of the first things that will be done is a topographic survey. Chair Bundy asked if they would be able to take advantage of the Marin County Vulnerability Assessment. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he was looking into that. This project is budgeted to begin in July of 2016. Chair Bundy stated the assessment by the County would look at the elevation of all the levees as well as everything on the bay front. He wondered if they could use this information and not duplicate what the County is already doing. Boardmember Thomas stated she thought the County was trying to get the assessment submitted to the Board of Supervisors by the end of the year. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he heard they were using the "Our coast, our future" model for the representation of sea level rise.

C. FEMA Flood Map Community Outreach

Associate Engineer Crowe presented a staff report. He noted he was surprised that staff had not received more feedback- they sent 250 letters and received about twenty phone calls. Staff has been able to handle these calls as they come in. He stated he was told that lenders have not been sending letters to some of the homeowners. The Letter of Final Determination (LOFD) should trigger a letter from the lender requiring the purchase of flood insurance. Residents have been asking about potential surveys and the possibility of pooling resources to get a better cost. He noted all pertinent information, including the LOMA process, was posted on the Town Website.

Boardmember Carlson referred to Echo and stated there was a huge drop right at the pathway where kids ride their bikes and it is getting flooded a lot more than usual. A lot of people ride their bikes near the end of the cul-de-sac and it is a safety issue. Chair Bundy asked if that could be fixed with some fill. A resident suggested that this be coordinated with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC). Chair Bundy stated there could be some funding through Safe Routes to Schools. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would notify the BPAC about this concern.

D. Future Mariner Cove/Marina Village Curb Ponding Projects

Associate Engineer Crowe presented a staff report. This project has been designed and staff has the drawings. There is a pump station planned for the Harbor Drive cul-de-sac along with some associated grated line drains to alleviate curb ponding in that area. The flooding at Golden Hind and Ebb Tide is significant during a high tide and rain event. He noted the pipe network in that area is not very extensive and some of the pipes were damaged. It is possible to go in and redo the piping, redo the catch basin, and install a new check valve. The other option is to put in a pump station at this location. Chair Bundy stated redoing the catch basin included bringing everything up a couple of feet. Associate Engineer Crowe agreed. Chair Bundy stated the Board philosophy is to do as much as possible without the pump stations. It

is also important that residents in that area berm or raise up their yards in some fashion. He would support redoing the catch basin, the piping, and run slot drains south on Golden Hind Passage. Perhaps the neighbors could come up with landscaping solutions to protect their garages and keep the water from spilling through into the street.

Associate Engineer Crowe asked if it was the consensus of the Board to keep the pump station as proposed. Chair Bundy stated the Board had decided to put the pump station at Harbor Drive on hold since the problem at Marina Village is curb ponding. They were looking at some slot drains south of Yolo. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would try to rework the numbers for the pump station and extra slotted drains in Marina Village. Chair Bundy stated the idea was to get the “biggest bang for the buck”.

Chair Bundy asked if staff would hire a design consultant for the work on Ebb Tide. Associate Engineer Crowe stated “yes”- they would get a few proposals and check out competitive costs. Chair Bundy suggested they install a catch basin that would accommodate a pump in the future. Associate Engineer Crowe stated they could design an oversized catch basin that has the ability to fit some additional infrastructure at a later date.

Chair Bundy stated he looked at Public Works Superintendent Kramer’s plan to put in a 24” check valve in to stop the tidal backup at Paradise Drive and Sea Wolf. Boardmember Shea asked if Public Works Superintendent Kramer planned to move the 15” check valve to Golden Hind and Sea Wolf. Chair Bundy stated that might not be a 15” culvert. This would be an ideal location for it. Associate Engineer Crowe stated the map shows a 15” culvert at the intersection of Golden Hind and Sea Mast. Chair Bundy pointed to the area with the biggest problem. The priorities should be where the street ponding was the worst and the Public Works Department crews have to put up “flooding” sign.

Boardmember Shea stated the intersection at Sea Wolf and Golden Hind did not flood during the recent high tides. There was some flooding at the perimeter of the intersections at the catch basins. He stated that during a heavy rain the tide is not pushing up through the catch basins but is holding the storm water back in the street. Chair Bundy stated the rain adds to it but it is also the wind and the low-pressure system that determines the actual elevation of the tides.

Boardmember Shea asked if it would be more feasible, in some instances, to lower the gutter. Associate Engineer Crowe stated the problem with adjusting the line grade of the gutter is the differential settling. He has observed that the trench drains have worked very well. Chair Bundy agreed and stated that was the direction to go in- installing slotted drains that go right into the catch basins. They could go ahead and start the long-term project and as time goes on they can extend those slotted drains.

Boardmember Carlson stated they should have a list of the top ten ponding problems and solutions. Associate Engineer Crowe stated the “ponding map” shows that the ponding problem was scattered so much throughout the neighborhoods. The approach has been to try to solve the worst problems first.

Boardmember Shea stated Prince Royal is another bad spot and he asked if it was on the list. Associate Engineer Crowe stated “yes”. Chair Bundy stated there was no drainage on Prince Royal. Boardmember Shea stated if they were going to start with small projects then the priority should be areas where there is a catch basin nearby. Associate Engineer Crowe stated the plan was to minimize any potential for change orders and making sure they are ready to go out to bid.

Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would try to get AN West to turn the plans around in time for the next Board meeting.

E. Entire Funding- Flood Control and Stormwater Management Act

Chair Bundy stated he and Boardmember Thomas have been tracking this issue through some of the committees they have been attended. The Marin County Stormwater Plan Phase 2 will put a burden on communities to keep trash and sediment out of the bay. The concept of the act is to move stormwater management into the same category as waste hauling, sewage management, and a water rate structure. The

bill would approve a tax rate that would have to be changed on a yearly basis to reflect the cost of stormwater management.

Boardmember Thomas stated the language has been submitted to the Attorney General for an initiative that the legislature could put on the ballot in 2016. It would create a new funding mechanism that would be available to jurisdictions. She thought it might be easier for Corte Madera to try to get a new Flood or Sewer Tax approved than to depend on this new funding mechanism.

Associate Engineer Crowe stated stormwater quality is a moving target given the “trash capture” requirements that are coming forward. The current Storm Drainage Tax runs to 2023. There are opportunities to explore the requirements and costs of the new trash capture requirements. They should start to take an inventory. Boardmember Thomas agreed and stated the new legislation could be an alternative funding source.

Chair Bundy stated if the act gets on the ballot then the Flood Board should encourage passage of the new legislation. He stated the Town has done such a great job in terms of creating an infrastructure to prevent flooding that the Flood Tax might not pass.

Boardmember Shea noted there were a lot of different purposes embedded in the bill and other agencies with more clout could obtain the funding. Chair Bundy stated this would not happen- the Town of Corte Madera would levy the tax to handle stormwater.

Boardmember Thomas briefly discussed how the Board would need to look ahead at the package of needs- sea level rise, Phase II requirements, reconstruction of some of the marshes, etc. She noted there would be a lot of other measures on the ballot in 2016. Associate Engineer Crowe stated there would be two different ballot measures- the State measure to authorize the funding mechanism and then the local measure which would require a 2/3rds vote. Chair Bundy stated this would replace the current flood tax.

Associate Engineer Crowe stated Facebook or some other form of social media could be a viable avenue for getting information out and gathering support. The Board agreed.

Boardmember Thomas stated the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority was putting a measure on the ballot in June. It is a nine-county, \$12 per parcel tax for flood protection, clean water, anti-pollution, fish habitat, wetland restoration, etc. The measure is being driven by the sea level rise studies. This is moving very fast. Chair Bundy stated the measure is intended to do the following: reduce trash, pollution, and toxins; restore water quality and habitats; prevent communities from flooding; increase shoreline access for public enjoyment. They think it would generate about \$25 million per year.

5. Future Agenda Items

Chair Bundy stated the following items would be on a future agenda: 1) Marin Cove/Marina Village Curb Ponding Project.

6. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.