

**FINAL MINUTES**

**FLOOD CONTROL BOARD  
DECEMBER 7, 2009**

**CORTE MADERA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Boardmembers Robert Bundy, Chair  
Present: Stephanie Bennett  
Vaso Medigovich

Boardmembers Barry Trailer  
Absent: Sanford Zeller

Staff Present: Public Works Director/Town Engineer Dan Ring  
Public Works Superintendent Kevin Kramer  
Councilmember Alexandra Cock

Chairman Bundy opened the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

1. Public Open Time

Councilmember Cock stated Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey's District Director informed her that there would be another pool of Stimulus Package money available and applications could be obtained in December. She indicated that money could be used for flood control projects/measures. Chair Bundy stated that was good news and the Town has several "shovel ready" projects that could be moved right through. He noted the new duckbill near Golden Hind seemed to be working well.

Public Works Director Ring stated staff sent out the flood prevention mailers several weeks ago to all residents in Town. They sent out two mailers- one to people in the flood plain and a slightly different one to people outside of the flood plain.

Public Works Director Ring stated FEMA presented a plaque to the Town Council commending the Town on obtaining Level Seven in the community rating system. Chair Bundy asked if this was based on the infrastructure work that had been done. Public Works Director Ring stated it was both infrastructure and administration (checking elevation certificates, issuing flood plain development permits, etc.). He stated only Corte Madera and Novato are participating in this program. They are trying to move to a Level Six which would give them a 20% reduction.

2. Review and approval of October 5, 2009 minutes

M/s, Medigovich-Bennett to approve the October 5, 2009 minutes as corrected.  
Ayes: All Absent: Trailer, Zeller

3. Presentation on Flood Control Preparation for Winter 2009/2010

Superintendent Kramer presented the staff report. He stated that the data in the staff report presented in bold relates to new and additional information for the upcoming winter. He discussed the annual maintenance for the pumps, gates, and generators and stated he has a copy of the electrical report. Everything looks good partly due to the aggressive replacement and repair program they started about ten years ago. He will be submitting a report about the infrared scans and the trouble they are having with the computer software producing pictures. Boardmember Medigovich had questions about the San Clemente

Pump Station by Paradise Market. Superintendent Kramer noted that this was a stick pump (along with the one at Lagoon One and Marquart Lagoon) that sits above ground. The electrical readings are identical. He stated they have had the emergency generators on a three-year program and they load-test a third of them every year. They are thinking about moving this to every other year or perhaps every year. The generators at Marina Village and Lagoon One are over twenty-years old and becoming non-compliant in terms of air quality. Boardmember Medigovich asked if they could install a catalytic converter. Superintendent Kramer stated they could install a "scrubber" but the size and the cost would force them to buy something new. Staff is doing everything possible to keep them running. Chair Bundy had questions about the load test. Superintendent Kramer stated they bring in a special piece of electrical equipment, hook it up to the generator, and take some readings. Chair Bundy asked how many hours per year the generators have. Superintendent Kramer stated they are allowed to run them only 50 hours per year (20 hours for testing and 30 hours for an emergency) due to air quality control restrictions. They could modify the permit but it is expensive. He discussed storm drain inlet cleaning and stated they start August 1<sup>st</sup> and are done by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The conveyance systems to the inlet are also checked for debris.

Boardmember Bennett asked about the power outage that recently occurred on the bayside. Superintendent Kramer stated some transformers blew up. Boardmember Medigovich asked if it was due to the cold weather. Superintendent Kramer stated he was not sure.

Chair Bundy asked if staff has ever power blasted the storm drains near Golden Hind to make sure they were clear. Superintendent Kramer stated "yes" they regularly clean those lines along with the sewer lines. Boardmember Medigovich asked if the rebuild of the sanitary system in that area has helped. Superintendent Kramer stated "yes".

Superintendent Kramer referred to the food control stations and stated they were cleaned and serviced, along with the wet-wells. Cleaning of the wet-well is required through the Storm Water Discharge Permit and they have to include the amount of material in the yearly report to the Water Quality Control Board. Boardmember Medigovich asked when this reporting requirement came into effect. Superintendent Kramer stated about five years. Superintendent Kramer briefly discussed the \$30,000 allocation to the San Clemente Pump Station and explained the fascia of the mansard roof was rotting and needed to be repaired. He briefly discussed the newly rebuilt station at Big G, the three existing flood control gates that were replaced, and the continuing problem in the Baja Court cul-de-sac. He stated they installed some check valves in the street to solve the problem in the cul-de-sac and it has worked so far. Chair Bundy asked if they were set up with clean outs. Superintendent Kramer stated the 6" valve has a clean out on top and the 15" valve is accessible via the manhole. Chair Bundy asked if these valves were less expensive than the duckbill with the vault. Superintendent Kramer stated the 15" was \$500 and the 6" was \$163. A contractor installed them at a cost of \$3,000.

Boardmember Bennett asked who replaced the wall across from Paradise Foods. Superintendent Kramer stated that was a Town project that was done by a contractor. It was intended to bring the wall to the same elevation as the levee. Chair Bundy stated the Board had discussed this low spot and thought it would provide some protection. Superintendent Kramer stated it was raised 16 inches. Boardmember Bennett stated it looks good. Boardmember Medigovich stated he was glad to hear that the project was finished since it was not an easy area to sandbag.

Boardmember Bennett thanked Superintendent Kramer for the excellent report and ask if it could be shared with neighbors, etc. Superintendent Kramer stated "of course".

Boardmember Medigovich had one request- please raise the trash rack at Lakeside at the low canal. Superintendent Kramer stated that could be done and added the Regional Quality Control Board does not want any grates since it interferes with the fish. Boardmember Medigovich asked about the policy regarding the gate at the end of the Mohawk pipe. Superintendent Kramer stated it stays up in the winter and goes down in the summer. That is a new gate.

Boardmember Medigovich asked Superintendent Kramer if he was familiar with the pipe under the path that leads to Larkspur near 35 Palm. He is concerned that work done to the property messed up the

discharge of that pipe. Superintendent Kramer stated the V-ditch was placed underground quite a while ago. Boardmember Medigovich stated that was good news.

#### 4. Project Status: Golden Hind/Cay Passage Pump Station

Public Works Director Ring presented a staff report. He made a Powerpoint presentation and discussed the project as it currently stands. He noted there would be some drainage improvements performed along with the installation of the Pump Station. He discussed the problem with curb ponding and the idea of “making the whole gutter a catch basin” by using trench drains that are tied into existing or new storm drain lines. The station itself had three phases of operation: 1) a rainstorm but a low tide situation; 2) no rain but a high tide situation; 3) rain during a high tide situation. He displayed a cross section of the pump station and the trench drains. Boardmember Medigovich asked if staff has had much experience with how the vault would operate. Superintendent Kramer stated they checked the existing vault and the duckbill was working fine. Public Works Director Ring stated they will be installing quick disconnect submersible pumps and they would be pulled out of the vault to be serviced.

Boardmember Bennett asked what streets would have the trench drains. Public Works Director Ring stated they would go on Lanyard Cove, Foremast Cove, Tradewind, and Golden Hind.

Councilmember Cock asked how long the construction would take. Public Works Director Ring stated that was hard to say since all the curb and gutters would need to be torn up to install the trench drains. The drains have to maintain a constant slope. The plans are being done by AN West and are almost complete.

Boardmember Bennett asked about the start date. Public Works Director Ring stated it would go out to bid in February or March with construction starting in the spring. Boardmember Bennett asked if the gutters along the trench drains would be standard as opposed to the rolled gutters. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes” although he thought the trench drain could work with a rolled gutter.

Chair Bundy stated the intent of this project is to see how the pump and the gravity drain work together. This would be the prototype. Public Works Director Ring agreed. Chair Bundy stated the gravity drains seemed quite effective but during heavy rains there is no way for the water to get out. He stated they would get the “biggest bang for the buck” with the duckbilled gravity drain and the future addition of the pump.

Public Works Director Ring stated the Board should address this issue again in February.

#### 5. Discussion of Private Detention Basins Located at 501 Corte Madera Avenue

Chair Bundy stated these were the original reservoirs for Corte Madera prior to MMWD taking over water distribution. There is a good deal of water at the upper one and it seems fairly stable. The lower one has a reinforced retaining wall and he is concerned about the potential for failure which could cause some damage. He is not sure if there is a current plan regarding what to do about these basins. He thought the Board should take a look at this issue.

Public Works Director Ring displayed some photographs. He pointed out the locations of the lower and upper reservoirs. The watershed drains quite a bit of water. Boardmember Medigovich asked what would happen if the lower basin failed. Public Works Director Ring stated the water would not affect any of the houses but instead would go down a driveway to Corte Madera Avenue and run into the catch basin. Chair Bundy asked about the size of the storm drain. Superintendent Kramer stated it was a 24” pipe that has been there for about seven or eight years. Public Works Director Ring explained that a detention basin detains water as it is being metered out. The intent is for them to eventually drain themselves out and be empty.

Boardmember Medigovich stated the system below Corte Madera Avenue where the renovation occurred would benefit from a metering of water. Public Works Director Ring stated any metering would be helpful but that would not be a reason to keep these basins.

Public Works Director Ring stated the depth of the basins was unclear but they are probably in the neighborhood of 10 feet deep, circular in shape, reinforced with concrete- basically a hole in the ground. Public Works Director Ring stated the pipe shown in the photographs was installed about 10 to 20 years ago to drain water into the corrugated metal pipe and into the lower basin. There is a good distance between the higher and lower basin. Boardmember Medigovich asked if these basins were on the property at 501 Corte Madera Avenue. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes". He noted there were three tiers of retaining walls with fill in between. Boardmember Medigovich asked about the distance between the walls. Public Works Director Ring stated they were about 10 feet apart.

Boardmember Medigovich asked about the plan to replace the basins. Public Works Director Ring displayed the draft conditions of approval for the residence and noted they would be required to install improvements to facilitate drainage of the existing retention basins prior to building the house. In addition, the property owners would need to submit a yearly report regarding the functioning of the system. They would engineer an outlet system that drained the basins in a reasonable amount of time and would eliminate the risk of the basins overtopping. This is a reservoir routing problem with inflow, storage, and outflow. This would be accomplished at the bottom since the overflow pipes only take care of it during an overflow condition. Failure of these basins would not have any impact on the new development or the neighbor's property.

Chair Bundy stated the idea of draining the basins from the bottom was a concern and he asked what would keep them from plugging up. Public Works Director Ring stated there would be a pipe at the bottom with a perforated riser that would rise up the entire height of the reservoir. The amount of sediment would not matter. It would be similar to a tall atrium drain. They are trying to get the water out before it reaches an overflow condition. Chair Bundy asked if the drain system would prevent sediment from accumulating because the fall was so great. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes" and noted they would have to install some structures to dissipate the energy. Chair Bundy asked if they would be required to put in a drain from below the lower dam that would go underneath the driveway. Public Works Director Ring stated "yes" and stated there would be a 6" pipe from the upper basin going directly to Corte Madera Avenue, a 6" pipe from the lower basin going directly to Corte Madera Avenue, and a 6" pipe from the development going directly to Corte Madera Avenue. He would have designed it differently but they wanted to allow some flexibility. Chair Bundy stated the lower basin was more of a concern. He noted the walls upstream appear to have caved in. Public Works Director Ring stated the wall that can be seen as one drives up was in worse shape than the wall that the water is ponded up against. The actual walls that contain the water are in fairly decent shape. Chair Bundy acknowledged that the property owners would be responsible for the upkeep of the basins but he felt this was a much bigger hazard than most people have on their property. Boardmember Bennett asked about the size of the property. Public Works Director Ring stated it was about 1 ¼ acres but there is only one small area that is remotely buildable due to the slope, etc. Boardmember Bennett asked if there were any houses located close to the basins. Public Works Director Ring stated "no". Boardmember Medigovich asked if condition #2 gave the Public Works Director the authority to inspect the basins. Councilmember Cock stated "yes". Chair Bundy stated in order to build the new home they have to get a hydrologist look at everything and make recommendations. Public Works Director Ring agreed. Boardmember Medigovich asked if they would need permits to install the pipes, etc. Public Works Director Ring stated they would need a grading and drainage permit. He noted this would be an iterative process. Boardmember Bennett asked what would have happened if there were no plans to build a new home on the property. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure but it is a good thing that somebody wants to develop the property and take responsibility for these structures. He stated he would keep the Board apprised of the project. Chair Bundy suggested he check it out after a heavy rainfall.

## 6. Discussion of Community Meeting on Flooding Issues Related to Bayside Residents

Chair Bundy stated the Board should set a date for a community meeting to let people know about the status of the AN West report, etc. Public Works Director Ring stated they could set a date for January or February. He would speak to Andre Jadkowski from AN West about his availability. Chair Bundy suggested holding the meeting at San Clemente School. He asked Public Works Director Ring if he has looked at the report in terms of the tidal barrier proposal. Public Works Director Ring stated "not yet". Chair Bundy stated the cost for the walls could be prohibitive given current economic conditions. The only

feasible way to do it might be installing a tide gate at San Clemente Creek that would be closed at high tides but this could be environmentally prohibitive. Boardmember Medigovich stated if a gate were installed it would end up being closed throughout the winter. He stated people should landscape their back yards including planter boxes, berms, etc. Chair Bundy agreed that this would help in certain areas for a period of time.

Chair Bundy stated the next meeting would be held on Monday, January 4, 2010. The Board would decide on a date for the community meeting at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.