



FLOOD PROJECT COORDINATING COMMITTEE

April 9, 2010, 8:30 A.M.

**Washoe County Commission Chambers
1001 East Ninth Street
Reno, Nevada**

MINUTES

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

Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. A quorum was established.

Voting Members Present:

Ron Smith, Chair
Dan Gustin, Vice-Chair
Robert Dickens
David Humke
Bob Larkin (arrived at 8:44 a.m.)
Geno Martini
Ron Zurek

Voting Members Absent:

Robert Cashell

Voting Alternates Present:

Troy Miller

Voting Alternates Absent:

Kitty Jung
Julia Ratti
Jessica Sferrazza

Non-Voting Members Present:

Shaun Carey
Donna Dreska
Dennis Miller
Burnham Moffat
Dean Schultz
Wayne Seidel
John Sherman
Katy Simon
Dan St. John (arrived at 8:59 a.m.)

Non-Voting Members Absent:

Franco Crivelli
John Flansberg
John Jackson
Dennis Miller
Mary Ann Parrot
Wayne Seidel

Non-Voting Alternates Present:

None

Non-Voting Alternates Absent:

Connie Butts
David Childs
Jeff Cronk
Dennis Ghiglieri
Susan Schlerf
Todd Welty

Staff Present: Naomi Duerr, Jay Aldean, Laura Bayer, Lisa Diebler, Ed Evans, Melissa Faigeles, Danielle Henderson, Susie Kapahee, Greg Salter, Eric Scheetz, and Paul Urban

Chair Smith led the Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) in the Pledge of Allegiance. He also requested that this item be placed as a standing agenda item in the future.

2. MINUTES

A. Approve Provisional Minutes of Flood Project Coordinating Committee (FPCC) Meeting of March 12, 2010.

Member Humke moved to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2010 FPCC meeting. Member Martini seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY - Review Provisional Minutes of Finance Subcommittee (FSC) Meeting of March 11, 2010. Director Duerr reported that the FSC would be asked to approve the March 11, 2010 meeting minutes at their next meeting and added that they were provided to the FPCC as an informational item.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Smith welcomed Members and guests. He invited announcements.

Director Duerr reported that two new employees have been hired by the Flood Project and were present at the meeting. She introduced Ed Evans, who has worked for Washoe County Department of Water Resources (DWR) for over twenty years. She stated that Mr. Evans would be responsible for the Flood Warning System, which will include managing and approving the 50 gauge monitoring system, as well as to assist with the hydrologic monitoring of the restoration projects. She reported that while at DWR Mr. Evans was responsible for the surface and groundwater monitoring programs and locating new groundwater supplies. Chair Smith welcomed Mr. Evans and asked him to introduce himself.

Chair Smith asked Mr. Evans if he was responsible for meters, to which Mr. Evans clarified he was responsible for the monitoring gauges while working for DWR. Mr. Evans stated he was very pleased to be part of the Flood Project and added that monitoring the flood warning system was one of his duties while at DWR, which has now been assigned to the Flood Project. He added that he would like to provide an update to the FPCC on the flood warning system in a few months. He thanked the FPCC.

Director Duerr next introduced Melissa Faigeles, who recently joined the Flood Project as a Natural Resources Planner. She reported that Ms. Faigeles would be working with Danielle Henderson, who will be going on maternity leave in the next thirty days.

Ms. Faigeles reported that she has a degree in Ecology and Evolution from University of Pittsburgh. She added that she recently worked for California-Tahoe Conservancy in South Lake Tahoe, where she was working on large-scale river restoration projects on the upper Truckee River. She stated she was excited to be part of the Flood Project.

Director Duerr reported that a visit by Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) Darcy is scheduled for May 26, 2010. ASA Darcy will be accompanied by some senior Army Corps of Engineers

(Corps) Headquarters staff. She stated that a “community breakfast” or “meet and greet” will be scheduled in the morning, followed by a brief bus tour of some of the key projects (for which construction funds have been requested), and then by a helicopter tour of the entire project. She invited Board Members to attend.

Director Duerr stated that Lisa Diebler’s daughters were in attendance at the meeting to observe the political process in action. The Chair had them introduce themselves.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Smith called for public comment and hearing none, closed the public comment period.

5. FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS

A. UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY (JPA) - Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Report on recent meetings, developments, proposals and timelines regarding development of a new Cooperative Agreement to establish a Joint Powers Authority for the Flood Project. Possible discussion and action to provide instructions to staff regarding the contents of the draft Cooperative Agreement regarding membership, governance, administration, and regulatory powers of the proposed Joint Powers Authority; the acquisition of land and the construction, ownership, operation and maintenance of flood facilities; the assessment and collection of rates and fees to pay for the project; the financing of the project; and the rights and obligations of parties to the Cooperative Agreement.

Director Duerr stated that information on the JPA was included in the agenda book. She provided a brief update on the schedule for approval of the JPA. A joint meeting of all the entities was held in February, where all the parties approved the Key Provisions of the JPA. Legal staff then went to work drafting a very extensive and thorough agreement for future consideration. She stated that prior to bringing the JPA back to the FPCC, additional staff and manager review must take place. She added that the Technical Oversight Committee and the Managers Working Group would be reconvened to participate in a working session on the agreement.

Director Duerr reported that the original plan was to bring the JPA to the joint meeting on May 3, 2010 for approval; however, based on the time required to bring forth an agenda item, it is more likely that the JPA will be presented at the July joint meeting. She stated that alternatively, the JPA could be presented individually to the jurisdictions once the technical staff is in agreement to move forward.

Chair Smith called for questions and asked if the timeline stays the same. Director Duerr stated the timeline is still to establish and organize the JPA by July; however, there are a couple of policy issues that need to be more thoroughly vetted. She reported that Greg Salter, Legal Counsel, and she have reviewed the current agreement with University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), which speaks to not only entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as a precondition to transition them off the Board, but also transfer of the land. She added that given UNR’s current budget situation and the uncertain future of the Agricultural College (and the associated land assets and programs), further consideration will be necessary. She invited further comment from Member Dickens or Member Zurek, UNR.

Member Dickens stated that Director Duerr's comments were accurate and that UNR and the Board of Regents are in discussions regarding further budget reductions, some of which may affect the College of Agriculture. He stated at this time there is nothing more to report.

Director Duerr referred to the timetable included in the agenda book. She added that in terms of JPA review, April and May would be very busy for the staff and managers, and that June would be a very busy time for the FPCC and other elected officials. She summarized that once the JPA is established, a good portion of the summer is anticipated to be spent on developing a scaled-down version of the flood project that would fit into the \$525 million that would be available with the rates in place but without participation of the Corps. She stated that options are also being reviewed for billing and collections and administrative processes based on moving forward with the JPA. She added that in the fall, the rate assumptions and benefit analysis would be updated.

Director Duerr stated that in anticipation of an approved JPA, staff included additional money in the budget for financial analysis by FCS Group. She reported that staff has also contacted UNR's Resource Economics Department because they have staff and faculty who can provide additional review of the expected flood project benefits. She added that one of the professors specializes in areas such as assessing the benefits of wetland and ecosystem restoration. She stated that another professor specializes in assessing benefits of recreation. She summarized that a proposal was requested to ensure that all of the economic benefits are recognized in moving forward with the rates.

Chair Smith asked if the letter from fish and game has any affect on the process. Director Duerr stated that the letter from US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) does not affect the flood project process and timeline at this point. She explained that the Corps is required to formally consult with USFWS (Section 7 Consultation) throughout development of the project. She stated that the Corps is closing in on selecting the features of the fish passage plan for the project. She added that the FPCC has already approved a global fish passage plan in the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP); now the Corps is developing a more detailed fish passage plan for the National Economic Development (NED) plan in coordination with staff. She stated that recently USFWS felt they were at an impasse with the Corps on two issues: fish passage, specifically at Marble Bluff at Pyramid Lake and bank protection with rocks and rip-rap. She summarized that the consultation process is ongoing; but it is not anticipated to affect the formation of the JPA or rates.

Member Martini requested inviting a representative of USFWS to provide an explanation of the process, with which Director Duerr agreed. Director Duerr reiterated that Mr. Williams from USFWS would be invited to the next meeting to speak to the issues.

B. FY 10-11 BUDGET: ACCOMPLISHMENTS, GOALS AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES - Naomi Duerr, Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Presentation on the Flood Project's FY 09-10 accomplishments and performance measures, and proposed activities for the approved FY 10-11 Budget. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff

Director Duerr reported that at the last meeting, Vice-Chair Gustin requested an agenda item to summarize accomplishments, goals for next year and performance measures. She referred to a brief PowerPoint, which included:

- The main objective of the Flood Project is to prevent flood damages

- Customers are the general public and specifically those who flood
- Goals
 - Number 1 - Public safety and saving lives
 - Number 2 - Flood damage reduction and avoiding a billion plus dollars in damages
 - Number 3 - River restoration – 50 miles of river, including fish passage, restoring threatened and endangered species (cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout) and improving biodiversity – Director Duerr explained the reason this goal is included in the Flood Project is based on the Water Settlement Agreement, whereby the Corps was directed to study, evaluate and recommend improvements for fish passage. She reported that a couple of years ago the Chairman of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT) went to Washington DC and met with the Assistant Secretary of the Army (ASA) and directed that the project move forward (past the study stage). The ASA agreed and the project was incorporated into the Flood Project.
 - Number 4 - Recreation and open space
 - Number 5 - Enhance our quality of life and economy. The Flood Project is anticipated to add 14,000 to 19,000 new jobs, which has begun with the four recently completed Truckee River Action (TRAction) projects.
 - The goal in working with the Corps is to complete planning, get the Flood Project authorized, obtain over a billion dollars in funding, and construct the project over the next twenty years. The construction will include locally funded and built projects, as well as federally built and funded projects.
- Accomplishments
 - Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Levee project – Of note is that contractors located part of the old Reno City Hall sign buried on the site, which has now been moved to the Railroad Museum in Carson City in anticipation of future restoration. In an effort to keep the project environmentally sensitive, Eric Scheetz spearheaded the use of a warm-mix for placement of asphalt on the trail. Recently the northern Nevada chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) selected the project as Best Project of the Year for the environment. Mr. Scheetz was selected as Young Engineer of the Year at the same time. Currently the project is being considered for an award by the Nevada chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA).
 - Lockwood Restoration – The project includes trails and a county-funded park.
 - Lower Mustang Ranch Restoration – The project was completed this year.
 - 102 Ranch Restoration – The project was completed this year.
 - Provided a bus tour to Steve Stockton, Senior Civil Engineer for the Corps.
 - Provided a tour of UNR Farms – Staff met with the UNR Dean, Associate Dean, the Provost, and a number of UNR employees. She thanked Members Dickens and Zurek for their help in coordinating the tour.
- Projects initiated this year include:
 - Design of the new Virginia Street Bridge – City of Reno took the lead and just completed the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to select a designer, which is Jacobs Engineering.
 - Sparks North Truckee Drain Relocation design – Staff has been working with the consultant HDR on the design, which is expected to be completed in late fall /

- early winter. Chair Smith stated that he believed work would begin soon on the overpass on Sparks Boulevard.
- Living River Parkway project was initiated at the direction of the FPCC. Currently work is being focused on the area between Rock and McCarran. The Corps has been funding the project, which has included geotechnical testing. In the next month or so Paul Urban will be requesting that this project become an official TRAction project. Construction funds were requested for this project in the Corps' next year budget.
 - Completing the last two acquisitions along the Living River Parkway – title reports and appraisals have recently been received. Demolition of the properties was requested under Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding, for which the project is at the “top of the list”.
 - Flood Warning System has moved over to the Flood Project.
 - Relocation of tenants for the land acquisitions, as well as relocating pipes, cables, etc. Danielle Henderson stated that Kinder Morgan was responsible for relocating a jet fuel pipeline at Mustang Ranch; however The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the Flood Project contributed money toward the work.
 - Home Elevation Program is being initiated. The Board of County Commissioners will have a first reading of the ordinance followed by a second hearing in late May. To date 15 to 20 people have expressed interest in the home elevation program.
 - The Flood Project was successful in passing two legislative bills, Senate Bill (SB) 175 and Assembly Bill (AB) 54.
 - The JPA project is moving forward.
 - Phase 1 of the Regional Hydrologic Model has been completed and staff scheduled a public workshop to include engineers, technical advisory committee (TAC) members and planners for April 20, 2010. This project is a pilot study on the Sun Valley watershed, which could then be used as a regional model when accepted.
 - Peer Review of the economic and hydraulic models – Flood Project staff has been focused on the review with the Corps for the last few months.

Director Duerr reiterated that the flood project's #1 goal is to prevent flooding. She added that Mr. Scheetz visited with some of the industrial businesses in Sparks to examine the economic impacts experienced during flooding. He is working with the Corps to develop an economic benefit analysis.

- Performance Measures

- Two properties have been acquired in the last year and two additional are anticipated to be acquired next year.
- Eight tenants have been relocated and twenty tenants are anticipated for relocation next year.
- Many tours, meetings and presentations were provided and more are anticipated for the next year.
- Outreach on Facebook was initiated and 500 fans were reached in the first couple of months.
- The JPA is anticipated to be 75% finalized by the end of this year. The associated fees are anticipated to be in place by next year.

- The Corps plan is approximately 80% complete and hopefully it will be 90% complete next year.
- Ms. Henderson is organizing a clean-up at the Bristlecone property and preparing Ms. Faigeles to manage the project in her absence.

Member Martini made a motion to accept the report and verbal update. Member Humke seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Director Duerr thanked Vice-Chair Gustin for suggesting bringing this item forward. Vice-Chair Gustin stated that he was prompted by Sparks City Manager Shaun Carey.

Director Duerr stated that staff is working on a 5-year report that will summarize the above accomplishments as well as additional information. She added that Chair Smith suggested developing a video presentation on the Flood Project, including interviews with FPCC members. Sparks, Reno and Washoe County will be asked to provide input on preparing the presentation.

C. CARMEN GROUP UPDATE - Mimi Fujii-Strickler, Flood Project Supervisor, Truckee River Flood Project

Update on the Carmen Group's lobbyist activities. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff on related lobbying matters.

In Mimi Fujii-Strickler's absence, Director Duerr stated that a request for funding is moving forward; however, the House of Representatives agreed to remove any earmarks for funding. She stated that Senator Reid was able to request \$20 million for the Flood Project (\$10 million for planning and design and \$10 million for construction). A conference call with all the lobbyists occurred about a week ago and is scheduled on a monthly basis.

Chair Smith asked if the trip to Washington DC is still planned for May. Director Duerr stated yes and added that the trip is proposed for the first week of May (as recommended by the lobbyists).

D. MONTHLY REPORTS ON FLOOD PROJECT FINANCIAL STATUS AND FINANCIAL RELATED ACTIVITIES – Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Update on monthly and year-to-date revenues and expenditures and related financial activities of the Truckee River Flood Project. Discussion of cash flow projections. Possible action to accept the report and/or provide direction to staff on related financial matters.

Director Duerr stated that the monthly report was provided in the agenda book for review and invited questions or comments from Members. Chair Smith requested a comparison of the last three years of expenditures, which Director Duerr agreed to provide.

Member Martini made a motion to accept the report and verbal update. Member Humke seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – John Flansberg, TAC Member

Report on meetings of the Truckee River Flood Management Project Technical Advisory Committee, and any recommendations or advice it has for the FPCC. Possible discussion and action to accept the report and provide direction to staff. Includes March 26, 2010 meeting agenda, minutes, and TAC attendance sheet.

Director Duerr stated that Dan St. John would present this item. Mr. St. John thanked the TAC for re-electing him as Chair for another year. He reported that Wayne Seidel was re-elected Vice-Chair of the TAC.

Mr. St. John reported that most of the discussion at the last TAC meeting was focused on the hydraulic model and the peer review process. He added that progress with the Corps is being made. He stated that the timeline for the process is on schedule.

Member Martini made a motion to accept the report and verbal update. Member Larkin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. FLOOD PROJECT MONTHLY REPORTS

Presentation on flood project events, activities, and schedules. Possible action to accept reports and/or provide direction to staff.

Director Duerr reported that reports and articles/clippings were provided in the agenda packets. She reported that at the last FPCC meeting, Mr. Carey suggested expanding the Flood Project's outreach on the JPA and future staff review of projects to the development and construction community. She reported that meetings have been scheduled with the Building and Construction Trade Council and the Reno Building Enterprise Fund Advisory Committee. Director Duerr, Mr. Aldean and Mr. Urban are also scheduled to meet with development and construction representatives from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County to discuss why our valley floods, how the hydrology works, why the Flood Project is important, as well as why it is important to review any potential impacts based on new development.

Member Martini requested that Mike Dillon, Builders Association of Northern Nevada (BANN), be involved as requested. He added that the Associated General Contractors (AGC) has also expressed interest. Director Duerr reported that she and other staff have already met with BANN and AGC and would continue to do so. She added that a flow chart is being developed to provide a process for development that will include the Flood Project. She stated that a Fact Sheet is also being developed.

Chair Smith stated he has heard that the development groups fear having to get project approval from the Flood Project Coordinating Committee, which is not the case. Director Duerr agreed that she heard the same concern and agreed it is not true. Member Martini also suggested including Associated Builders Contractors (ABC), with which Director Duerr agreed.

A. MONTHLY STATUS REPORT FOR MARCH 2010

B. LOBBYISTS' UPDATES

C. CLIPPINGS

8. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

A. MONTHLY REPORT – Beth Porter and Roger Henderson, Civil Works Branch, ACOE
Report on activities related to the Truckee River Flood Management Project including project scheduling and funding. Will include update on documents and process for Internal Technical Review currently underway. Possible action to accept the report and provide direction to staff related to Truckee River Flood Management Project scheduling and funding items as set forth in the report.

Mr. Henderson reported that the Corps is working on rights of entry to enable moving forward with geotechnical studies on PLPT and TNC properties. He stated that a scope of work will be moving forward with West Consultants on the hydraulic modeling effort. He stated that the new cost estimates and benefits are being updated. Work will also resume on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP). Member Larkin asked what brought about this change. Mr. Henderson stated that the Corps saw no reason to delay work on the LPP since it would not change. Director Duerr reported that staff has been encouraging the Corps to continue moving ahead on parts of the Flood Project that are not tied directly to the hydraulic model and economic review.

Mr. Henderson reported that Kris Mullins attended a tour of the project in March. He added that Corps staff is working with Susie Kapahee on the May 26, 2010 ASA Darcy visit. He reported that Colonel Leedy will be the new District Engineer in July.

Chair Smith again referred to the letter from USFWS and asked if it would have any affect on the restoration projects that have been completed. Mr. Henderson stated no, they would not.

Mr. Henderson reported that the Corps received a Congressional Inquiry from Senator Reid's office regarding the congressional language for the "Just Do It" project. Director Duerr explained that one of Member Larkin's favorite phrases, "get 'er done", has been re-fashioned into a name for the early-start, Corps funded projects. Mr. Henderson reported that funding requests are in the works from Senators Reid and Ensign.

B. PROJECT TIMELINE REPORT - Jay Aldean, Deputy Director, Truckee River Flood Project

Deputy Project Manager Beth Porter reported that the schedule for updating the model is finished, with the exception of finalization of the new hydraulic contract. She offered to provide the schedule once she finalizes it.

Member Martini made a motion to accept the report and verbal update. Member Larkin seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS, REQUESTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible action to approve items for future agendas.

Chair Smith stated that next month Director Duerr's performance evaluation would be scheduled. She clarified that it would actually be due in the fall. Director Duerr reported that the last couple of FPCC meetings have been fairly brief; however, the next few meetings are expected to have heavier agendas.

10. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Member Martini made a motion to adjourn. Member Ratti seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Niki Linn, Recording Secretary

Approved by FPCC in session on May 14, 2010.