

FLOOD CONTROL BOARD  
FEBRUARY 12, 2018  
CORTE MADERA TOWN HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
FINAL MINUTES

Boardmembers Robert Bundy, Chair  
Present: Eli Beckman  
David Bell  
Nathan Blomgren  
Keith Forsman  
Ramon Garcia

Boardmembers Stephanie Bennett  
Absent:

Staff Present: Associate Engineer Kelly Crowe  
Town Manager Todd Cusimano

1. Call to Order

Chair Bundy opened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

2. Open Forum for Non-Agenda Items

Boardmember Bell reported an upcoming meeting regarding climate change at the Commonwealth Club in Mill Valley on Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Chair Bundy asked Boardmember Bell to email the information to the Board.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (November 13, 2017)

M/s, Bell/Forsman, and approved unanimously (Bennett absent) to approve the November 13, 2017 minutes as submitted.

4. Engineering Staff Update

Associate Engineer Crowe presented a staff report. He referred to the Mariner Cove improvements and stated Team Ghilotti should be finished with the south side of Sea Wolf Passage in the next few weeks. The last thing they need to do is the eastern side of Golden Hind Passage. Next week they are slated to go out to the Golden Hind Sewer Pump Station and install a secondary manhole and a check valve. Chair Bundy asked if this was at Golden Hind and Sea Wolf. Associate Engineer Crowe stated it was behind the catch basin at Golden Hind and Ebb Tide. They should be able to see some immediate benefits. They will also be installing a check valve at Golden Hind at the end of Sea Wolf. He recently received the 65% set of plans from AN West for the Golden Hind and Ebb Tide Pump Station improvements. This project includes installing a new pump station within the sanitary sewer pump station area. It will include about 2,500 extra feet of graded line drain going up Golden Hind Passage to Sea Mast Passage. Chair Bundy asked if the graded line drain would be north and south of Ebb Tide where the ponding was occurring. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "yes". Staff is exploring bidding this project a bit differently to see if the prices change. Staff would like to go out to bid sometime in June and start construction in July or August. Chair Bundy asked if staff planned to do some outreach to property owners south of the pump station (where the water comes over their yards at high tide. Associate Engineer Crowe stated that was a different issue. Chair Bundy stated if they could demonstrate that the Town was doing its part then the property owners should volunteer to do some landscaping and bring in some fill- this would be a good time to do it. Associate Engineer Crowe stated this discussion warrants a separate agenda item- it is a much bigger discussion. He noted bringing in fill could trigger some regulatory issues. Chair Bundy stated backyard enhancements and landscaping has been done by a lot of property owners north of the pump station. Boardmember Blomgren agreed that this was a bigger issue and he would like property owners to get some

advanced notice. It is hard to divorce this issue from larger and long-term climate issues. Chair Bundy stated he would like to place this item on an upcoming agenda. Associate Engineer Crowe stated they could start discussing temporary or interim solutions and long-term strategies at the next meeting. Boardmember Beckman asked if staff had any idea about the cost of these “enhancements” to a property owner. Chair Bundy stated it would depend on the size of the property, the amount of fill, whether or not they would need a sump pump, etc. It could be anywhere from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Boardmember Beckman suggested staff come up with several different methods and price points that could be explained to property owners. Associate Planner Crowe stated that was a good idea. Boardmember Garcia asked if staff has received cost estimates and if they are in line with the original estimates. Associate Engineer Crowe stated “yes- they were pretty close”.

Chair Bundy asked Associate Engineer Crowe if he had heard from CalTrans about plans to alleviate the ponding near the on-ramps and off-ramps to Highway 101 at Tamalpais Drive. Associate Engineer Crowe stated “no”. Staff is focusing their time and energy on the bigger projects. Chair Bundy noted this improvement should be done by CalTrans to increase public safety. Boardmember Garcia stated staff should send a letter.

Chair Bundy asked if there were any updates on the Marina Village Levee Project. Associate Engineer Crowe stated that project was in the conceptual design phase. The engineers are looking at interim measures. Chair Bundy asked if the consultant could make a presentation to the Flood Board. Associate Engineer Crowe stated “yes”.

## 5. Discussion Items

### A. Project 17-018 Creation: Harbor/Echo Storm Drainage Improvements

Associate Engineer Crowe presented a staff report. He stated there are some Storm Drain Revenues and Sales Tax Override Revenues available to fund this project. The project is shovel-ready- 90% designed but it needs to be fine-tuned. It could be put out to bid in four to six weeks. The work will be a bit easier than what was done in Mariner Cove since they will not have to change the curb type. This also brings the cost down somewhat.

Chair Bundy stated that would take care of the major problems in Marina Village. Boardmember Bell agreed- that first part of Echo and the entrance at Harbor experience ponding.

Associate Engineer Crowe stated one of the next big projects would be to refurbish the sewer within Marina Village and the Town could apply some funds to doing some additional paving. This would be a way to continue to retrofit the neighborhood and give it a fresh appearance. There has been a lot of deferred maintenance in Marina Village.

Boardmember Garcia asked if staff knew how much Project 17-018 would cost. Associate Engineer Crowe stated the rough estimate was between \$600,000 to \$700,000. Boardmember Garcia stated in the future he would like to see a formal presentation and package (scope of the project, etc.) presented to the Board. Associate Engineer Crowe stated that was a good point. The Town Council would authorize that the project goes out to bid and staff would return to the Board with the bids and recommendations. The Board could reject the bids if they come in at an unreasonable cost. Chair Bundy noted the Flood Board was advisory and made on recommendations to the Town Council. This is a project that was looked at by the Board several years ago. Boardmember Garcia stated a project budget that changes significantly over time might no longer be recommended by the Board. Town Manager Cusimano stated the Flood Board is advisory but the Council relies on its expertise and its recommendations go along way. When a project goes to bid and comes in significantly over the estimates then staff would get the Board’s input prior to submitting it to the Council. The Council wants to know what the Board is recommending. Procedurally, the Council authorizes going to bid and accepts or denies bids. Associate Engineer Crowe stated this was a unique situation- this project was incorporated into a prior project and previously discussed at the Board level. It was shelved as a “shovel-ready” project because the funds were not sufficient to cover the cost of the project.

Town Manager Cusimano stated the Town was trying to attack its flood system more aggressively and plans to hold some community forums to address the following; 1) What are the problems? 2) What are the solutions? 3) What are the funding sources? The Board would be a part of this discussion.

Chair Bundy stated it was very helpful to combine Sales Tax Override Revenue with Storm Drainage Tax Revenue on some of these projects.

M/s, Blomgren/Bell, and approved unanimously (Bennett absent) to allow staff to pursue Project 17-018, Harbor/Echo Storm Drainage Improvements, with the remaining available Storm Drainage Tax Revenue in the amount of \$175,000.

#### B. 2018/19 Project List Development

Associate Engineer Crowe presented the staff report. He noted they were entering a new budget cycle and it was a good idea to look at what is on the list, what did not get accomplished, evaluate the funding, and come up with projects that were doable.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the Morningside Drive Storm Drain Replacement Project. It is the replacement of a CMP pipe that is starting to corrode.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the Lagoon One Pump Station Upgrade Project and noted it was not critical. Chair Bundy noted the High Canal Pump Station does a "lion's share of the work" as far as flood protection in those two areas. He asked if they should get a detailed analysis of the Lagoon One and Lagoon Two Pump Stations and Gates in terms of their use, benefits, and whether or not they would need to be replaced as they currently exist. Associate Engineer Crowe stated they should definitely do a comprehensive assessment of all the pump stations including an inventory of the last replacement, the next scheduled upgrade, the pump types, more energy efficient solutions, etc. The Public Works crew does a great job of maintaining all the pump stations- they are out there quite often. The pumps are the life line of the storm drainage system. Boardmember Forsman stated they should look at the operational cost savings that can occur with a better motor, a more efficient pump, better control system, etc. Boardmember Blomgren asked if staff already had an "audit document" of what is out there, scheduled maintenance, etc. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "yes- it just needs to be tweaked for easier tracking and access". Chair Bundy stated he supports this type of comprehensive review. Boardmember Garcia stated there were two different efforts that could be combined into one study- a comprehensive analysis of how the system works, and an assessment of each facility to see if it should remain as is. This would cost about \$200,000.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the Tamal Vista Storm Drain Improvements Project and stated it would not be built as a stand-alone project. The Town is studying the Tamal Vista corridor and looking at some paving, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, and upgrading the storm drain.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the Emergency Drain Repairs Project and stated this line item could be bumped into future years to give them some cushion. He noted there have been some recent big ticket items.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the Corrugated Metal Pipe Replacement Project. This is basically a "fix it as you find it" situation but staff could come up with a different approach. He worked on a 5-Year CIP Project Analysis for the replacement of corrugated metal pipe replacement in San Diego. It included an inventory of all the CMP in town, a physical assessment (CCTV), and a ranking based on different criteria. This approach might cost more but would be more beneficial in the long run. The first step is figuring out what you have and how bad it is. Chair Bundy asked if they could slip line the pipes before they collapse. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "yes, depending on the condition". Boardmember Beckman asked if the slip line would increase capacity. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "yes- it could double the capacity for the same sized pipe".

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the Community Rating System Outreach Mailer. Boardmember Bell asked if staff received the letter from FEMA explaining the new rating. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "yes- the Town has a rating of 7 with the possibility of a credit modification". Boardmember Bell stated the Board had previously discussed the desire to learn more about the rating

system to see what is included in credits and how they could improve the Town's rating. Associate Engineer Crowe stated staff was working on modifying an ordinance regarding bio retention areas which could improve the rating. Boardmember Garcia asked how the ordinance gets changed. Associate Engineer Crowe stated this is done by the Town Council. Boardmember Bell stated he would be thrilled if they could get to a rating of 6. Boardmember Beckman asked staff to include an introductory discussion about the FEMA Community Rating System on the next agenda.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed updating the GIS system.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed project #8 and stated it was a current project that was underway. They would need to put the construction funding into the next budget cycle.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the Tidal Barrier Project. He stated it needs more discussion before an actual study is done. He would like to discuss this at the next meeting. It is a very complex fix.

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the Marina Village Levee Improvement Project. He noted they were at the end of the conceptual design. He suggested they keep the funds for final design in the budget so they can keep the ball rolling. Chair Bundy stated they might be able to get some of the excavated material for use on the levee that was left over from the Golden Gate Bridge District Project (marsh restoration). Associate Engineer Crowe stated there were several methods proposed for the levee work, not all of which is based on bringing in dirt. He was concerned about the added weight and the issue of settlement. The consultants will be making a presentation soon about the project. Boardmember Garcia asked if the budget figures included soft and hard costs. Associate Engineer Crowe stated "yes".

Associate Engineer Crowe briefly discussed the El Camino Storm Drainage Replacement Project and noted it has been on the books for a while. Chair Bundy stated he would like to see this project completed.

Chair Bundy referred to the Shore Bird Marsh Pump Station and the High Canal Pump Station and asked if they could look to Larkspur to incorporate their pump station or their drainage into Corte Madera and ask them to pay a portion of the cost. A comprehensive look might include the City of Larkspur. Associate Engineer Crowe stated the High Canal was independent of Larkspur. Chair Bundy stated the wetlands between Redwood High School and the High Canal is drained by Larkspur' pump. This pump could be eliminated and this area could drain into the High Canal. Associate Engineer Crowe stated eliminating that Redwood pump station would require rerouting all that drainage back to Lagoon Two. Another alternative would be to partner with Larkspur and try to get them to upgrade that pump station. This could be the better, short-term approach. He has a concern about tying that marsh to the High Canal.

Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would like the Board to consider and discuss improvements to the drainage in Madera Gardens. The area was designed with minimal street grading or surface flow- there is very little in the way of storm drainage infrastructure. The west side of Lakeside gets a lot of curb ponding. They also get standing water with algae growing in the gutters. He noted there is a high water table in that area. He asked the Board to take a look at that stretch after the next rain storm.

Chair Bundy stated the Board has discussed improvements at Pacific Queen and Flying Cloud. Associate Engineer Crowe stated he would take a look at this after the Sea Wolf Project and the Echo and Golden Hind improvements.

Chair Bundy stated they have accomplished a lot over the last few years and he thanked Associate Engineer Crowe for the good work.

6. Future Agenda Items- Chair Bundy stated the following items would be on an upcoming agenda: 1) Marina Village Levee Improvement Project; 2) Discussion about CalTrans responsibility for ponding at Highway 101/Tamalpais Drive on and off ramps; 3) Introduction to the FEMA Community Rating System (CRS).

7. Adjournment- Chair Bundy adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.