

## RUTHRAUFF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

### **PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDER MEETING #2 SUMMARY**

**LOCATION:** Ellie Towne Flowing Wells Community Center  
Multipurpose Room  
**DATE:** Thursday, Oct. 23, 2014  
**TIME:** 1:30 – 3 p.m.

#### **PROJECT TEAM**

Evan Canfield, Project Manager, Pima County Regional Flood Control District  
Mindy Cox, Pima County RFCD  
Terry Hendricks, Pima County RFCD  
Akitsu Kimoto, Pima County RFCD  
Diane Luber, Pima County Communications  
Jason Green, City of Tucson Planning & Development  
Ian Sharp, JE Fuller  
Janice Mock, Stantec  
Sandy Steichen, Stantec  
Chuck Williams, Stantec  
John Wise, Stantec  
Jan Gordley, Gordley Group  
Lori Lantz, Gordley Group

#### **ATTENDEES**

Adam Bliven, Pima County RWRD  
Dave Crockett, Flowing Wells Irrigation District  
Jeannie Davis, Pima County District 1 Administrative Staff  
Matt Kopec, Pima City of Tucson Ward 3 Administrative Staff  
Irene Ogata, City of Tucson Office of Integrative Planning  
James Burns, Amphi School District  
Kevin Daily, Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association  
Susan Grant, Flowing Wells NA  
Louise Newman, Campus Farms NA  
Theresa Pena, Westwood Village/Flowing Wells NA  
Michael Ray, Limberlost NA

#### **1.) *Introductions and Opening Comments***

*Evan Canfield*

#### **2.) *Agenda Review and Meeting Purpose***

*Chuck Williams*

- Project purpose is to develop a comprehensive flood control program, develop drainage alternatives and provide a balanced multi-objective approach, as well as produce a report that Pima County and City of Tucson approve and adopt.
- The purpose of this meeting is to inform stakeholders of the project objectives and overview, receive input from stakeholders and identify any other related issues.

#### **3.) *PowerPoint Presentation: Project Overview***

*John Wise, Evan Canfield*

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### 4.) *Stakeholder Involvement/Input (Discussion)*

*Chuck Williams Facilitating*

- Comment: What amount of rain would produce a 100-year flood?
  - Response: A three hour-storms producing 3.2 inches of rain produces the 100-year storm runoff within the project area.
  
- Comment: Do your maps show sheet flooding?
  - Response: Yes, sheet flooding above six inches in depth is shown. Sheet flow occurs in an area like a parking lot where there is no well-defined channel and water flows across a wide area, shallow and usually less than a foot deep. The water is not fast moving, but causes a lot of flooding problems in this project area.
  
- Comment: Older large apartment rentals were built before requirements to capture water on property. Properties downstream experience sheet flooding. What is the public policy framework or solutions to take care of this?
  - Response: The implementation plan will have recommended alternatives, which can either be structural, like a channel, or non-structural, like an ordinance, or both. Most new developments are required to have drainage basins since the ordinance was put in place in the early 1980's.
  
- Comment: Who weighs performance criteria? Do stakeholders have input?
  - Response: Yes, stakeholders have input. Workgroups composed of the district, consultant team, interested stakeholders and interested public give input throughout the process to develop performance criteria. Then weighted criteria are developed in a similar way.
  
- Comment: How do you gather interested stakeholders?
  - Response: We are doing that now, including local government, regulatory agencies, elected officials, utilities, wastewater, neighborhood associations and interested citizens' groups. We will also have public meetings.
  
- Comment: Are there regular maintenance schedules for inspections on grates and drainage structures, or is maintenance scheduled only after complaints or flood events?
  - Response: Both systems are in place. But we can't be everywhere with our limited staff; people need to call us. Pima County knows the problem areas and checks on them before anticipated events as well as following up on complaints. Some areas don't have drainage solutions yet.
  
- Comment: Where is the existing 100-year floodplain?
  - Response: The FEMA-adopted floodplain which is used for insurance purposes is shown in the map on the slide. The City and County have other floodplain maps which they have the authority to regulate in the interest of protecting public safety. The Pima County floodplain map extends further than the FEMA area. When building a new development in existing floodplains, the City and County have restrictions. Development has to prove they can deal with existing drainage water and won't send water onto adjacent properties.

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- Comment: Will this avoid situations like the flood in 1983 when businesses and buildings went down into the Rillito?
  - Response: If we can identify potential problem areas, that leads to better planning and helps to prevent future losses. In this project we are not looking at flooding on the Rillito and the Santa Cruz rivers; it's the flooding that occurs upstream of those two Rivers.
- Comment: When did the project start, and how long will it take?
  - Response: The project started in April and is expected to last two years. When flooding and drainage problem analysis is completed and finalized, we can move into the alternatives analysis.
- Comment: My biggest concern is a drainage area in my little Flowing Wells neighborhood. Who is supposed to maintain it?
  - Response: City Streets, Tucson Department of Transportation, maintains watercourses, so you can call City of Tucson Streets and Maintenance.
- Comment: The City staff say it is the County's responsibility. One year they cleaned it up, but not since.
  - Response: Email me, Terry Hendricks, the location and I can tell you who maintains it. We can determine the jurisdiction and responsibility to maintain and can send in the request for maintenance.
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- Comment: Are these maps available online?
  - Response: Some maps are online, but not the PowerPoint. This is still a work in progress, so many maps are in preliminary draft form. Once it's done, the maps will be online. Existing and local floodplains are online.
- Comment: When you increase drainage at the railroad tracks, any idea of the amount of acre-feet of water that will be going into the Santa Cruz and pushing into Marana?
  - Response: Are you asking do we know how much water will pass beneath the interstate and into the Santa Cruz River, possibly increasing flooding in Marana? Does this solution make problems downstream? No, this will not affect Marana. By the time this area drains, the peak of the Santa Cruz flow will be past. Part of a successful alternative is not creating additional problems.

We are planning a public meeting. Are there any items of information that you would like to see addressed at the public meeting?

- Comment: We would like to know what kind of impacts on daily life will occur when the project is done; whatever will affect constituents negatively or positively.
  - Response: We will look at addressing impacts.
- Comment: From a neighborhood point of view I see efforts to increase curb cuts, directing water to tree basins along the roadway. Some of these areas have street-related flooding where some of that water could be put to better use to be absorbed and create tree cover. The engineering side is how to move water out with the flood, looking at water as a problem rather than a resource.
  - Response: We are looking at these opportunities to capture water for the landscape. This falls under the alternatives development and is being included in the

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discussions. A current example is in use at the library and park across the street. We are also looking at 10- and 25-year flood events, not just 100 years.

- Comment: What is the timing of study findings with the Arizona Department of Transportation project, specifically at the overpass at Ruthrauff?
  - Response: Culverts are planned around 2018 for Ruthrauff at I-10. At Flowing Wells Wash, culverts are going in about January or February 2015. As I-10 is widened the drainage structures will also be improved. When the railroad put in their second line, they already made some of the drainage improvements. We will be looking at what opportunities could be utilized once the drainage improvements along I-10 are done.
- Comment: What are plans regarding the project along Gardner Lane?
  - Response: Potential plans with ADOT are for culverts underneath the railroad and I-10 later, but not along Gardner at this point. This would be part of our solutions alternatives.
- Comment: A neighborhood coalition exists – you could meet with them to let them know about the project. Flowing Wells Neighborhood Association meets every third Thursday in the evening.
  - Response: We are looking at the schedule for a public meeting, and it will be in the evening.

### **5.) Summary/Next Steps**

*Evan Canfield*

- Watch for updates on the website and project report document.
- If you would like to provide more questions or input, fill out the comment form and mail, fax or email to Evan Canfield.
- A public meeting is being planned, possibly for early December, and you will be invited.
- Continued stakeholder coordination will include meeting individually and in small groups.
- Deliverable production is ongoing. Good progress is being made on preliminary drafts.

### **6.) Adjourn**

*Evan Canfield*

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.