

Storm Water Management Advisory Board Minutes

from meeting held on Tuesday March 16, 2024

Present: Nefi M. Garza, Suzanne Brennan Scott, Kelsey Ann Krueger, Debbie Reid, Peter Onofre, Bernardino N. Villasenor, Roger Andrade, Bianca Maldonado, John Gilbert Hafernack Jr., Patrice Melancon.

Absent: Rodolfo Alejandro Munoz

Staff: Robert Reyna, Sabrina Santiago; Saif Al Haddad, Haley Taylor, and Mario Hune

In Attendance: Gian Villarreal and Cayethania Castillo

Minutes for February 27, 2024 and March 25, 2024 were approved.

Nefi Garza, Chair asked the community members share the information from these meetings with their respective Council Offices. Let them know what issues and information are being discussed in the advisory board. This would include the minutes and copies of presentations from the meetings.

Staff Presentation

Item 3 Briefing on the Concepcion Creek project was presented by Robert Reyna. The presentation included the history of the project presented at the 2022 Bond Committee and shared the project was not ready to move forward for consideration at that time. This is a large project with a high cost and will incur buyouts.

Ms. Scott asked if the data for this project was from the Atlas 14. Mr. Reyna confirmed that the most recent information was being utilized for this project.

Mr. Reyna presented the Alternatives for the project.

Ms. Scott asked if an earthen channel or hybrid channel was considered in the project. Mr. Reyna shared that the expected flows through this section of the proposed system and the requirement to include additional buyouts limited these options.

Mr. Aranda asked if the ground water issues from Kelly AFB closure had been considered or factored into the project.

Mr. Reyna stated this concern would be shared with the project team.

The Board asked if other options had been reviewed or are being considered. Mr. Reyna shared that in response to concerns about the buyouts for the project the consultant was looking at an underground option for cost and effectiveness.

At the end of the presentation the Chair went around the table to provide the members an opportunity to share their thoughts and ask additional questions about the Concepcion Creek project.

Ms. Maldonado shared this was a great plan, forward looking for this area. Discussion about buyouts, relocations and explaining these to the community will be tough, especially given the cost.

Ms. Reid shared the project could be creative and build with resiliency in mind. Reducing the floodplain may not be the best option for the area at large.

Ms. Melancon shared the project will need to educate the community how the floodplain came about.

Mr. Villasenor shared that he attended the meeting in the community. There are a lot of generational households. Looks like there is a need for detention pond and the project. But believes his view has to be as a representative of the community.

Ms. Krueger shared that she lives on Barbara Dr and is familiar with the process. Would like to know more about the timeline and lessons learned from other projects that went through the process. Asked about the hybrid structure and how it is working on the Barbara Dr. project. Should look at best practices for buyouts from other municipalities and communities.

Ms. Scott shared she went through buyouts with the Espada project that experienced a lot of issues and resident objections. Another project that had similar issues was a project in Cibolo as well. Challenge will be breaking up the neighborhood community what was like the Mission Mobile Home Park relocation.

Mr. Aranda shared that he believes the relocations are going to be tough.

Ms. V Villasenor shared there were some people at the meeting that were there for information about the project and were in favor of the buyout and relocation. There is a need to inform the public of all the options.

Mr. Hafernick shared that he does not see this project happen given the cost and his experience on the last drainage bond committee.

Mr. Onofre shared that he liked the perspective of resiliency and housing is important. Asked if Aquifer funds could be used for the buyout and relocations. Looking for other thoughts on the approach to meet a lot of social needs in the community.

Ms. Scott asked if the city would consider slowly buying out properties based on availability or voluntary sales? Mr. Reyna shared that it is too soon to purchase properties because the project is in the early stages, no ready funds and the perception in the community would not be good.

Ms. Melancon asked if regional funds are available for use? Ms. Santiago shared that the region fund is very low and it would not be feasible or practical.

Ms. Maldonado stated this project will also take a lot of political will to move it forward.

Board Discussion

The Board asked for the following items to be added in the future:

- Region 12 be invited to present who they are and what is planned.
- Briefing of the 2022 Bond Drainage projects
- Map of recent hot spots (311 calls) in San Antonio for drainage issues.

Meeting Adjourned 7:30 pm