

**MINUTES  
DRAINAGE COMMITTEE  
WEDNSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2007  
5:30 P.M.  
DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS SERVICES CENTER  
TRAINING ROOM (2<sup>nd</sup> FLOOR)  
1901 SOUTH ALAMO**

A meeting of the Drainage Community Bond Committee was held on January 10, 2006 at 5:30 pm in the Development and Business Services Center, 1901 South Alamo, Training Room (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) with the following present:

**Staff Present:** Phil Hardberger, *Mayor*; Sheryl Sculley, *City Manager*; Jelynn Burley, *Deputy City Manager*; Tom Wendorf, *Director of Public Works*; Jason Cosby, *Assistant Director of Public Works*; Nancy Beward, *Assistant Director of Public Works*; Peter Zanoni, *Director of Management and Budget*; Edward Benavides, *Executive Assistant to City Manager*; Yonnie Blanchette, *Special Projects Manager*; Chad Tustison, *Nicole Vasquez and Ron Campos, Office of Management and Budget*; Kent Hickingbottom, *Capital Programs Manager*; Chris Callanen, *Executive Assistant*;

**Commission Members Present:** Jim Greenwood, *Co-Chair, Mayor's Office*; Manny Pelaez, *Co-Chair, Mayor's Office*; Bob Wise, *Dist. 1*; Peggy Tedford, *Dist. 2*; Harold Williams, *Dist. 2*; Tommy Calvert, Jr., *Dist. 2*; Armando Cortez, *Dist. 3*; Todd Voges, *Dist. 3*; Mari Garza-Bird, *Dist. 4*; Michelle Perales, *Dist. 4*; Edie Gale Johnson, *Dist. 4*; Gloria Salinas, *Dist. 5*; Humberto Ramos, *Dist. 5*; Rolando Rocha, *Dist. 5*; Guadalupe Flores, *Dist. 6*; Jan Wells, *Dist. 6*; Paul Cotter, *Dist. 7*; Walter Ague, *Dist. 8*; Charlie Conner, *Dist. 8*; Bill Ellis, *Dist. 9*; Elisa Chan, *Dist. 9*; Sandra Malcolm, *Dist. 9*; Bob Robbins, *Dist. 10*; Ron Van Kirk, *Dist. 10*; Terry Layton, *Dist. 10*

**1. Call to Order**

Co-Chairs Jim Greenwood and Manny Pelaez called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Roll call was taken.

**2. Co-Chairman's Welcome**

Co-Chair Jim Greenwood asked for amendments to the minutes. Committee Members that were counted absent at the last minute and were in attendance were: Harold Williams, Paul Cotter, Ed Ray, Bob Weise, Todd Voges, Jan Wells, and Guadalupe Flores. The minutes were approved.

Co-Chair Manny Pelaez asked Committee Members to turn their mobile phones off and away from the tables. He also asked Members to please use the microphone when addressing the Committee. Mr. Pelaez thanked City Staff for the Bus Tour held on Saturday, January 6, 2007.

Co-Chair Greenwood stated he would like to discuss any changes Committee Members may have. He reminded the Members that next week's meeting will be a meeting where voting will take place. Co-Chair Greenwood asked welcomed Committee Member to make opening remarks, not questions, if desired.

- Ms. Malcolm stated she takes her position on this committee seriously. However, she would like direction on the process of prioritizing the projects to Council. She referred to the Adopted Top Ten Listed Criteria for Bond Projects. Ms. Malcolm asked Members to review the ranking of the criteria. Specifically #8, she was concerned why Public Safety and Property Protection are ranked so low at #8.
- Mr. Cortez stated the amount of resources available would limit the Committee as to having the answers to all questions answered and making decisions on prioritizing projects. He enjoyed the bus tour, and would like for the Committee to take into consideration any possible environmental impacts these projects may have in the short and long run.
- Mr. Ray would like to see percentages of projects that have street and drainage components within them.

### **3. Presentations and Discussion**

Peter Zaroni, Director of Management and Budget, addressed to the committee the follow-up material from the previous Bond Committee meeting to include updated quad sheets and project list (streets and drainage), Bexar Metro Water Projects, status of Mission Trails, status of previous bond projects. Mr. Wendorf will go into more detail regarding this material in his presentation.

Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works, reviewed the scope of the Roving Bus Tour Worksession held Saturday, January 6, 2007. Mr. Wendorf opened the floor for questions regarding the tour.

Phil Hardberger, Mayor, addressed the Committee and thanked them for their participation. The Mayor expressed the importance of this Bond Program for the City of San Antonio.

Sheryl Sculley, City Manager, briefly reviewed the City Council Allocation Analysis worksheet from the Recommended Infrastructure Projects with the Committee as it

corralates with rough proportionality. This analysis reflects amended City Staff Bond Program recommendations for Streets & Sidewalks and Drainage Projects.

Humberto Ramos, Committee Member asked to define a city-wide project. An example of bridge projects city-wide was given. Another example given was the Medical Center area and how the entire city visits this area and it belongs to everyone. Downtown was also given as an example of a city-wide project.

Ed Ray, Committee Member asked about leveraging dollars for Medical Center projects and how those larger projects get funded. Ms. Sculley said the City does their best to assist in funding larger projects through leveraging dollars. Mr. Ray asked how the Recommended Projects List came about. Ms. Sculley also indicated the city made the best professional recommendation to determine what was included in the Recommended Project List.

Sheryl Sculley, City Manager, stated the Top Ten Criteria for Recommended Projects should be taken as a whole, very important to consider when making recommendations. Ms. Malcolm, again, stated Public Safety should be a higher priority.

Todd Voges, Committee Member stated this was a huge Bond Program and the City does not want to end up like the City of Austin, who continues to fight traffic problems.

Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works, reviewed the revised Recommended Drainage Projects and the reason for the revisions. These revisions included changes to the Octavia Phase II and Frio City Road projects. Mr. Wendorf also reviewed the revisions to the Streets and Sidewalks projects to include Bridge Replacement projects and the Octavia Phase II project on the Streets and Sidewalks side. Mr. Wendorf emphasized that the committee had received a staff recommendation and this did not constitute anything more than a staff recommendation.

The Committee asked questions regarding why revisions were made by City Staff without the consent of the Committee. Co-Chair Greenwood reminded the Members they may revise the revisions made by City Staff.

Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works, reviewed the follow-up material from the last Bond Committee Meeting. The first item reviewed was the follow-up from the Roving Bus Tour.

Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works, reviewed the question asked at the previous meeting regarding flooding at Culebra and Loop 410 from Westwood Village Creek. This is a relatively large site (20% of the size of the storage area behind Olmos Dam). A Member asked if there was any chance of the Eckhert drainage project be moved from the Prioritized List to the Recommended Drainage Project list. Mr. Wendorf stated we needed to find out the probability of the area. A Member stated that Leon Creek has a nice watershed and projects should be modeled after that particular project. Another

Member agreed with the Leon Creek comment and wanted know about regional water retention. Mr. Wendorf spoke briefly about regional water detention.

Sandra Malcolm, Committee Member, stated the amount of time the Committee had to make decisions is not enough time to make an educated decision. She stated to the other Members to refer to their quad sheets for more information on projects. The Ms. Malcolm also states, again, the issue of Public Safety should be a higher priority. The Member gave the example of the Henderson Pass incident in which case a woman died in the low water crossing. The Ms. Malcolm indicated it takes someone to die for important projects like the Henderson Pass project to get done. Co-Chair Greenwood stated he believes City Staff taken Public Safety into consideration when scoping out all projects. Mr. Greenwood also stated policy to fix the problem we face with safety and drainage would not be able to pass in such little time for this Bond recommendation.

A Committee Member stated the San Antonio River Authority, County and City Staff have been working together to improve drainage problems. He stated the recommendations before the Committee did not just come from the City Staff, but from projects being discussed by many entities.

Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works, continued his presentation discussing a follow-up item on tree removal. Specifically, he addressed the question on project #1629, Fort Sam Houston. A Member asks if this project includes a bridge. Mr. Wendorf answers a bridge may be needed and there are current projects addressing these issues. Another Member asked if widening will be included for this street. Mr. Wendorf stated his opinion is that funding of this project will attract federal funding that might otherwise not be available.

Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works, moved to the next follow-up issue which was a low-water crossing at Roland Avenue. A Peggy Tedford, Committee Member, stated Roland Avenue is becoming a fast way for people to get to downtown and it is a growing area for traveling. Mr. Wendorf stated Roland Avenue is on the Bexar County Watershed Improvement List. Mr. Wendorf stated that if the High Water Detection System project that is currently recommended as a bond project is approved, he will look at Roland Avenue and its 2 low water crossings as a possible location for a High Water Detection System. He did state that there are 168 Low Water Crossings in the corporate city limits of San Antonio. Ms. Malcolm asked about safety regarding this particular project. Ms. Malcolm was concerned there are other projects to be voted on that have anywhere from 5-10 feet of water and all projects need to be prioritized by safety issues. Another Member stated she doesn't think any of the projects brought forward would have made it this far and proposed if they did not take safety into consideration. Co-Chair Pelaez asked Mr. Wendorf if the recommendations would be different if Council Top Ten #8 (Public Safety) were changed to #1. Mr. Wendorf answered, no.

Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works, continued his presentation to address follow-up requested on environmental concerns from a Committee Member.

Tom Wendorf, Director of Public Works, finished up his presentation and addressed drainage issues along Castle Bridge and Castle Hunt. He also addressed flooding along the 1200 block of West Magnolia from Capital Street to the Union Pacific Railroads train tracks or Barbara Witte-Howell. Mr. Wendorf also stated he has cost estimates on Oakland Estates, which was on the Prioritized List.

Ms. Malcolm inquired about the deadline for submitting new projects. Mr. Greenwood stated that if there were project ideas, committee members needed to work with city staff to get them evaluated.

Mr. Ray stated that the drainage inlets on Prue Road near the Police Substation needed to be cleaned out.

Mr. Bob Robbins, Committee Member, stated he is fine with the process that committee is going through. He stated that some of the projects on the drainage list seemed more like street projects. He inquired whether staff has evaluated recommended projects to ensure that they are categorized properly. He also asked if city staff could provide a matrix comparing the list of prioritized projects with the Council Project Criteria.

Ms. Michelle Perales, Committee Member, asked if a recommended project map could be provided that showed the watersheds in San Antonio.

Mr. Tommy Calvert, Jr. Made a motion that Citizens to be Heard be taken up before the Committee continued its discussion as the hour was getting late.

#### **4. Citizens to be Heard**

Ms. Sue Schneider (hand out), spoke about the East Heubner Creek in the Oakland Estates Subdivision (HOA). The intersection at (Oakland and Haskin) is flooding constantly because of drainage run-off problems

Mr. Frank Granery, lives between Roland Ave and Salado Creek, spoke about poor drainage affecting his family business of farming. Flood water has increased through the years. About 2-4 feet of flood water will rise. Many high-water rescues and accidents happen at this intersection.

Victor Villarreal, lives at (East Village HOA) Rittiman Road and Castle Rose and is pleased the city has this intersection under consideration for improvement.

Joe Saenz, Vice Pres. Ft. of San Antonio Engineering wants to use the city's process on acquiring recommendations for their own projects (requirements). The project is \$7 M for Kelly that borders Leon Creek. Flooding takes place there. He wants to prioritize this project better.

Royce Hill – not present

Marvin Hadish, lives in Kentwood Manor (HOA) spoke about the tremendous growth in San Antonio over the years. The growth has been causing the flooding. Four homes he knows of have been purchased by the city because of continuous flooding. Money has always been scarce for improvements. He indicated Kentwood Manor does not meet city standards.

Gabriel Castillo – not here

Christopher Bradmen – not here

Walter Thurman, Oak Park Neighborhood Association, spoke on item #4 on the priority list and item #2 and item #6, #5, #1. City spends too much on yellow flashing lights and not enough on drainage to get water off the streets.

Mark Possum, Kentwood Manor (281 N.), spoke about City installed sewer systems years ago, but they do not help. He has been told their substandard drainage would be improved, but has not. Their taxes have doubled, yet no improvements to drainage. When recent floods came in 1998, 2000, 2001, the neighborhood flooded. He gets trash pickup, but not drainage issues resolved.

## **5. Questions/Comments from Committee**

Questions were taken from Committee Members at this time (see attachment.)

**MOTION (made by Rocha):** Initiate discussion for next week starting from the original list Mr. Wendorf provided in the beginning (with Frio included, before any revisions).

**MOTION APPROVED**

Member requested the minutes on the citizens to be heard before the next meeting by email.

## **6. Adjournment**

Co-Chairs Jim Greenwood and Manny Pelaez made closing comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm