

Historic Ellicott City Flood Workgroup

MINUTES

October 26, 2015 from 6:00PM – 8:00PM

Attendance/Roll Call:

Present
Brandon Bedford
Kevin Bloom
Mark DeLuca
Frank Durantaye
Bob Frances
Mike Hinson
Debra Korb
Raj Kudchadkar
Lori Lilly
Ken McNaughton
Ryan Miller
Ron Peters
Bruno Reich
Gary Smith
Debbie Slack Katz
Not present
Jim Caldwell
Dave Myers
Jason McMillan

Approval of Minutes – October 19th meeting minutes approved with the exception that Frank would like to add his verbatim words to the minutes from 10/19/2015. A copy of Frank's testimony was given Lori to incorporate.

Calendar Review – Confirm and review new bi-monthly (twice a month) meeting schedule through December. Extend meeting times from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. The dates selected:

- October 26th (added)
- November 16th
- November 23rd (added) – someone else needs to do the minutes this day

- December 14th (changed from 12/21)

Discussing Framework of Report– The Workgroup confirmed the objective of the report due to the County Executive and outlined its focus at the previous meeting. This discussion focused on what additional topics need to be added and addressed and any issues that need further attention because they are missing from the framework developed for the report. The group determined that the framework for the report has captured all the items it needs to fulfill the executive order. The group also decided that they will be looking to MEMA, instead of FEMA, for additional guidance.

Ken proposed a change to opening sentence to read as: “The FW is making the following recommendations to the CE with the goal of protecting the ECHD by enhancing public safety and minimizing damage to properties.” All agreed.

The following additions and changes were noted to the framework proposed in the 10/19/2015 meeting minutes (italicized and bolded sections).

Structural

1. Fund Phase I and Phase II mitigation projects
2. Repair channel walls
 - Offer multiple mechanisms to all property owners: easements, cost share, grants, etc.
 - Within 2 years
 - *Prioritize walls supporting buildings spanning the channels*
 - *Primary and secondary egress is a priority*
3. Implement floodproofing projects - Re-create FEMA process with a local model; *grant program*; provide technical assistance to businesses and homeowners; get lists of qualified contractors that can meet historic district standards; provide cost share; *use FEMA BMPs for floodproofing*; *County has trouble meeting FEMA monetary thresholds so with the local model the, County can lower the threshold*; *apply to MEMA for hazard mitigation fund*; *grant process / tax incentive to be added to model*
4. Increase size of existing stormwater management ponds and add new ones (29/40 interchange)
5. *Investigate* increasing size of pipes under Frederick Rd – change to bridges where possible – *or suggest this as an item for further analysis / investigation*
6. *Raise* the walking bridge behind the Visitor’s Center
7. *Create* spillway / storage under Main St
8. *Create* storage under Lot F
9. Increase channel size in Lot D
10. *Generalize some of above points to “Investigate deepening the channels and increase capacity”*
11. Create a quarry that will also store water
12. Create a private co-op of sorts to make smaller improvements to walls

13. Make the riverbeds a park with walkways
14. *Added - Encourage the use of rain gardens, bioretention areas and rain barrels*
15. *Added - Investigate pervious surfaces*

Maintenance / Monitoring

The group discussed merging / generalizing some of the points below.

1. *Monitor and* remove debris from channels regularly and check channels after storm and wind events for new debris removal and document with photo / video
2. Monitor amount of debris on island in Patapsco
3. Monitor trees and debris in three other non-Hudson streams
4. Explore use of drone technology to do monitoring
5. Real time monitoring of water levels
6. Monitor status and progress of all recommendations made to CE – **This is to be put as part of overarching recommendations for the report**
7. Flood alert – add siren / alarm to new system at Colored School

Education

1. Provide a one-stop shop online dedicated resource page for all information related to EC flooding, mitigation, preparedness, technical resources, grant programs, meeting minutes from Flood Workgroup, etc
2. County outreach to homeowners who have lived in EC a long time to share knowledge
3. Promote flood preparedness video
4. Educate new property owners and tenants about flood risk
5. Have a Water Day to raise awareness
 - a. Have guest speakers – e.g. instant command in SC
6. Initiate community level planning for emergency preparedness (e.g. sand bags, monitoring and disseminating info from stream gage), communications and recovery
7. *Added - Partnership/education of/with upstream friend*
8. *Added - Stencil storm drains in EC*
9. Seek other partnerships to be involved in flood awareness and printed collateral material, e.g. Red Cross and Southwest Airlines
10. Hold joint meeting with other groups in County, e.g. *Watershed Stewards*
11. *Added – At least public meeting (held in 2016)*

Programmatic / Capacity

The group discussed merging / generalizing some of the points below.

1. Hire a staff person to oversee and coordinate flood mitigation efforts – reports to County Executive, works across departments, submits grants, coordinates and spearheads forward momentum
 - o Create position for staff as a grant writer
2. Work with County delegation to find grant / funding opportunities
3. Work with federal agencies to identify federal assistance

4. Offer (*tax*) incentives to HOAs and businesses to implement infrastructure remediation
5. Continue funding and support of the READY program
6. Seek public / private partnerships for funding infrastructure improvements
 - Expand this to include awareness
7. Create a program to identify places for floodproofing – *offer incentive program – merge with other floodproofing*

Other

This is to be put as part of overarching concept for the report - Format the report as Action Plan - Set and state goals – e.g. enhance public safety, reduce peak flows, minimize damage, etc – include measurable objectives – e.g. reduce peak flows by 10%, 80% of residents and business owners will have an emergency plan, etc.

- Add deliverables to report to CE
2. No new development in the Tiber Hudson watershed or increase the standard requirements such that further development has significant dis-incentives – *This requires further discussion, some in the group suggested making the recommendation more positive / incentivizing; a point was raised that we need to be careful about instituting defacto eminent domain*
 3. Remove from conversation talks about homeowners personal responsibility – *Frank to adjust this language*
 4. Delineate funding between stormwater management (flooding) and water quality
 5. If purchasing properties, offer the option to everyone at risk

Each person was tasked / volunteered to develop an intro section for each piece of the report above:

- Bruno / Kevin – structural
- Ron – maintenance and monitoring
- Ken / Debbie – education
- Frank – other
- Lori – programmatic capacity
- Debra – Conclusion statement

New Business: Member topics of interest, important events, etc.

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