

**VALLEY FLOOD COMMITTEE (VFC)  
MEETING MINUTES HELD March 22, 2012**

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

Also in attendance were: Doug Nesbitt, Project Manager for County Road and Bridge Dept.; Bud Duprie, Interested Person on valley flood issues, and possible committee member; James Swiere, hydrologist from Water Quality Protection District; Les Pannetier, Interested Person on valley flood issues.

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

**Item 1:** DOUG NESBITT—Mr. Nesbitt gave us a report on what to expect on the Forestvale project and answered many questions. Work is scheduled for April 2<sup>nd</sup> and hopefully will be completed in 2 weeks. It will start on the south side of Forestvale, beginning at Kerr Rd. and go to Montana Ave. The only problem is the buried utility lines that they have to dig up which are any where from 11" to 40". All the culverts are corrugated and are 29"↑x42"→. There will be 2 culverts at Forestvale and Kerr (30") in order to make the 90° flow of water.

**Item 2:** JAMES SWIERE—Mr. Swiere gave a power point presentation on how the Water Quality Protection District is evaluating groundwater and surface water in the Helena Valley. The District hopes to better understand the connection between surface water flows and groundwater flows in hopes to better predict the potential for basement flooding James also expressed interest in monitoring the groundwater levels in some valley residents wells. Two people at the meeting expressed interest in having their wells monitored by James.

**Job for Archie:** He will speak to the Lake Helena Watershed group about the banks of 10 Mile eroding away. It is the committee's concern that they need to be shored up.

**Item 3:** LES PANNETIER—Told the committee about flooding problems he experienced a few years ago. Archie asked him to voice those concerns to Commissioner Derek Brown.

**Item 4:** RAY READ—Map Your Neighborhood went very well, however there were only 8 participants. It also turned out that all 8 participants were basically from the same area. He would like a map of neighborhoods showing resident houses.

**Item 5:** ARCHIE HARPER—Revisiting the Forestvale ditch design. His main concern is the possible need for a liner in the ditch to keep the water flowing not standing and becoming groundwater. Mr. Nesbitt stated that after the ditch is built, it would be evaluated on the need of some kind of liner.

**Item 6:** REVISITING THE COMMITTEE'S MISSION STATEMENT—tabled for next meeting.

**Item 7:** SHARLENE LaRANCE—What to do with the "Phone Tree"—tabled for next meeting.

**Item 8:** MISCELLANEOUS DISCUSSION: The “Weather Warnings” program is scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> from 2-4 pm at the West Valley Fire Hall.

In regards to cell phones, there is a section on the City of Helena’s website where you can register your address with your cell phone number.

Snow pack Report by Archie--Lower 10 Mile 104% last year, now at 132%; 10 Mile Middle, 115% last year, 102 % this year; Chesman Res., 115% last year, 142% this year; Kromer Meadow, 121% last year, 137% this year.

Next meeting will be on April 26, 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

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VFC Mar Minutes