

TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP
November 30, 2011, 3:00 P.M.

FINAL MINUTES

Present:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Christine Davis	NCE	Kerri Lanza	City of Reno
Burnham Moffat	FPCC	Marge Frandsen	Hidden Valley HOA
Dody Gustafson	Hidden Valley HOA	Kim Rhodemyre	Self
Dave Hollecker	Trails West	Noel Laughlin	HDR
Franco Crivelli	Community Coalition	Mark Forest	HDR
Patty Paulson	Property Specialists	Scott Smith	Kleinfelder
Lisa Huffman	AMEC	Dan Stucky	Atkins
Bob Ramsey		Steve Alastuey	Self
Todd Welty	Reno Tahoe Airport	Garth Oksol	RTC
Tom Greco	RTC	Pat Martinez	UNR
Ron Penrose	TMWA	Terri Thomas	Eastside Subdivision
Jo Pinther	Property Specialists		

Staff Present: Melissa Faigeles, Jay Aldean, Paul Urban, Danielle Henderson

1. Introductions

A meeting of the Working Group was held on Wednesday, November 30, 2011 at the Truckee River Flood Management Authority Office Conference Room, 9390 Gateway, Suite 230, Reno, Nevada. Melissa Faigeles welcomed the group and invited everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 28, 2011 Working Group meeting were submitted for approval. Mr. Moffat made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Ms. Gustafson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Announcements

Ms. Faigeles reported that at the last Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA) meeting, directors selected Jay Aldean as the Executive Director, which members applauded.

4. VIRGINIA STREET BRIDGE DESIGN SELECTION UPDATE

Ms. Faigeles invited Kerri Lanza to provide an update on the Virginia Street Bridge (VSB) project.

Ms. Lanza referred to a PowerPoint presentation (copy on file at the Flood Project office). She reported that the selected bridge is a pony truss. She reviewed the cost estimates for the different types of bridges and stated that the pony truss is estimated at approximately \$15 million. She showed renderings of what the final bridge and surrounding areas might look like.

Ms. Lanza reported that Jacobs Engineering was hired as the design consultant. She stated that the construction schedule is dependent on availability of funding, as well as the permitting restrictions for working in the river. She added that the earliest start of construction would be fall 2013. She referred members to the website, which is vsbreno.com.

Members briefly discussed the bridge.

5. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WORKSHOP UPDATE

Paul Urban reported that Mr. Aldean and he attended a workshop with staff of the Corps Sacramento District on November 1, 2 and 3. The Planning Workshop was held with the Corps to determine whether there is federal interest in a flood project, the “National Economic Development (NED)”. He explained that even ten years ago, we had an NED that produced the highest net national benefits, on which the Corps based their federal cost share. He explained that at that time, the NED and Locally Preferred Plan (LPP) were basically the same, each of which provided 117-year level of protection (LOP). A few years ago, the Corps discovered some data issues and reran the economic models with different results so the NED became the 50-year LOP.

Mr. Urban stated that staff was opposed to the suggestion and argued that we should focus on a data point between the LPP and NED, which was the 75-year LOP. At that time, the 75-year plan was found to have higher net benefits based on it being a multi-purpose project, including recreation, ecosystem restoration and flood damage reduction.

Mr. Urban reported that prior to the previously scheduled Alternatives Formulation Briefing (AFB), the Corps decided that the project should not be analyzed as a multi-purpose project. Headquarters directed the Sacramento District to re-examine the project in terms of a flood damage reduction project. He added that Headquarters directed District staff to re-determine the Benefit to Cost (B:C) ratio of just flood risk management features in the meadows, which caused the B:C to drop below one. Based on that information, the Corps determined that there was no project because there was not a project with a B:C of one.

Mr. Urban reported that the District allocated the cost of benching to ecosystem restoration, which in turn reduced the costs to flood damage reduction. He stated that was the reason that the 75-year Alternative 3C became the NED plan. He stated that when District staff presented the “read ahead” information to Corps Headquarters in Washington, D.C., numerous comments were provided on the documents. He explained that in presenting the 75-year LOP, District staff used a process called “cost allocation”. He explained that in the Truckee Meadows, there are features for *flood damage reduction* and *ecosystem restoration* (mainly benching).

Mr. Urban stated that the TRFMA directed staff to proceed with a contract amendment for CH2M Hill to provide a cost estimate for each component of the project.

Ms. Faigeles thanked members for their input and comments.

6. TRFMA PRIORITIZATION OF TRACTION PROJECTS AND PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS

Mr. Aldean reported that the TRFMA Board made suggestions for revising the list of Truckee River Action (TRAction Projects) at their Retreat. He explained that the purpose was to move funding from programs or projects that might not occur for a few years to those that are shovel-ready. The intent is to begin construction as soon as possible on the North Truckee Drain realignment (estimated at \$40 million), the Virginia Street Bridge (estimated at \$15 million) and the Tracy Restoration project.

7. TRFMA COMMENTS ON THE SOUTHEAST CONNECTOR CORPS 404 PERMIT APPLICATION

Mr. Urban distributed handouts of the TRFMA's Project Response to the Southeast Connector. He stated that the concern is based on Critical Flood Zone 1 and the Flood Storage Volume (FSV) ordinance requiring 1:1 mitigation (a teaspoon of fill added requires a teaspoon of fill removed from within the zone). He reported that Mr. Oksol and he meet monthly.

Mr. Urban stated that the model results show no adverse impact to the FSV. He stated that RTC has clearly recognized the FSV and the Critical Flood Zone 1 in its 404 Permit application. He added that he fully believes the project will meet the Flood Project's expectations upon completion.

Garth Oksol, Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Project Manager for the Southeast Connector project, provided an update on the Corps 404 Permit Application. He stated that as a direct effect based on comments from this group; RTC is actually providing mitigation on excavation at a 1:2 ratio, which is above the 1:1 ratio.

Members discussed the mitigation and other issues. Ms. Frandsen expressed her concern that one of Wood Rodgers' planners is providing unclear or misinformation. Ms. Faigeles offered to provide the flood elevation maps to members.

Mr. Oksol referred to the minutes of the last meeting regarding the sound walls and clarified that they would not negatively impact storage.

8. WORKING GROUP MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS, AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Comments were made that Troy Miller, UNR, has made some incorrect comments that concerned citizens. Mr. Martinez offered to invite Mr. Miller to the next Working Group meeting to address the comments. Ms. Gustafson mentioned that it would be good to hear Mr. Miller's comments directly regarding UNR's proposals for construction along McCarran. Ms. Frandsen stated that the Reno City Council will meet on December 14. Mr. Urban agreed to attend.

Members agreed to cancel the December Working Group meeting. Ms. Faigeles reported that the next Working Group meeting would be scheduled for Wednesday, January 25, 2012. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Niki Linn, Recording Secretary