

Minutes of Meeting
Tulare County Flood Control Commissioners

Friday, August 28, 2015, 8:00 AM

Tulare County Resource Management Agency Conference Room

Attendees:

Commissioners present: Dale Brogan; Mark Larsen; Dan Vink, Chairman; Doug Jackson.

Commissioners absent: Fergus Morrissey, Dale West, Vice-Chairman and Walter Bricker.

County representation: Reed Schenke and Alfredo Reynoso-Haro with Resource Management Agency (RMA.) and Jennifer Nielsen with County Counsel.

Visitors: Denise England with Tulare County CAO, Ben Ruiz with RMA and Shane Smith with Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District.

Agenda Items:

Item 1. Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM.

Item 2. Minutes of February 27, 2015 meeting:

A motion by Douglas to approve the minutes was seconded by Mark Larsen and approved by unanimous vote.

Item 3. Public comment period: None

Item 4. Staff report on Flood Control District matters:

A. Report on the status of the flood control projects

a. Seville-Sontag Ditch:

Three months ago Tulare County hired Quad Knopf, design is scheduled to be completed September 10, we will be ready to go forward with construction once we get the construction easements. Easements are required from four landowners. An Option agreement may expedite construction access. Staff anticipates the construction to take one month once construction is authorized and funding source identified.

b. Juvenile Detention Facility-Cottonwood Creek

Tulare County hired Quad Knopf, design is scheduled to be completed September 10,

There is no right of way acquisition, no easements required. Environmental is complete, Fish and Wild Life Streambed Alteration agreement has been provided to us, there is an agenda item with the board to sign the agreement. We should be ready for construction this coming January 2016. We have been unsuccessful in securing grant funding. As of today, FEMA has closed what they call Pre-Emergency and Flood Preparation Grant Process and they will determine how much they distribute to the State of California. As mentioned, this project has two benefits, groundwater recharge and streambed restoration, we are not only focusing on flood control projects, we are looking for multiple funding sources.

For the Yetttem-Button Ditch we are looking for starting the design within the next two months and we are planning on construction for the 2016-2017 winter season.

B. Other Matters:

a. El Niño Emergency Response Plan

In preparation for El Niño we started to look at a number of historical hotspots. Staff has done an analysis of locations partially through utilization of road crews that have responded to previous floods. This review is somewhat analytical, somewhat based on anecdotal. From this review, staff prepared a flood hazard location map, which is currently in draft form. This map attempts to identify our larger scale flooding issues throughout the county. Staff asks of commissioners to mark the map up with any areas they would like staff to include. Staff provided a handout of a Channel Maintenance Debris Removal List of several locations, mainly focused on roadways and bridges, as a preparation for channel maintenance for the upcoming rain season. Staff is performing channel clearing as allowed with our available resources. Channel clearing efforts are restricted by permitting and regulatory requirements go. Staff efforts are constrained within creeks and only limited clearing of debris is allowed without obtaining a streambed alteration agreement. Staff is working closely with California Fish and Wildlife to get a maintenance agreement in place. CDFW has currently informed staff that they would have an agreement to county within 30 days.

Commissioner Brogan mentioned that there are several holes missing on the draft map prepared by the staff, as an example he mentioned flooding problems in the area of Earlimart. Commissioner Brogan asked of the staff a list of phone numbers and contact names to call in case of an emergency.

Commissioner Larsen mentioned that some dates on the list are old. For instance Cameron Creek, where the report notes that spans 3 & 4 have been blocked by concrete rubble downstream. This channel has been cleared out and concrete pushed out to the side. Commissioner Larsen believes the concrete blocks are not there any longer. Some of the locations on the list are

responsibility of irrigation districts, making this a good opportunity to collaborate.

Chairman Vink would like the staff to spend the next month or so arranging meetings with the irrigation district's operations departments and the road yard superintendents to identify the hotspots. Chairman Vink suggested contacting Chris Kaplan with Alta District, Dale West, with Stone Corral, Operations Department from Kaweah Delta Irrigation District, Brian Styles, with City of Porterville, Mike Battles, for the area of Lower Tule River Irrigation District, Dale Brogan, for area of White River and Walter Bricker, for the Tulare Lake Basin area.

Staff inquired the commissioners whether they have Fish and Wildlife streambed alteration maintenance agreements in place, their response was affirmative. Staff asked whether Irrigation districts with agreements in place would be willing to share this information so that clearing efforts for the locations with permits to clear could be coordinated between the district and the irrigation districts. Commissioners responded affirmatively, and noted that a joint effort is worth pursuing.

Staff declared that there are 3,500 sandbags available to the public and another 15,000 to be filled. The County is preparing a written Storm Response Protocol with a list of phone numbers and contacts.

Chairman Vink asked whether a report of the Flood Control Commission and staff activities was being presented to the Board of Supervisors or not, specifically, in the matter of preparation for the El Niño probable event. Staff plans to report to the BOS in September.

Commissioner Brogan suggested having a monthly meeting this coming Fall to have an update on what is being done and what needs to be done in preparation for the El Niño probable event.

b. Overview of the budget to be adopted in September

For the 2016 fiscal year we are expecting a revenue of \$575,000, expenditures of \$188,000, cash reserve of \$4,000,000 and a separate cash reserve of \$761,000 for the Success Reservoir.

Item 5. Consider other business: none

Item 6. Set next Flood Control Commission meeting:

The next Flood Control Commission meeting was set for Friday, September 25, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in the main conference room at RMA's office,

Item 7. Adjourn meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.