

Truckee River Flood Management Project

TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD PROJECT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Friday, February 5, 2010
10:00 AM

Washoe County
Public Works Conference Room
1001 E. 9th Street, 2nd Floor Bldg A
Reno, Nevada

MINUTES

Dan St. John, Chair
Wayne Seidel, Vice Chair

Technical Advisory Committee Members

	RENO	SPARKS	WASHOE COUNTY
VOTING	Susan Schlerf Kyle West John Flansberg	Neil Krutz Wayne Seidel- <i>Vice Chair</i> Vacant	Adrian Freund Dan St. John - <i>Chair</i> John Sherman
ALTERNATES	Auro Majumdar (Alt)	TBD (Alt)	Kimble Corbridge (Alt)
NON-VOTING	Water Resources	TBD	
	University of Nevada Reno	Kevin Piper	

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL – Determination of a Quorum

10:11am

A regularly scheduled meeting was called to order by Dan St. John at 10:11 a.m. on Friday, February 5, 2010 at the Washoe County Public Works Conference Room at 1001 E 9th Street, Building A, Reno, Nevada.

Committee Members present included: Susan Schlerf, Kyle West, Auro Majumdar, Neil Krutz, Vice Chair Wayne Seidel, Adrian Freund and Chair Dan St. John

Flood Staff present included: Naomi Duerr, Director; Jay Aldean, Deputy Director; Danielle Henderson, Natural Resource Manager; Lisa Gianoli, Flood Project Consultant; and Paul Urban, Project Manager; Mimi Fujii-Strickler, Lisa Diebler, Pat Winans, and Greg Salter.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA 10:12am

Director Duerr noted the agenda neglected to include nominations and elections.

Susan Schlerf moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Neil Krutz. The approval of the agenda passed unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 10:14am

Approval of Provisional Minutes of TAC Meeting of January 12, 2010 – Defer to February meeting on Friday, February 26th.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS 10:15am

Director Duerr informed the committee that the FPCC meeting will be in retreat format at the Grand Sierra Resort beginning at 8:30 am on February 12, 2010. The retreat will be somewhat different from last time in that there will be no lunch.

Director Duerr also welcomed Susan Schlerf back to the committee. She added that the Truckee Meadows Branch of the American Society of Civil Engineers recently recognized RTC, the City of Reno and the Flood Project with various awards. Included was an award for the Young Engineer of the Year for Flood Project staff member Eric Scheetz. The Flood Project's Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Floodwall and Levee Project was singled out as the Environmental Project of the Year

5. PUBLIC COMMENT – Limited to three minutes per person 10:17am

Chair St. John opened the meeting to public comment; there was no one present to comment.

6. UPDATE ON FLOOD PROJECT JPA 10:17am

Director Duerr provided an update on recent meetings and approvals regarding the key provisions for a Cooperative Agreement to establish a Joint Powers Authority for the flood project. Director Duerr said she and Greg Salter were getting ready to issue a draft of the new Cooperative Agreement for the JPA.

For months there had been discussion about a new board consisting of six members. The day prior to the TAC meeting, Director Duerr had a lengthy meeting with UNR about developing an MOU per the current FPCC Cooperative Agreement. Conclusion of the MOU would result in UNR leaving the board. Staff and UNR made major progress on the agreement, but Director Duerr was not at liberty to provide details at this point. She was still unsure if the agreement could be approved by the Board of Regents before July 1. UNR will likely stay on the board until the Regents give their approval of the land deal in the fall. The Board of Regents only meets four times a year, and their agenda must be submitted several months prior.

Chair St. John asked why UNR is a player in the JPA.

Director Duerr explained that the Regents are in charge of UNR's land assets and transfer of land assets is a key part of the original cooperative agreement. Greg Salter explained they don't need approval from the Board of Regents to dissolve the current Cooperative Agreement; under the current arrangement with UNR they retain a seat on the board until the Flood Project enters into the MOU.

Neil Krutz expressed concern over having convinced elected bodies to support the JPA and then making substantial changes.

Director Duerr said staff have been working on the MOU for months and have recently had movement. She also explained that the UNR MOU was explained at every JPA briefing for elected officials in the last 2 months.

Neil Krutz suggested postponing the establishment of the JPA.

As for the negotiations of the MOU, Director Duerr said the team has made better progress than ever before. If the deal can be ready for the June Board of Regents meeting, the JPA could be approved at the June FPCC meeting.

7. NED/LPP CORPS PROCESS AND SCHEDULE

10:31am

Jay Aldean provided a report regarding the Corps' monthly update to the FPCC at the January 21, 2010 meeting and possible impacts to the Truckee River Flood Project schedule.

Mr. Aldean provided a handout packet of four schedules (Plans A through D) to committee members.

Chair St. John stated he recalled a motion at the last TAC meeting to move ahead with names and titles for the plans that were clearer, and to specifically move ahead with Plan D.

Director Duerr said staff wanted to talk to the TAC about what to expect at the retreat regarding this issue. Staff gave a presentation to the FPCC at their last meeting. They went through the detail of each plan, choosing Plan D. Since that time, the Corps has continued working on applying some of the fixes to the hydraulic model for Plan D. The Corps has also decided to hire external consultants to assist with fixing the model to make sure it is completed in approximately 8 to 9 months as assumed in Plan D. The Flood Project agreed with the approach but also are concerned that there are "too many hands in the pot" for comfort.

Consultant Mia O'Connell is working with Senator Reid's office and the Assistant Secretary of the Army to generate support for our project from Washington. Director Duerr expects to know before the retreat when the Secretary will be in Nevada. She said she wants to accelerate internal efforts with the Corps.

Chair St. John expressed concern over recent media coverage of the project and asked what is being done to control negative opinions. How is the Flood Project managing communication to better control messaging?

Director Duerr said she did not think the coverage was too harmful since it resulted in getting the attention of the ASA on our project as we have been desiring.

Susan Schlerf said that as a board member, she would expect to know what is being done to make sure the Corps is staying on track. What is the plan?

Director Duerr said the elements of the plan to get back on track will be discussed during the budget presentation, but noted that Flood staff meet with Corps' staff in Sacramento every Thursday to get updates on the schedule and to discuss project issues and specific problems. The Corps will develop a new project schedule based on Plan D.

Chair St. John asked if the Corps schedules are realistic. If not, he suggested informing the public.

Director Duerr said the TRAction projects are the most significant thing a local government can do to accelerate the schedule. We can't change the entire process.

Chair St. John added that the danger he sees, in hindsight, is realizing that in an effort to save the community money by working with the Corps, the local government could've completed the project in less time to prepare for the next flood.

Director Duerr informed the committee that in the next fiscal year, with an aggressive land acquisition and TRAction Project implementation schedule, the Flood Project budget would be in the red, meaning unless they receive more money from fees or other sources, there will be no more TRAction Projects scheduled after June 30, 2011.

Adrian Freund recommended that when the information about Plan D is presented, Duerr point out that there is no flexibility in Plan D (i.e., the schedule is tight).

Chair St. John asked for clarification on talking points and an exit strategy to properly inform the public about the situation with the Corps. He added that in the Retreat Director Duerr should talk about the goals discussed at the Retreat 14 months ago, where the Project stands today, and how those changes will impact the project.

8. FY 10-11 PROPOSED BUDGET AND CASH FLOW PROJECTIONS 11:26am

Director Duerr and Deputy Director Aldean gave a presentation on the Flood Project's preliminary FY10-11 Budget concepts, including a discussion and slide-show presentation of cash flow projections, revenues, expenses, proposed TRAction Projects and land acquisition

Chair St. John recommended showing cash flow in the presentation because the way it is currently presented is somewhat confusing.

Susan Schlerf left the meeting during this presentation at 11:33am.

9. CORPS PRINCIPALS AND GUIDELINES 12:02pm

Director Duerr gave a report on proposed revisions to the US Army Corps of Engineers' "Principals and Guidelines" that govern administration and performance of Corps' projects, and possible formulation of comments to those proposed revisions.

Director Duerr asked the TAC to read the report prior to the retreat. Comments from the community are due to the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) by March 3.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS 12:04pm

Review and discussion of the TAC meeting dates set for February 26th.

There being no further business, Chair St. John adjourned the meeting at 12:04 p.m.