

VALLEY FLOOD RESIDENTS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES HELD December 8, 2011

Members present: Harold Begger, Patty Davidson, Archie Harper, Les Harris, Lloyd Humphries, Sharlene LaRance, Jeannene Maas, Marlys & Carl Mattfeldt, Nikki Peters, Raymond Read, LaDawn Whiteside, and new member Les Bramblett.

The meeting was opened by Sharlene LaRance, and she welcomed County Commissioner Derek Brown. Items from the agenda were then discussed.

Item 1: Days open at the Moose Lodge for our meetings are the 2nd or 4th Thursdays.

Item 2: Subject L/C Website: Suggestions of items to put on are the committee's agenda, meeting dates, summary of the meeting minutes, names of contact person with an email address or phone number, and a list of the current committee members. A mission statement was suggested, however, it was decided that we would work on our goals and use them as the guidelines for the committee. Sharlene plans to meet w/Eric Bryson to see how the County's website works and determine exactly what we can send to him.

Item 3: Silver Creek (SC) discussion. Lloyd Humphries said that SC dries up every summer but now with the Marysville Drumlummon Mine pumping water from the lower aquifer to the higher aquifer into SC the ground level stays up. Marysville wells are going dry. DEQ hasn't issued a permanent permit yet. The County Commissioners know of the water problem and are concerned with the winter flow of SC. They are looking at relocating the creek to the north side of the road. This problem involves 12 houses along the creek.

Derek Brown gave a run down on what the commissioners are looking at. They had a meeting with several entities and he thinks they are now working together. There is a ditch named D2 and they want to get as much water to it as possible. A visual is needed so the committee can see where D2 is located.

Lloyd wants a map of all the ditches in the valley ASAP so the committee can develop goals and see where this is going for future flood control.

The committee wants a public meeting on or around January 12th.

Item 4: Discussion on County Flood Plan Regulations. Ray Read said there is a ditch out by him on Rhonda Road that a landowner filled in during the spring flood. What can we do about that? According to the County Flood Plain Regulations, a county permit is required if you do something within the flood plain. There was no permit given to him to fill in the ditch and this person is definitely in violation of the county flood plain regulations. Is the person required to bring the ditch back to its' original condition? Who reviews such actions? Who insures compliance? Who do you call to report the violation? Although we had this discussion, do not believe we ever reached a conclusion.

The question was brought up if the committee should hand out copies of the flood regulations or read them on the L/C website. It was decided that each member needs to take responsibility for getting their own copy from the L/C website.

Item 5: Increasing size of culverts. Archie Harper explained his suggestions/observations that were forwarded to the commissioners on November 7. In order for the Forestvale ditch to accommodate runoff, 36" culverts are needed or dual 24" round culverts Archie suggested arch-type culverts to minimize raising the fill to install them.. The floodwater never reached the Montana Ave ditch—the flows stopped 2 city blocks east of Kerr Drive. He suggested the ditch needs to be lined or sealed so water won't soak down and raise the ground level but will continue to move to the east.

Item 6: Work being done by Utility Companies. Derek Brown informed the committee that progress on the utility lines was now in the hands of the utility company. The old lines were buried very shallow so it was impossible to dig the ditch deeper. As soon as the utility company fixes this problem work will begin on the culverts again. A comment from Derek Brown assured the committee that property owners won't be charged for the new culverts.

Item 7: How can non-county people help with flood work. Discussion on retired people that are willing to do any work that will help move the flood problems forward to being solved. Derek said he would remember our offer.

Item 8: Handling expenses for the committee. Expenses for putting out minutes, agendas, etc. Lloyd Humphries volunteered to do some printing for us. Thank you! Derek Brown asked that we keep receipts of our expenses, present them to him, and he can reimburse the Committee. Another Thank You!

Item 9: Miscellaneous. Talked about a certification training program and how we need more info. This is called Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Paul Spangler is the coordinator for the County CERT program. We will request Paul Spangler to attend our January meeting and explain what CERT involves and if we could use it for a local neighborhood alert system during flooding.

Special Thanks to Derek Brown for joining us and giving us needed input into what is planned so far by the County Commissioners.

Next meeting will be on January 26th, 2012 at the Helena Moose Lodge at 7 pm.

Secretary,

Marlys Mattfeldt
459-5822

Coordinator(s),

Sharlene LaRance
458-6509

Archie Harper
458-9028

mmm
VFR Dec 8 Minutes