

**VALLEY FLOOD COMMITTEE (VFC)
MEETING MINUTES HELD February 29, 2012**

Members present: Harold Begger, Les Bramblett, Patty Davidson, Archie Harper, Les Harris, Sharlene LaRance, Marlys Mattfeldt, Raymond Read, LaDawn Whiteside.

Also in attendance were: County Commissioner Derek Brown; Jim White for the Red Cross; Jennifer McBroom from Water Quality; and Chuck Blanchard (possible new member).

Sharlene LaRance called the meeting to order and everyone introduced themselves.

Item 1: Jim White, a Red Cross volunteer, presented to each committee member a Red Cross bag that contained information about making an "Emergency Starter Kit." He showed us his own starter kit, which was in a duffle bag. Some of his examples were: a 7-day supply of medicine, extra keys, important correspondence, toilet paper, cash, handi-wipes, duct tape, food, canned soup, first aid kit, solar operated flashlight, etc. He also explained that each person needs a gallon of water per day for 3 days. He touched on "Map Your Neighborhood."

After making your emergency kit you need to decide where to keep it in a safe place. In addition to the kit we need to have a plan for any emergency, be informed and listen to 950 AM radio for emergency reports.

Item 2: WATERSHED FESTIVAL-- Jennifer McBroom, Water Quality. Jennifer explained that our committee set up our own booth at the Watershed Festival, August 18th and monitor the booth from 9am to 1 pm. We need to display our own information. So far Sharlene, Harold, Carl, Marlys, Archie, Ray and Patty have volunteered to man the booth.

MONITORING WELL LEVELS—Jennifer said it was up to each of us to monitor our wells and if we have any questions to call her at 457-8584. She is currently monitoring Sharlene's well. Other members that want to monitor their wells can send their readings to Sharlene and she will pass them on to Jennifer.

Item 3: Discussion on flooding at Silver Creek. Comments from Commissioner Brown: The Silver Creek flooding issue is resolved for now. The mine in Marysville was putting out 300 gal./minute and now is only putting out 150 gal./minute

Archie gave a snow report. New snow levels coming in March. In January the snow level was 135% above last year--lower % in tenmile area. Spring runoff is mid- May to mid June.

Item 4: Ray Read on "MAP YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD." March 10th at the Moose Lodge from 2-4 pm there will be a class held on how to map your neighborhood. The idea is to train the trainer. Then go back to your own neighborhood to get people to attend a 90 minute meeting.

Item 5: MISSION STATEMENT. Archie had made a mission statement for the committee. The only change noted is instead of Valley Flood Residents we are called Valley Flood Committee (VFC). The committee accepted the statement and it will be listed on the county web site. The mission statement is as follows:

Valley Flood Committee (VFC) Mission Statement

The mission of the Valley Flood Committee (VFC) is to promote progress on flood mitigation projects on behalf of valley (Tenmile/Silver Creek) residents at risk of flooding or rising ground water by engaging and collaborating with Lewis & Clark Country *officials*.

THE VFC has adopted this mission statement with three essential components:

- *To listen to valley residents' concerns and elevate them to the county commissioners/planners.*
- *To provide feedback to commissioners regarding county projects and programs affecting valley residents at risk from floods/groundwater.*
- *Keep county officials focused and alert to flooding issues specific to valley (Tenmile/Silver Creek) residents.*

Officials = commissioners, public works director, flood plain mgr., WQPD, etc.

Item 6: PHONE TREE. Archie brought up the topic of having a phone tree to get messages out quickly to all interested persons. Marlys will email the list from the county (people that attended the flood meetings and signed in) to the committee members and Sharlene will divide the list up for each member to call.

Item 7: WEATHER WARNINGS. Commissioner Brown thought the weather warnings meeting would be in April and on a Saturday. He will find out and report at the next meeting.

Item 8: MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION:

- a. Commissioner Brown—The county is drafting a sketch on where to put sandbags.
- b. Ray Read—talked about e-phones and how they could also be used to issue warnings. He also thought magnets to put on a refrigerator about the committee would be a good idea for the future.
- c. Lloyd Humphrey has requested to be removed from the committee. Jeannene Maas is also in her busy season and will not be able to attend meetings at this time but wants to be kept informed.,

Next meeting will be on March 22, 2012 at the Helena Moose Lodge at 7 pm.

Secretary/Treasurer.

Marlys Mattfeldt
459-5822

Coordinator(s).

Sharlene LaRance
458-6509

Archie Harper
458-9028