

Flood Mitigation Working Group

Meeting Notes of March 13, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 1908 on March 13, 2006.

Members Present: Council Members Peter Breen, Wayne Cooper, Glenn Dearth, Nicholas Johnson, Reinhard Ludke, Patrick Ritter, Richard Stutsman.

Members Absent: None

Jack Curley, a Civil Engineer with Marin County Flood Control District was unable to attend this meeting due to other commitments, but will be at the next meeting. He will give a regular report on County progress.

The meeting started with reports by each of the committee members. The reports give are as follows:

Reinhard: Reinhard attended the Friends of Corte Madera Creek meeting. He presented a geomorphic study give to him by the Friends. He stated that the Friends are looking at getting funds from the County to look at the watershed.

Ritter: Patrick presented an extensive overview of various flood proofing systems available in the market place. He also talked to Napa County about what they did. He suggested getting them over to one of our meetings for a presentation.

Johnson: Nick stated that there are no current rainfall gages in the San Anselmo watershed. The Director at San Domenico stated that he would have a rain gage installed at the school once given the necessary requirements.

Stutsman: Stutsman stated that he did not have much to report because of being out of town. He had one anecdotal set of information given to him. He plans to get press releases in the IJ, Ross Valley Reporter and the Town Newsletter requesting information; flood stories, photos and other documentation of flood events.

Dearth: Glen presented a 400 MB GIS map of the Ross Valley. The county will be updating the map with additional data.

A draft Statement of Purpose was distributed by Peter and reviewed. Stutsman stated that item 6 with a June 2006 initial reporting of findings may not be realistic. Depending on the topic, it may take at least a year to generate findings. Perhaps a periodic update of activities to the Council.

Wayne stated that he would outline what he views should be the final product they expect from the Committee.

Stutsman stated that he felt the Committee may be moving too quickly with assignments and that we should step back and review the list of short, intermediate and long term tasks. What he has heard from the public was that they are only concerned in short term tasks and not that concerned right now about long term. Stutsman stated that only 2 of the 5 tasks that the committee is working on are short term. He suggested that we spend the next meeting or two reviewing the topics and making sure that we have addressed all the necessary topics, sort them and prioritize them. Then we can select and work on short term topics in conjunction with intermediate and long term tasks.

Peter suggested that Stutsman take the lead in that discussion at the next meeting.

During open time, Sam Wilson stated that he is convinced that the major issue that causes flooding downtown is the bottle neck of the buildings that span over the creek; such as Mama Teresa's.

Peter Laroix shared experiences with flooding in the Madera area.

Bob Lewis shared information on high water marks.

A FEMA representative, Robert Kleps, stated that he came to the meeting to see what we are doing and will be reporting our activities to his superiors. He said that grants may be available to the committee for some of the work or studies we are perusing.

The meeting was adjourned at 2130. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 27th at 1900.

Dick Stutsman
Acting Secretary