

AGENDA - FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT 9 MEETING
Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 9:00AM
OLD COURTHOUSE – Commissioner’s Room
206 S. 1st Ave. Hailey, ID 83333

CALL TO ORDER, ESTABLISH QUORUM

Meeting moved to Blaine County Annex Building at 8:50am due to scheduling issues.
Meeting called to order by Bryan Dilworth at 9:02 am.

Commissioners Bryan Dilworth and John Wright present.

Also present:

Stephanie Carlson, Amanda Bauman, Suzanne Pattinson, Chris Corwin, Cory McCaffrey, Miles Sweek.

ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes from September 25, 2024

Stephanie Carlson clarified the investment policy section of the minutes. The Board discussed the need for bylaws or a policy manual on top of the state guidelines, to make sure we aren't violating state statute and to make our policies clear. It was agreed that we need to work on putting something together.

John Wright moves to approve the minutes as is, Bryan Dilworth seconds. The motion to approve the 9/25/24 minutes passes unanimously.

CONSENT CALENDAR (ACTION ITEM):

- Stephanie Carlson Invoice #101
- Project Big Wood Invoice #1001 & 1002
- IME Invoices #12682586 & 12683154

John Wright moves to approve the Consent Calendar, Bryan Dilworth seconds. The motion to approve the 10.17.24 Consent Calendar passes unanimously.

BANK UPDATES:

Monthly Remittance Total | Monthly LGIP Interest Earned | DL Evans Balance

Bryan Dilworth and John Wright have reviewed the bank statements. Leave as is.

NEW BUSINESS (ACTION ITEM):

-FCD9 Meeting Schedule Change

The Board discussed moving the meeting to 3:00pm to better accommodate FCD9 schedules, Stephanie Carlson said the facilities are available on Monday and Wednesdays at that time. It was discussed with the Board and FCD9 partners on what day would work best, and Wednesday was the preferred day. Dilworth and Wright agreed that the FCD9 regular meeting could be held at 3:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Carlson mentioned that the schedule can be changed if there are conflicts as long as we notice it.

John Wright moves to set the Flood Control District 9 regular meeting schedule to 3:00pm on the 3rd Wednesday of every month, Bryan Dilworth seconds, the motion passes unanimously.

-New Commissioner Prospect

Suzanne Pattinson was introduced as the new commissioner prospect. Pattinson lives in division 2 and is well qualified for the position with her experience in environmental consulting in Northern Idaho and working in wetlands, construction, and environmental impact statements. She also has a degree in Natural Resource Conservation. Pattinson asked about the time dedication for the position and the Commissioners explained that it depends on how much time she wants to invest.

John Wright moves to appoint Suzanne Pattinson as Commissioner of the Flood Control District 9, Bryan Dilworth seconds. The motion to appoint Suzanne Pattinson as Commissioner passes unanimously.

Carlson will work with Suzanne on getting sworn in and establishing the \$5,000 bond required to serve as a FCD commissioner. This will be completed within the 15 day requirement.

Pattinson's question about time investment led to a discussion about protecting the levees in FCD9. There are currently only 2 levees approved by the Corps of Engineers and the rest are in disrepair, so there is a question about whether or not the FCD9 needs to protect those levees since they no longer provide infrastructure protection. Wright mentioned that in the future he might propose the removal of the levees. Dilworth didn't think Blaine County would approve removing the levees. The Commissioners discussed how Biota did the construction on the Broadford Levee years ago, and that the Star Bridge is a large levee that doesn't appear to serve any purpose now that the river has shifted. It was suggested that FCD9 pay for a study to find out what levees could be removed. Breaching the Star Bridge levee was discussed, the airport doesn't want that area of the river expanded due to the fact that it would increase bird activity in close proximity to the airport. Cory McCaffrey added that the long term goal is to connect the cities of Hailey and Bellevue via a greenway through the area south of the airport, and that they could use trails to reconnect the floodplain. Wright brought up that FCD9 has been responsible for maintaining levees that are questionable, and the levees may not be protecting. We need an understanding of where the levees are, what purpose they are serving, and what the impact would be if they were removed. Corwin mentioned that the Corps of Engineers will pay for maintenance on the levees that are approved, so that responsibility wouldn't fall solely on FCD9. Wright talked about FCD9 reinventing itself and expand past protecting levees, but to protecting the Big Wood River through holistic approaches that help prevent flooding and damage to infrastructure.

-Tom Richmond Discussion

Wright and Bauman met with Tom Blanchard and received more information on the history of the river in the area that Tom Richmond has been discussing in public comment. The levee in the area by Riverside Dr. in Bellevue existed before the neighborhood was developed. When Riverside Estates was developed, flooding was supposed to be channeled down Riverside Dr. to prevent damage, but the 2017 flood caused the river to run into the properties along the river and caused a landowner to lose land along the river.

Wright and Bauman discussed how the City of Bellevue didn't want to be liable, so they allowed for a large amount of rock to be placed in the riparian area in that part of the river. Wright brought up a previous discussion on whether or not FCD9 should be involved with work on private land. He said that if there is a threat to public infrastructure FCD9 should be involved

even if it's on private property, and mentioned that public streets are included as public infrastructure.

Tom Richmond wants to open the side channel in the river and breach the levee. (see below image). McCaffrey said that the side channel is open, and that the WRLT is required to survey and maintain the channel, and provide reports. He has recently been to the side channel and took photos that show that it is open and still operating as planned. It was also discussed that a berm had been built along the bend of the river north of the channel and there is also a dam, both of which control how the river is directed.

Wright mentioned that when FCD9 is protecting infrastructure, restoration should be a tool to achieve protection. He also said that if FCD9 is protecting public infrastructure that it may require going onto private land and we may have to do that in that area. The Drinkers of the Wind subdivision hasn't been developed so now would be the time to work on this project. It was brought up that if we went in and made changes, the developers might reverse those changes when they develop that neighborhood.

Dilworth stated that if Tom Richmond or other residents want work done on the river in that area they need to go through the courts because there could be litigation and FCD9 doesn't need to be involved in litigation. McCaffrey brought up that FCD9 was involved with the side channel project which was completed to reduce flooding, so we have already tried to help with flooding in that area.

Wright suggested going to the landowners and educating them on opportunities to restore the river, so they will support these projects and there won't be litigation. Corwin pointed out that flood control districts have state backing to do work without approval, but it could still lead to litigation.

McCaffrey said he could send Richmond photos with a timestamp showing that the side channel is still flowing as designed, and is not backed up by the log at the top of the channel.





OLD BUSINESS (ACTION ITEM):/

-NRCS-PL566 - Cory McCaffrey

Wood River Land Trust is still waiting on the PIFR report, which is still pending from NRCS.

Wright said that Michael called saying he'd send a report when it is ready. For now, they are still waiting on findings to determine what projects will be completed.

-Heagle Park project - Cory McCaffrey

They have two hearings for stream alteration permits and floodplain conditional use permits, they are also applying for funding through the Land Water Wildlife program. A design sheet was missing from the plans so the decision was pushed back, it was also requested that they have a more robust landscape plan, and to provide a model of what the flood impacts would be without the side channel.

The next hearing is scheduled for November 12th at 1:30pm. If the permits and funding are approved in that meeting construction would probably begin late winter around March. If the permits are approved but not the funding, then WRLT will campaign to fill the delta. They have a flood management grant through IDWR and have to have a match, so they prefer to have the full funding amount before starting work and they are short about \$100,000.

Dilworth said that the idea for this project started in the spring of 2017, and Corwin brought up that the County completed the work to open the north channel. There is debris in the channel, but it still operates properly during floods, and Biota has reviewed the channel and stated that it works to capacity.

Corwin talked about how currently flooding is tame, but there is potential for something major. Cory asked about the FEMA draft maps and what the new 100 year flow is. Corwin said it depends on the area, and in some areas there is channelization and not as much spread as expected. The information is on the FEMA website with GIS map and comments and addressing of comments. Maps should be finalized 2026.

-Bridge to Bend project - Amanda Bauman

Project Big Wood will accept the initial project design in December or January. There will be an open house in March at the Limelight Hotel to educate on the project, and a mailer will be sent out after the holidays. The Bridge to Bend project is a project to reduce flooding in Gimlet. A landowner in the Gimlet area finally got approval to complete work on a berm along the river and is still waiting on approval to extract sediment in the river, both projects by the homeowner are not supported by Project Big Wood.

-FCD9 Name Change - Stephanie Carlson

Carlson laid out the process for a name change which consists of calling a hearing, voting on the name change at the hearing and passing a resolution, then FCD9 has to get approval through the Idaho State Tax Commission and IRS before the name can be changed. The name change will impact the logo, website and email domains, so a decision needs to be made before more work is put into those projects. Dilworth also pointed out that we just ordered a large amount of checks that will no longer be accurate and we'd have to change our name in other areas. Corwin stated that the State may be changing the name to the Flood Management District this year, so we may be required to change the name anyway. He also suggested staying away from changing the name to just river management because the flood control district involves more than just the river and taxpayers may question why they are paying taxes to something that appears to only involve the river. It was discussed how it's no longer just a flood control district, but how the focus is more about management and how we can manage waterways to prevent flooding. FCD10 was brought up since they changed their name to the Boise River Flood Control District, but they operate differently since part of what they do is to remove jams to allow for rafters and recreation on the river.

Wright talked about how it is in the State Statute that flood control districts protect infrastructure and that includes infrastructure that the river threatens. Cowrin stated that the infrastructure protection for flood control districts was never intended to mean protecting city and county roads, and that those entities need to protect their own roads. Instead the statute is for protecting levees and dams. There is also a duty outside of rivers, such as canals.

Dilworth talked about the possibility of forming another coalition to manage the river and river projects in partnership with Project BigWood and that doing this would add more funding for river work. Wright wants to expand the Flood Control District to include more river projects, and expand it into more areas that are impacted by flooding like Warm Springs. This would involve outreach and education and a representative from the neighborhood who would have to start the petition so we can annex those neighborhoods into the FCD. Dilworth pointed out that there are limitations on how much the FCD can expand because of state statute. Cory suggested that a levy would be a better way to get funds for river work, and would take less time compared to starting a taxing district. It was decided that further discussion is needed about the name change, and we need to decide what the FCD role is, so we can decide on what name is appropriate. The name must be decided before we can have a hearing to change the name. This will be added to the next agenda.

COMMISSIONER UPDATES

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chris Corwin-the Colorado Gulch Bridge project is in process with the County, and they are working on drilling this week. They are getting a geotechnical report so they can get quotes from contractors, they do have bidders interested but they are requesting the report first.

NEXT MEETING:

November 30th at 3:00pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURN

Wright moves to adjourn the meeting, Dilworth seconds, the meeting is adjourned at 10:48 am.