

**VALLEY FLOOD COMMITTEE (VFC)
MEETING MINUTES HELD May 29, 2013**

Archie Harper called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM.

Roll call of VFC Members present: Les Bramblett, Archie Harper, Raymond Read, LaDawn Whiteside, Nikki Peters, Marlys Mattfeldt.

Other interested persons in attendance were: Neal Horne, Don McLellan, Earl Dorsey, Eric Barsness, James Skinner, Nanette Harris, Skeeter Baertsch, PJ McHugh.

Archie started the meeting out by explaining the mission of the committee and how this group is interested in flood control. This committee is not government related but a body of interested people that would like to protect their property from future floods. He created a chart that he would like everyone to follow in the future as follows:

LISTEN—do not interrupt others people talking—let them have their say and then you may make comments.

WORK ON THE PROBLEM—not the people

REFRAIN FROM PLACING THE BLAME—on individuals or groups. Stay focused on the flood problems and work on them.

Archie also talked about when new people attend a meeting we have to rehash the same subjects over and over. This becomes time consuming and we should devise a way to work on that problem.

Les Harris—thought maybe the VFC should develop a list of what we have already discussed in past meetings and share that information in a handout with new people that attend the meetings, and that way we could remain more focused.

Archie Harper—What is on the agenda tonight is discussion of the blue print of the master flood plan. This plan is now up for comment to the County Commissioners and our committee is working on a way to submit these comments to the County Commissioners. On the county website anyone can view the master plan. He believes most of our committee has already done this because we are motivated to see this plan thru.

Before we get into that discussion we have some business items that involve our committee. To start with Sharlene LaRance has stepped down from the position of coordinator. We need to fill her position. The coordinator must be motivated, works with all the members and interested persons, and is our contact with the county. Nobody volunteered at this time so Archie will cover for that position.

LaDawn Whiteside has put together a survey of questions to help us gather concerns from the public about the Flood Master Plan. This survey was discussed in length and some revisions' were made. That survey will be sent out to interested persons by a program called the "Survey Monkey Questions". At the end of the deadline (not determined at this time but it will be soon) several committee members will tabulate the results and those results will be sent to the County Commissioners.

Some Recommendations brought up from Roger LaVoie's letter:

Archie read LaVoie's letter and these were problems as LaVoie expressed: He generally supports for the plan; sees problems with 10-mile creek; price tag is too expensive; taking 10-mile creek and digging it out; raising the McHugh Bridge or at the very least have the silt removed; and the large amount of water that arrives at Mill Road

Don McLellan stated that 10-mile has always been the problem for all the floods and yet nobody ever tries to deal with it. Why is it that nothing is done about 10-mile?

Jim Skinner said that out at Blue Cloud Ranch 10-mile creek is a deep ditch. It's what we need all the way down from Green Meadow to McHugh.

Les Harris—thinks the LaVoie letter should be offered to the County Commissioners by himself unless his suggestions agree with the VFC suggestions.

Next meeting: will be on June 27, 2013 at the Helena Moose Lodge at 7 pm.

Secretary/Treasurer,
Marlys Mattfeldt
459-5822

Coordinator
vacant

Co-Coordinator
Archie Harper
458-9028

mmm
VFC May 2013 Minutes