

**VALLEY FLOOD COMMITTEE (VFC) Meeting Minutes
For October 24, 2013**

Archie Harper called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Roll call of VFC Members present: Archie Harper, Raymond Read, Marlys Mattfeldt, Les Harris, Harold Beggar.

Other persons in attendance: Skeeter Baertsch, Doug Nisbet (L&C County roads and bridges).

Archie started the meeting out announcing the VFC co-coordinator vacancy when former member, Sharlene LaRance, quit the VFC in May 2013. The VFC is looking for anyone who wishes to step up to fill this slot. Also, Marlys Mattfeldt had stepped down from her former role as VFC secretary/treasurer and the committee was once again asked if anyone would be interested in filling in behind her. The new position would serve primarily in the capacity as meeting note-taker.

Archie also talked about the BOCC's acceptance of the Flood Mitigation Master Plan (April 2013 version) back in July 2013. That Plan incorporates inputs from the VFC with important details from neighboring citizens in the Tenmile Creek and Silver Creek Study Areas.

Doug Nisbet --- Eric Bryson and Eric Griffin were absent from the meeting; Doug Nisbet provided information to update the VFC on the County's ongoing easement discussions with the Trap Club and Forestvale Cemetery board as well as utilities plans. Little information could be provided about progress on the Trap Club easement without Mr. Bryson and Mr. Griffin. The discussion then proceeded with progress on the Forestvale Cemetery easement and ditch lay out from Forestvale to Sierra Road.

Currently the easement for that ditch is staked out and utility companies (NW gas piping, phone, and optic fiber) are awaiting finalizing plans contingent upon a final Forestvale Cemetery board decision on the easement.

Lewis & Clark County Weed District Coordinator, Larry Hoffman, provided Doug with handouts for distribution to the committee and interested landowners regarding a Weed Trust Fund grant to help landowners manage noxious weeds along waterways that flooded in 2011.

Les Harris—Mr. Harris presented a copy of the Helena IR Paper (dated Aug 2, 2013) with a front page story about the Broadwater County's experience with FEMA grant funding relative to recent flooding. The point was brought up about whether Lewis & Clark County was pursuing FEMA funding aggressively enough.

Ray Read --- Had talked about summarizing accomplishments since the VFC's debut in October 2011 and emphasized recognition of people who contributed to the mission of the VFC since then. Ray also mentioned efforts about a greater Tenmile working group and how our VFC's mission might mesh with those discussions. Archie responded that all past Tenmile watershed sub-groups have

consolidated into the “Lake Helena Watershed Group” coordinated by Jennifer McBroom, and that Archie would contact Ms. McBroom about how the VFC might fall under this greater umbrella organization.

Ray also opened up topic for further future discussion on VFC recruitment.

Archie Harper— In the first year of its existence, the VFC with commissioner Derek Brown’s help has pushed the county on flood mitigation in the TMC study area with the focus on Forestvale from Kerr Lane to North Montana. Subsequently, the roadside ditch and all crossings along Forestvale east of Kerr Lane have been expanded/improved following utilities relocations in 2012. The County should be complimented for finishing this project in less than a year following the 2011 flood. Much of the VFC’s work over it’s second year focused on gathering feedback and support via resident surveys and citizen involvement at our meetings to help improve a master flood mitigation plan affecting most or all landowners in the two study areas.

Now that a Master Flood Mitigation Plan has been accepted by the BOCC, it is time to “put the rubber to the road” in terms of implementing projects in the TMC and Silver Creek study areas. Our focus as a committee shall turn to the task of maintaining contact with the County to ensure that some projects related to implementing the Master Flood Mitigation Plan are budgeted for each year.

We will not meet in November for observance of Thanksgiving Day holiday. All members and attendees please enjoy time with your families and friends. I will keep you posted via email regarding our next meeting agenda, which may be for January due to Christmas Holiday.

Archie Harper
VFC Coordinator
458-9028

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VFC Oct 2013 Minutes