

Truckee River Flood Project Working Group

Final Minutes

Wednesday ~ May 28, 2008 ~ 3:00

Washoe County Department of Water Resources
Conference Room
4930 Energy Way, Reno, Nevada

1. INTRODUCTIONS

Naomi Duerr – Flood Project Director, opened the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

Ms. Duerr then introduced Trish Yohey – Fiscal Compliance Officer, who will oversee contracts and other related financial matters for the project.

Ms. Duerr then introduced Eric Sheetz – Professional Engineer (P.E.), who will provide assistance to Senior Engineer Paul Urban and will manage the project's TRAction Projects. Mr. Sheetz comes to the project team from Wood Rodgers.

PRESENT: Marge Frandsen – citizen; Shawn Gooch – City of Sparks; Dody Gustafson – Hidden Valley Homeowners; Brian Janes – PBS&J; Susan Lynn – Public Resources Associates; Trina Magoon – Stantec; Troy Miller – University of Nevada, Reno; Dick Mills – Pick N Pull; Burnham Moffat – citizen; Kevin Olsen – NDSL; Garth Oksol – Regional Transportation Commission; Kevin Piper – Nevada Agricultural Station; Jon Simpson – Wood Rodgers; Scott Smith – Kleinfelder; and Todd Welty – Reno Tahoe Airport Authority. Jay Aldean – HDR joined the meeting at 3:16 p.m. Kerry Williams – City of Reno, joined the meeting at 3:21 p.m. Candice Siwarga– Kennedy Jenks, joined the meeting at 3:55 p.m. Brent Richmond – Washoe County Department of Water Resources, joined the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

STAFF PRESENT: Naomi Duerr, Greg Salter, Eric Scheetz, Mimi Fujii-Strickler, Paul Urban and Trish Yohey.

Garth Oksol – RTC (Regional Transportation Commission), commented that he would make a brief presentation on the Southeast Connector at today's meeting.

2. APPROVE WORKING GROUP MINUTES OF APRIL 30, 2008

It was moved by Dody Gustafson, seconded by Kevin Olsen, to approve the April 30, 2008, minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

Naomi Duerr – Flood Project Director, recalled the April 30, 2008, discussion about the relevancy of the WG (Working Group) meetings, which to some appeared to have transitioned to more of an update than review of specific

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project components. Ms. Duerr noted that the planning phase of the project is nearly complete and that while there will be issues of importance to the WG in the future the Corps' (U. S. Army Corps of Engineers) primary focus is completion of the draft EIS (Environmental Impact Study).

Jay Aldean joined the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Dody Gustafson commented that many organizations provide advance notice and meeting reminders of up to a week in advance of the scheduled meeting rather than a day or two before the meeting. It is Ms. Gustafson's recommendation that meeting reminders along with upcoming topics for discussion be distributed a week or more in advance. Ms. Gustafson explained that many times other matter of more importance may preclude meeting attendance, which a reminder and notice of proposed topics may take precedence over other activities.

Ms. Duerr noted that this was a regularly scheduled meeting on the last Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. However, it is important that it be determined that the meetings are relevant and that topics be discussed.

Danielle Henderson – Natural Resources Planner, joined the meeting at 3:18 p.m.

Jay Aldean suggested that a list of ongoing and recently identified topics (Bin List) be developed with the anticipated timeline for discussion.

There was discussion about Ms. Duerr's suggestion to move towards every other month meetings. It was suggested during the discussion that meetings only be scheduled when topics warrant a meeting. As the discussion continued, it was noted that a regular meeting schedule is crucial in assuring that the input desired can be obtained.

Kerry Williams – City of Reno, joined the meeting at 3:21 p.m.

Ms. Duerr noted that the FPCC (Flood Project Coordinating Committee) is considering cancellation of their July 11, 2008, meeting and suggested that the WG cancel their June 25, 2008, meeting with meetings then moving to the every other month schedule in the interim.

A consensus was reached to cancel the June meeting if the FPCC cancels their July meeting with subsequent meetings being held on alternating months.

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Additionally, staff will provide meeting reminders along with subject matter and a Bin List in advance of future meetings.

3. RECREATION PLAN UPDATE

Naomi Duerr – Flood Project Director, recalled the Corps' (U. S. Army Corps of Engineers) notice received about four (4) months ago indicating that the Corps would be unable to complete the recreation component of the project. Based on that information project staff began the task for developing, with the assistance of Stantec, a conceptual recreational component that can be included in the Congressional proposal thereby assuring that funding for the recreation plan is in place. Ms. Duerr emphasized that this is only a conceptual plan that has a build-out over 15 or more years. Additionally, any amenity that is subsequently developed must have an identified source for have O&M (Operation and Maintenance) costs to assure that it does not fall into disrepair and become unusable.

Danielle Henderson – Natural Resources Manager, again emphasized that this is a conceptual plan only that is intended to provide a baseline costs so that federal funding can be secured when the project receives Congressional authorization and appropriation. The draft conceptual plan was developed in concert with the Parks directors, planners and others from the Cities of Reno, Sparks and Washoe County as well as other stakeholders. The wish list is based on recreational requests received by the three (3) jurisdictions. Ms. Henderson pointed out the various site and Corps mandated constraints associated with recreation activities and amenities in the flood plain and other areas of the project's overall footprint and drew attention to the detailed maps (copies on file) provided. Ms. Henderson then noted that one of the next steps is to develop the plan's narrative that outlines the floodable components and other recreation/educational features thus creating a Master Plan for the project's recreational components.

Ms. Duerr noted that the conceptual plan had been developed in 60-days using personnel from other Stantec offices experienced in park planning. As the plan evolves it will become more reflective of the region. A preliminary analysis of building currently owned by the flood project indicates that the Bristlecone facility (formerly Catholic Diocese property), the Extension offices as well as the 5205 Mill Street buildings may be suitable for adaptive reuses by NDOW (Nevada Department of Wildlife, Great Basin Institute and others with some rehabilitation and flood proofing. Ms. Duerr pointed out that during the recent Association of National Flood Plain Manager's conference it was indicated that this endeavor

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may serve as a national demonstration project on how non-structural approaches to flood mitigation can be achieved.

Candice Siwarga– Kennedy Jenks, joined the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

There was significant discussion of the conceptual plan. It was noted that flat playing fields should be referenced as utility fields to and that the conceptual plan identified two (2) pedestrian bridge crossings. As the discussion continued, it was emphasized that the plan proposal did not include any taking of private property and that several offers to purchase certain portions of the former Butler Ranch had been refused by the property owner. Other discussion pointed out that there were several hundred acres of property included in the project's footprint, some of which can be used for a variety of purposes, including revenue generating activities such as equipment rentals and food service as well as propagation of native plant species for use in the eco-system restoration projects and levee landscaping.

Brent Richmond – Washoe County, joined the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Kevin Piper – University of Nevada, Reno, left the meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Burnham Moffat noted that this type of proposal will generate significant public support for the overall project and that while there might not be any specific cost/benefits there is significant public appeal.

Ms. Duerr explained that the recreational component would receive federal credit similar to that provide for eco-system restoration. In most instances the cost share with the Corps is 50:50. However, it is critical that any recreational component include funding for ongoing O&M by the local jurisdictions.

The meeting recessed at 4:04 p.m. and reconvened at 4:12 p.m.

Ms. Duerr commented that, in her opinion, the WG will form the nucleus of the larger stakeholders group and asked what other organizations or agencies should be involved.

Ms. Henderson explained that the project would be reviewed by multiple agencies and that relationships had been formed with parks and recreation professionals, parks and recreation advisory boards for the Cities and Washoe County as well as the public and various sports enthusiasts.

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There was significant discussion about funding sources and cost share. It was explained that the intent is to see funding from the various jurisdictions for the recreational components and that any land swap with UNR (University of Nevada, Reno) for the UNR Farms property was not a consideration, as UNR intends to continue operation of the farms. Other discussion noted that portions of the project would provide a number of viable recreational opportunities as higher density development is approved. It was noted that the Huffaker Narrows area would provide an opportunity to reduce traffic and congestion in other recreational venues. It was emphasized that the conceptual plan is a blueprint for future recreational opportunities and that facilities would not come to fruition unless an identified source of revenue is identified for cover ongoing O&M costs. The recreational components will, if constructed, provide an added value to the project. Each segment of the project will be funded annually by Congress with project build-out occurring over a period of some 15 or more years.

6. OTHER TOPICS? [Taken out of agenda order]

Garth Oksol – RTC (Regional Transportation Commission) narrated a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file) explained that the future project would meet the “No Adverse Impact” requirements of the three (3) jurisdictions with a zero (0) increase in flood elevation. Mr. Oksol noted that the bridge(s) would have four (4) feet of clearance from the underside of the bridge deck to flood elevation (1997 event). Mr. Oksol pointed out that the length of the project would use a variety of methods to remain out of the flow areas using large culvert and/or causeways. Mr. Oksol pointed out an area in which a causeway or other structure could separate the area into two () separate park features, one for flood storage as well as utility fields with the other side of the roadway as more active uses including permanent structures. Mr. Oksol noted that the intent is to develop the roadway as an asset to the community and the flood project rather than as a liability. Mr. Oksol noted that in working with the Corps (U. S. Army Corps of Engineers) it appears that the culvert at Mira Loma Road is either undersized or has been improperly maintained. Drawing attention to the constraints in the area near Heron’s Landing, Mr. Oksol noted that the roadway is being placed as far as possible from existing residential property and that other alignments are being shown as information

Marge Frandsen left the meeting at 4:51 p.m.

Trina Magoon – Stantec, outlined the cross sections and modeling conducted using the Corps’ Hec-Ras (Hydrologic Engineering Center-River Analysis System) model. Ms. Magoon outlined the various cross sections pointing out

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Steamboat Creek at Mira Loma and the “necking down” of the roadway from $\pm 1,500$ feet in right-of-way to ± 500 feet.

During the discussion it was noted that the cross sections represented conveyance of storm/flood water, storage volume as well as water elevation and volume.

Troy Miller – UNR (University of Nevada, Reno), commented that the UNR Main Station Farm would continue to operate as it has in the past and that the high point know as the Dairy or Gilligan’s Island could not be inundated during a flood event as it was needed for livestock. Therefore, the alignment of the Southeast Connector may be a serious issue.

Mr. Oksol noted that as Project Manager he will be seeking ways to partner with the Flood Project to provide mitigation for the flood zone as well as wetlands in conjunction with the restoration of Steamboat Creek. The RTC board will conduct a workshop on the Southeast Connector on June 20, 2008.

Susan Lynn left the meeting at 5:03 p.m.

Mr. Oksol also noted that the public hearing would be held in July at a time and date to be announced.

4. FISH PASSAGE STUDY

Paul Urban – Flood Project Manager, distributed handouts (copies on file).

Troy Miller and Kerri Williams left the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Mr. Urban noted that the fish encompassed in this particular program include the endangered species Cui-cui and the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, under Public Law 101618. Typically, fish move up the Truckee River to spawn in a variety of locations along the upper reaches of the Truckee River. Mr. Urban then detailed each of the segments identified in the report noting that the segments were listed by cost increment.

Garth Oksol and Trina Magoon left the meeting at 5:13 p.m.

Mr. Urban drew attention to the various elements identified in the plan and associated costs noting that the further upstream the more expensive the fish passage will cost. Mr. Urban noted that the Derby dam may be a logical stopping point in the restoration due to the high velocity of water being diverted for

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irrigation. The fish passage in some areas will consist of rock rubble and pools at specified heights that allows the fish to travel upstream to their spawning grounds as well as the young fry to move downstream without any significant impediment. Mr. Urban explained that the proposals were bundled based on incremental costs from the lowest to highest based on cost breaks going upstream from Pyramid Lake.

Shawn Gooch left the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Mr. Urban further explained that there is no known benefit element associated with fish passageways unlike eco-system restoration which uses an index of habitat units. It has been indicated to Mr. Urban that the Lahontan Cutthroat formerly traveled as far as Lake Tahoe to spawn. Mr. Urban noted that the Truckee Canal passes nearly 1,000 CFS (Cubic Feet per second) and that the addition of a fish passage would require the use of several filters to assure that the fish and fry are able to traverse the impediment give the velocity of the water.

During the discussion it was noted that the Truckee River has many impediments along its length. A recent raft trip resulted in the participants having to convey the raft around the impediment. Other discussion noted that the construction costs for the fish passage would be part of a 65:35 cost share with O&M (Operation and Maintenance) costs being the responsibility of the Flood Project.

Ms. Duerr recalled that the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Chair had met with the Assistant Secretary of the Army in February 2006 about the federal government's responsibility to restore and provide fish passageways under the Public Law. The next step for the region is to determine what level of restoration will be acceptable given the additional annual cost over the 50-year life span of the Flood Project.

5. MARTIS CREEK DAM REPORT

Continued to the next meeting.

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS?

Dody Gustafson asked that an update on the Boca and Stampede Dams be added to the Martis Creek Dam report.

The meeting ended at 5:43 p.m.