

FINAL MINUTES

**FLOOD CONTROL BOARD
APRIL 5, 2010
CORTE MADERA COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Boardmembers Robert Bundy, Chair
Present: Stephanie Bennett
Vaso Medigovich
Barry Trailer
Sanford Zeller

Boardmembers
Absent:

Staff Present: Public Works Director/Town Engineer Dan Ring

1. Call to Order

Chairman Bundy opened the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Public Expression

Chair Bundy stated the Flood Board held a workshop at the last meeting regarding the Town-Wide Storm Drainage and Flood Control Study and there were some very good comments made by the public.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (February 17, 2010)

M/s, Medigovich-Bennett to approve the February 17, 2010 minutes as corrected.

Ayes: All

4. Old Business

Public Works Director Ring discussed the existing reservoirs at 501 Corte Madera Avenue and stated the property owners would begin work to install a drainage system to release the water in a controlled manner after a storm. They plan to start the work around April 13th. The work would include draining the basins, boring a hole through the lower reservoir, and installing a new box and pipe that would drain to the existing storm drain system. The idea is to set up a riser in the reservoir that would drain it in a couple of days. Boardmember Zeller asked if Public Works Director Ring was referring to the reservoirs at the top of the property. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes” and noted a fence currently surrounded them. Boardmember Zeller stated he was worried that someone could fall in and not be able to get out. Public Works Director Ring agreed and stated it will be nice when the work begins so there is someone to secure the site. Boardmember Zeller suggested they install a cyclone fence over the top. Public Works Director Ring stated the lower basin was quite large. Boardmember Zeller asked if it once served as the water supply for Corte Madera. Public Works Director Ring stated “yes”. Boardmember Bennett stated people used to swim in the basins. Chair Bundy stated the lower reservoir has an upstream side to it and is not as much of an attractive nuisance.

5. New Business

A. Discussion of candidate flood control projects for upcoming 2010-2011 Budget

Public Works Director Ring presented a staff report and briefly discussed the following projects: 1) Flood Control/Storm Drainage Major Emergency Repairs; 2) Corrugated Metal Pipe Replacement; 3) Big "G" Pump Station Replacement; 4) 405 Corte Madera Avenue Drainage Improvements; 5) Corporation Yard Pump Station and Force Main Improvements; 6) Gutowsky Ditch Drainage Improvements; 7) Marquart Lagoon Pump Station Improvements; 8) High Canal Levee Repair/Improvements; 9) Golden Hind at Ebbtide Gate/Drainage Improvements; 10) Golden Hind/Cay Passage Gate/Drainage Improvements; 11) Staghound/Spindrift Drainage Improvements; 12) Paradise at San Clemente Creek Levee Repair; 13) High Canal Storm Drain Outlet Repairs; 14) Golden Hind at Ebbtide Pump Station; 15) Golden Hind at Cay Passage Pump Station; 16) Channel Drive Pump Station; 17) San Clemente Pump Station Upgrades Infrastructure Management- GIS; 18) Townwide Storm Drainage and Flood Control Study; 19) Raise/Repair Town Levees; 20) Low Canal Gate at Lakeside; 21) Low Canal Improvements; 22) Madera Gardens Drainage Infrastructure; 23) Mariner Cove Drainage Infrastructure; 24) Marin Estates Drainage Infrastructure; 25) Marina Village Pump Station Upgrades; 25) High Canal Pump Station Upgrades.

Public Works Director Ring noted the highlighted projects are new. The projects that are shaded are on going and the un-shaded projects are either complete, there is a reason why they are not being continued, or they are currently unfunded. The two projects that seem to be carried over every year are the "Storm Drain Major Emergency Repairs" and the "Corrugated Metal Pipe Replacement". The allocation for each was \$75,000 for the past two years but they spent \$76,000 for one and \$69,000 for the other.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the "405 Corte Madera Avenue Drainage Improvements" project and noted it has been around for quite a while. The work was done in November of last year and consisted of installing a new storm drain line down Corte Madera Avenue and tying it into a different drainage system. They also ended up re-grading part of the street. The "Corporation Yard" and "Gutowsky Ditch" projects were also completed.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the "Marquart Lagoon Pump Station Improvements" project and stated the design and plans were done and there are some decisions to be made about control systems strategy. There were discussions about the merits of this project and whether or not it would better to enlarge the pipe that connects the lagoon to the High Canal and install a vault for a temporary pump. AN West is convinced that there are instances where the lagoon could not be drained simply by gravity and they would always need a pump. The other concern about enlarging the pipe has to do with the tight quarters and the possibility of needing to drive sheet piles on either side. This could cause quite a bit of disturbance to the area and the cost would be significant. The upside to a new pipe would be the ability to get the level of the lagoon even lower. The cost of this project went up a bit and is at \$275,000. They have not gone out to bid yet but staff anticipates that the bids will come in lower than the projected cost. Boardmember Trailer asked why the pump station was needed now and what had changed. Public Works Director Ring stated the AN West analysis showed that multiple storms could result in the water surfaces being even in the High Canal and the Marquart Lagoon. Water is flowing into Lagoon One but not flowing out and there is a risk of flooding the area. Boardmember Medigovich asked if it needed to be done this year. Public Works Director Ring stated they were ready to go this year. Boardmember Medigovich asked if they should spend the money on another project and do this project next year. Public Works Director Ring stated this is something that could be discussed by the Board and recommended to the Town Council. Boardmember Medigovich asked if the plans included redoing the path. Public Works Director Ring stated "no" but it could. Boardmember Medigovich asked how staff planned to get equipment to the pump station. They should think about widening and paving the path since a truck could not be driven down that path (from Lakeside.). Ideally they should pave it all the way to the bridge. Public Works Director Ring stated another issue was whether or not to rehabilitate the existing line. Boardmember Medigovich stated they should definitely slip line it with plastic. Public Works Director Ring stated that would make sense but this work was not included in the allocation. Boardmember Medigovich stated staff might be able to get some recreational grant for the path. Chair Bundy asked about the size of the watershed for the Marquart Lagoon. Boardmember Medigovich pointed to the watershed area on the map. Chair Bundy noted it was relatively small and any damage would include some localized flooding in backyards. He wondered if they could get by with a much smaller pump. He asked if it was being replaced because it had reached its life expectancy. Public Works Director Ring "yes". Chair Bundy asked if the pump needed to be upgraded to 6 cfs. Public Works Director Ring stated the consultants think this is necessary but there

is some latitude. Boardmember Medigovich reiterated that lining the pipe was necessary. Public Works Director Ring agreed. Chair Bundy stated they should review this project at the end of the meeting.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the “Golden Hind at Ebbitide Gate/Drainage Improvements” project and stated they installed the box with the tide flex valve at the Cay Passage location but not at the Ebb Tide gate location. Staff met at that location about a month ago to discuss where it should go relative to the possible new pump station location. There have been some discussions about the effectiveness of the valve and whether or not something different should be tried at this location. Staff estimates the cost at about \$40,000. Chair Bundy stated the Cay Passage duck billed valve has been 100% effective this year. There was one high tide that backed up at Ebb Tide that drained down to Cay Passage. A similar system with some fine-tuning at this location would be very effective in keeping out tides below 7’ to 8’.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the “High Canal Storm Drain Outlet Repairs” project and stated this was done as part of an embankment project. Boardmember Medigovich stated there were two on the other side (eastern bank) that needed attention. One is located northeast of the Lagoon Two pump station and comes out from the small park at Sand Piper Circle. The other is just north of the bridge. Both are eroding quickly. Public Works Director Ring stated he would look into these two locations.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the “Mariner Cove Pump Station Pilot Project- Golden Hind at Ebbitide” and the “Mariner Cove Pump Station Pilot Project- Channel Drive” projects and stated those were placeholders.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the “Mariner Cove Pump Station Pilot Project- Golden Hind at Cay Passage” project. Boardmember Zeller asked why the cost went up. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure about the increase but the cost was based on the AN West design. The cost estimate is around \$700,000 but staff is hoping the bids come in lower. The plans are done and they are finishing up the specifications. Construction should begin in the summer. Boardmember Zeller stated that cost estimate covers much more than a pump station and includes a lot of drainage. Public Works Director Ring agreed and stated it included a significant amount of work. Chair Bundy noted they would need to excavate to create the chamber for the pump. He stated it seemed that they want to put in a larger pump than necessary. These are relatively small watersheds and he asked if they could get by with smaller pumps. Public Works Director Ring stated “probably” but on this project around \$200,00 to \$300,000 is allocated to putting in the graded line drains. The cost of the pump itself is a smaller amount percentage-wise and he is not sure about the criteria being used to indicate the pump size. Boardmember Medigovich stated the criteria for a pump station was a 50-year flood. Chair Bundy stated they do not need a pump that would keep the streets totally dry and there could be the potential for some cost savings. This would be appreciated by residents. Boardmember Medigovich asked if the plan was to install multiple pumps. Public Works Director Ring stated they plan to install two. Chair Bundy stated they need to size these pumps to deal with the runoff from the rainfall rather than trying to figure out what might seep through a berm. Public Works Director Ring noted this was a pilot project and they want to show everyone that it works.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the “San Clemente Pump Station Upgrades” project and stated this project was finished.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the “Madera Gardens Drainage Infrastructure”, “Mariner Cove Drainage Infrastructure”, and “Marin Estates Drainage Infrastructure” projects and stated staff was trying to get these storm drainage and sanitary/sewer maps placed on a site called Marin Map. They also have all the Town’s orthographic and topographic maps. Boardmember Bennett asked when these maps would be available on-line. Public Works Director Ring stated the sewer maps were already posted and he would send information about the link.

Public Works Director Ring referred to the “Raise/Repair Town Levees” project and stated the Town Manager wants to make sure there are funds to continue studying this project but he is not sure what would be an appropriate time to undertake any actual work. The scope of the project is significant and there are environmental issues that would need to be addressed. Chair Bundy asked if this project included installing sheet pilings. Public Works Director Ring stated “no” and added this would include work on the Town

levees along the marshes. Boardmember Medigovich stated the thought was to prepare some type of study so they have a “shovel ready” project in order to get grant funding. They are also hoping that Macy’s and Nordstrom’s would help in the funding. Public Works Director Ring stated that “shovel ready” also means that all the environmental documents are in line and this takes time. Boardmember Medigovich stated there was a huge portion, in terms of linear feet, between the road and existing dike that would have very little impact on the marsh. Public Works Director Ring agreed. He noted the allocation of \$10,000 would not go very far in terms of a study. Chair Bundy stated they know where the low spots are from the survey and they could try to do some of the fill on the west side. They could create a Master Plan and implement it in phases. Boardmember Medigovich stated they could consider building a small retaining wall on the east side and get some free fill.

Public Works Director Ring stated the projects that are in italics are placeholders and have no funding. Boardmember Medigovich referred to “Low Canal Gate at Lakeside” project and stated the idea submitted in the picture was not a bad idea but the “white page” was a terrible idea. This project has been in the budget for about ten years and his goal is to get it removed completely. He stated what is needed is a boom on either side and proper management of the gate. The project title should be “Install an Automatic Slide Gate in the Low Canal at Lakeside Drive”.

Boardmember Medigovich referred to the “Morningside to Redwood Drainage Improvements” project and asked if this project related to the collapsing of a road. Public Works Director Ring stated some paving work was done to mitigate this problem and the Town Manager does not think this project merits further consideration.

Boardmember Medigovich referred to the “Low Canal Improvements” project and stated at some point they might need to re-grade the Low Canal. Public Works Director Ring agreed. Boardmember Medigovich added that the pipes tilt in the wrong direction at Neal Cummins Elementary School. He noted the original Kennedy/Jenks report speculated that the culverts under Lakeside Drive and Hickory are not large enough but he thought this was a highly theoretical engineering perspective. Chair Bundy noted those culverts work fine. Public Works Director Ring stated the Board might want to discuss whether or not it makes sense to leave some of these projects in the budget. He is concerned about leaving some of them in and giving the public the impression that they would be done sometime soon.

Boardmember Medigovich referred to the “Madera Gardens Drainage Infrastructure”, “Mariner Cove Drainage Infrastructure”, and “Marin Estates Drainage Infrastructure” projects and stated they were in the budget to let everyone know they have not been forgotten. Public Works Director Ring agreed and stated they were large-scale projects. They could be scaled back to smaller, doable projects. Boardmember Trailer asked if these were detailed, specific projects. Public Works Director Ring stated they could include repairing curbs and gutters, re-grading, installing graded line drains, etc. Boardmember Bennett stated AN West addressed the “Mainer Cove Drainage Infrastructure” project and this could be tied into a pump station project. Public Works Director Ring stated they could break them up into more doable projects. However, there is probably no funding available this year. Boardmember Bennett stated they could re-allocate the \$275,00 that was budgeted for the “Marquart Lagoon Pump Station Improvement” project.

Public Works Director Ring stated the last two projects on the list, “Marina Village Pump Station Upgrades” and “High Canal Pump Station Upgrades”, were added late and included upgrading some pumps at Marina Village and one pump at the High Canal Pump Station. The objective is to replace the existing pump with one that has higher efficiency and lower power consumption. Boardmember Medigovich asked if they were looking at installing a submersible pump at the High Canal. Public Works Director Ring stated he was not sure but would find out. Boardmember Medigovich stated that would be a good change.

Boardmember Trailer referred to the \$275,000 budgeted for the “Marquart Lagoon Pump Station Improvement” project and the \$10,000 budgeted for the “Raise/Repair Town Levees” project and stated some of that money should go towards improvements (slot drains, etc.) in Mariner Cove. He thought the north/south levee project was important and was a bigger, more strategic issue.

Boardmember Zeller referred to the bottom line total (\$1, 265,000) and asked if they really had that much in the budget. Public Works Director Ring stated it was in line with last year's request and they would find out soon if it was realistic. Boardmember Medigovich stated the Storm Tax Revenue is approximately \$625,000 per year. Public Works Director Ring stated they have spent about \$380,000 so far this year. Chair Bundy stated there seemed to be a consensus to re-think the money allocated for the Marquart Lagoon Pump Station Improvement" project and the "Raise/Repair Town Levees" project and to fine-tune the projects on Golden Hind. He referred to the Cay Passage storm drain and stated it must be 8" to 12" lower than the other storm drains in Mariner Cove and the check valve that was installed made a dramatic difference.

Boardmember Medigovich asked Public Works Director Ring to take a look at slip lining those connector pipes when they review the Lagoon Two pump station project.

6. Adjournment

Chair Bundy stated the next meeting would be held on Monday, May 3, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.