

**FRUITA CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 24, 2002
JOINT MEETING
CITY OF FRUITA,
CITY OF GRAND JUNCTION,
TOWN OF PALISADE,
MESA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND
GRAND JUNCTION DRAINAGE DISTRICT**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The joint meeting of various agencies, including the Fruita City Council, was called to order by County Commissioner Kathy Hall at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and introductions made. Fruita City Council members present were Ken Dodgion, Dave Karisny, Trinidad Silva, Mel Mulder, Nick Kohls and Mayor Adams.

2. GRAND VALLEY STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PRESENTATION

A. Presentation

Mike Meininger, Mesa County Engineer, presented a slide show to the group concerning the formation of a steering committee to make a recommendation on how to proceed with storm water management.

Mike Meininger stated that, if the entities concur, they are recommending that the storm water steering committee consist of 14 members with a wide variety of backgrounds and interests. Members of the committee would be appointed by the entities by joint agreement with nine of the members nominated by staff and each entity nominating an additional member for a total of 14 members.

Staff from the various entities have been meeting for two years to address federal regulations and storm water issues which includes operation and maintenance, capital improvements and water quality issues. Slides of floods which have occurred in various areas of the valley in the last several years were shown. Storm water management involves a number of different agencies. Storm water generated in one drainage basin affects a number of jurisdictions and there is a need to look at a regional solution to these issues. He reviewed the boundaries of irrigation districts, drainage district, and municipalities in the valley that deal individually with storm water. They have looked at various infrastructure improvements for 6 of 28 drainage basins. Major drain improvements in these 6 basins would cost approximately \$34,500,000. Issues include flood control, and compliance with federal regulations.

Staff has concluded that the next step is to define the extent of the problems and gauge community support for future funding. The Steering Committee will be charged with making a recommendation for long range planning for valley wide storm water management. As part

of this they will look at organizational issues including the feasibility of unification of efforts for storm water management. The unification feasibility study will be funded by a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Staff and consultants will provide background and technical information and organization.

A resolution is before each of the entities to approve the formation of the 14 member committee. Proposed members of the committee will be brought to the individual entities for appointment. It is anticipated that the committee will issue a final report with recommendation in August of 2003.

Tasks set for the committee include an introduction, ground rules and education, problems and needs, program priorities, planned program, organizational options, funding options and the final recommendation. Program issues include needs and priorities for flood control, water quality, storm water management including operations and maintenance, and determining the appropriate level of service. Some of the potential organizational options include a new service provider, expansion of existing operations and intergovernmental agreements. Funding possibilities include existing tax revenues, grants and charges or fees for service.

The Steering Committee would consist of individuals who have been affected by floods, an environmental consultant, business owners, insurance agents, developers, engineering consultants, building contractor and at large members representing the various districts or areas.

B. Discussion and Public Comment

There were questions from various representatives. It was noted that there needs to be representation from individuals whose residences have been flooded. There was a question concerning how agricultural water plays into storm water management. Mike Meininger stated that agricultural drainage will need to be a part of overall issues addressed, but they are exempt from the federal regulations.

Mike Meininger stated that Phase 2 of the federal regulations require that a permit be obtained by March 10, 2003. These regulations will definitely apply to Mesa County and the City of Grand Junction. They may or may not be applicable to Palisade and Fruita. One of the questions is whether or not the entities just want to address storm water run off or if they want to look at the bigger issue of flooding. Federal regulations include non-numeric standards such as education, information, and public involvement, illicit discharge, post construction inspections, and plan reviews. A cooperative approach to the implementation of these regulations and a sharing of resources makes sense as a more cost efficient and effective method than each individual entity going out and providing their own education and information campaign. The State Health Department is imposing numeric water quality standards on storm water and drainage that flows to the Colorado River.

One of the key efforts of the committee is to identify potential financial resources to address

needs. There was concern that there is a preconceived idea that a consolidated entity is the best way to go and caution was urged in the manner in which the information is presented to the committee so that they form their own conclusions and recommendations.

It was noted that each of the 28 basins could have a varying level of service dependent upon mitigating factors such as development, density, land use, etc.

The individual entities reviewed the proposed resolution.

" COUNCILMAN SILVA MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2002-34 APPROVING THE FORMATION OF A STORM WATER MANAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE. COUNCILMAN KARISNY SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WERE 5 YES VOTES.

The Town of Palisade, Mesa County Commissioners and Grand Junction Drainage District also adopted the resolution approving the formation of the committee. The City of Grand Junction felt they needed more time to review the issues and will take action on the resolution within the next several weeks.

With no further business to come before the Fruita City Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Steelman, City Clerk