

**WORKING GROUP MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 28, 2012 — 3:00 to 5:00 pm**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Bob Ramsey	Rosewood Lakes HOA	Cindy Potter	CH2MHill
Dick Mills	Pick N Pull	Matt Setty	CH2MHill
Dave Hollecker	Trails West	Mitch Blum	HDR
Marge Frandsen	Hidden Valley HOA	Kerri Lanza	City of Reno PW
Jean Stone	NDEP-BWQP	Garth Oksol	RTC
Mary Horvath	CH2MHill	Pat Martinez	UNR
Terri Thomas	Eastside Subdivision		

**TRFMA Staff Present:**

Jay Aldean, Paul Urban, Michael Wolz, Danielle Henderson

1. **Introductions.** A meeting of the Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) Working Group (WG) was held at the TRFMA office located at 9390 Gateway Drive, Suite 230, Reno, NV 89521. Attending members and staff introduced themselves.
2. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the September 26, 2012 WG meeting were submitted for approval and the motion passed unanimously.
3. **Announcements.** None.
4. **Presentation on the RTC Southeast Connector Project.** Garth Oksol from the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) presented an update on the Southeast Connector (SEC) Project as related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project (Flood Project). In response to recent stakeholder concerns regarding the SEC Project's proposed stream restoration along Steamboat Creek, RTC removed stream restoration elements from the project designs. Engineers created storage areas (volumetric basins) to mitigate for flood storage loss due to the roadway construction. The roadway design itself is largely unchanged.

Phase I as redesigned does not include a dredge or fill in Waters of the U.S. and therefore RTC does not anticipate a Section 404 permit from the Corps will be required. Phase I is moving forward; RTC expects to begin construction in the next month or so (early 2013). Phase II of the project is currently being redesigned; CH2MHill has been contracted to complete this work.

Member Terri Thomas voiced concerns regarding the permitting process and the phased construction approach for the project, stating that she believes RTC will need Corps approval. Mr. Oksol replied by saying the permit is currently “inactive” so the regulatory “clock” is stopped, which gives RTC time to redesign the project based on recent stakeholder concerns. RTC is confident that it will obtain a permit for Phase II, and recognizes that the permit will likely be issued with a set of conditions for avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of environmental impacts.

Members pointed out that stakeholders still have additional concerns such as the purpose and need for the project, noise, and traffic impacts (among others). Mr. Oksol stated that RTC’s consultant is preparing to reinitiate the public stakeholder process in order to address concerns regarding the SEC Project and its revised design.

Discussion followed regarding flood storage mitigation and whether or not the project (specifically Phase I) would necessitate a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR). Mr. Oksol mentioned that RTC sent a letter to TRFMA detailing its understanding of the revised project’s mitigation requirements but was also waiting to receive updated HEC-RAS modeling results from its consultant.

Discussion continued regarding Clean Water Way. Mr. Oksol stated that the existing road would pass beneath the new SEC structure—access to the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility (TMWRF) would be maintained and no realignment of Clean Water Way would be necessary. Additionally, historic structures such as the Jones Ranch (Manke parcel) would be avoided with the revised project design. Ownership of the SEC elements after construction is being negotiated among the jurisdictions (e.g., Reno, Sparks, TMWRF).

Members asked questions regarding the long-term maintenance of the flood storage basins. In response, Mr. Oksol stated that RTC has a Tall Whitetop (noxious weed) management plan and soils management plan; the proposed seed mix includes species that RTC expects will require minimal maintenance once established. RTC intends to submit a new permit application to the Corps in April/May 2013 following the redesign process.

5. **Update on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ Activities.** Jay Aldean summarized the outcomes from the November 27, 2012 coordination meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). He discussed the Corps’ current 50-yr project alternative in terms of its potential impacts to the existing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood zone, stating that impacts would have to be mitigated. The TRFMA remains committed to building a project designed to provide 100-yr level of protection; the Corps 50-yr alternative is important in determining federal interest (i.e., cost-share) in the Flood Project. Mr. Aldean mentioned that the FEMA flood impact/mitigation issue is affecting the benefit-cost ratio calculations being prepared by the Corps due to costs associated with potential mitigation for the communities of

Hidden Valley, Rosewood Lakes and Eastside Subdivision. Discussion continued regarding re-mapping, flood insurance, and the FEMA process.

The group discussed the Corps 50-yr alternative (which does not include work at Vista Narrows) in terms of potential mitigation requirements, the cost of mitigation, and the impact of mitigation costs on the overall benefit-cost ratio in the Truckee Meadows vs. downstream in the Lower Truckee River Reach.

When asked about the TRFMA home elevation program and the IRS tax issue regarding the proposed home elevation grants to homeowners, Mr. Aldean responded that the agency plans to reengage with Senator Reid's office in the spring (2013).

Mr. Aldean stated that the Alternative Formulation Briefing (AFB) meeting had been postponed by the Corps until January 24, 2013; this 'closed' meeting between the Corps and local sponsor (TRFMA) will be held at the Corps District Office in Sacramento, CA.

6. **Request for Proposals for Professional Engineering Services for the Combined Preliminary Engineering Contract.** Jay Aldean provided a brief update on the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for the Combined Preliminary Engineering Contract, stating that two firms were scheduled to interview on the next day (November 30, 2012). Representatives from Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks and TRFMA would serve on the consultant selection committee. Mr. Aldean said he hoped to negotiate the contract with the selected consultant relatively quickly and present it to the TRFMA Board for approval at the December meeting. He stated that he would be overseeing the contract and emphasized that the contract is crucial to the Flood Project because the work completed under the contract will represent what we will actually build.
7. **Truckee River Watershed Regional Hydrologic Model.** (Note that this item was taken out of order and was actually presented immediately following Item 4 on the agenda.) Paul Urban reiterated the purpose of the regional hydrologic model, which is designed to assess changes in land use (based on proposed development plans) and evaluate how these changes might impact flooding (e.g., runoff, velocity). The expectation is that the model will allow users to make real-time changes and run scenarios. Mr. Urban emphasized that TRRFMA does not have any regulatory permit authority, but may submit comments to the jurisdictions during the permit review process.

In response to members' questions, Mr. Urban stated that the model would be maintained and updated by TRFMA (likely with the help of an oversight committee of jurisdictional agencies).

Mr. Urban stated that the hydrologic model is now in the process of being calibrated. After calibration is complete, the contractor is tasked with creating an "impact storm" for the model—a generic storm that has the most potential for change—which will be used to make uniform comparisons between proposed projects in order to standardize the planning process.

Mr. Urban outlined the contractor's future tasks, which include development of an instruction manual and hands-on educational workshops on how to use the model and interpret results (spring of 2013). WG members recommended that the planning commissioners be invited to the workshop(s).

In response to members' questions, Mr. Urban stated that the regional hydrologic model does not deal with mitigation banking for floodplain storage—TRFMA utilizes a different model for that purpose.

8. **Working Group Member Report.** After some discussion, the group declined to prepare a formal report for the Board.
9. **WG Member Comments and Requests for Future Agenda Items.** Dick Mills requested an update on the North Truckee Drain Realignment TRAction Project at the next WG meeting. Ms. Henderson called for additional comments and member requests; hearing none and there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Danielle Henderson