



DRAINAGE AND FLOOD CONTROL BOARD MEETING

Minutes for the Tuesday, July 26, 2022 Meeting

Meeting called to order by City Engineer Daniel Rodriguez at 7:00 p.m.

In attendance from the Board were:

Daniel Rodriguez, City Engineer (Chair)	Clifford Winkel, City Council
Rayborn Ford, Ward 1	Dennis Boose, City Council
Ed Dunham, Ward 2	Linda Masterson, BZA
Norris Scott, Ward 3	

Also, in attendance were:

William Almodovar, Resident
J.D. Gontkovsky, Resident
Bill Holland, Resident
Rick S., Resident
James White, Resident
Mark Hruska, Resident
Christina Eavenson, Assistant City Engineer

Old Business

A. Minutes for January 25, 2022 Meeting

City Engineer, Mr. Rodriguez asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2022 meeting. Board Member Winkel made a motion to approve the minutes. Board Member Boose seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved by vote as presented.

New Business

A. Mills Creek Conservation Project

Mr. Rodriguez noted that this project has been in the works for about seven years with design starting around 2016. The goal of the project is to divert some of the headwaters of Mills Creek near the interstate area and Cypress Avenue through a ditch to an area just north of Boulder Drive where it will flow through a series of connected ponds and then be released through a restriction where it will continue north along Creekside Lane and back into Mills Creek. This project will serve to aide in the

reduction of stormwater west of Lear Nagle including the Gina and Pitts Blvd. area.

Mr. Rodriguez further noted that tree clearing operations have recently begun and he proceeded to **show** pictures of the work. He noted that there are protected wetlands within the project limits that have been delineated by orange construction fence and that other best management practices have been installed including silt fence, a construction entrance, staging area and inlet protection. Work is expected to be complete within the next three weeks.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that the City was recently awarded another \$500,000 grant towards the project which is the fourth grant received. The project was originally estimated at \$5M but with the rising costs of construction may well be approaching \$6M. The City is working with Lorain County towards another potential \$500,000 grant. The balance of the construction cost will use stormwater funds.

B. Update on Service Department 2022 Waterway Maintenance

Mr. Rodriguez briefly summarized the Service Department's recent efforts in maintaining the City's ditches and storm sewers. He shared pictures of some storm sewer cleaning along Downing Avenue that revealed multiple bags of garbage, large obstructions, and vegetation being removed from the storm sewer.

Mr. Rodriguez showed pictures of a recent ditch cleaning just south of Chestnut Ridge Road along the west side of Lear Nagle Road where a branch of the Mills Ditch was eroding a bank that was near a residence structure. The channel was cleaned out and the bank was reinforced with rip-rap.

Mr. Rodriguez showed pictures of a recent ditch cleaning along the Phelon Ditch which is between Island Road and Reed Road. Pictures depicted some tree clearing and grinding. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the City typically only takes down dead trees.

Mr. Rodriguez showed pictures of some catchbasins that the Service Department was cleaning out and/or rebuilding them as needed along Vista Lake Way. He also noted that there was a public works project that did similar work to the catchbasins along Meadow Lakes Blvd. this year.

Mr. Rodriguez also showed pictures of the ditch and storm sewer maintenance that was being done by the Service Dept. as a result of the Lorain Road Water Main Extension project. This project included stormwater work that tied into the existing box culvert under Lorain Road in front of UH. Upon further investigation, it was found to be silt laden and in need of maintenance. Crews jetted the box culvert and dredged a section of the downstream channel into the UH property.

C. Additional Items from Committee Members and Audience

Mr. Boose inquired about the status of land acquisition for the Mill Creek project. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the City recently made progress with the last property owner and that he anticipates finalizing the agreements soon. However, because of the delay, the City may have to re-evaluate his property so the offer reflects the current market rate. If an agreement can't be made, the City will need to acquire the property by appropriation.

A resident asked where the vehicular access for the park is going to be. Mr. Rodriguez noted that access will be provided off of Cary Dr.

Mr. Dunham inquired if the City paid taxes on the project. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the City is tax exempt.

Mr. Almodovar inquired about hours of operation, lighting, improvements near his parcel, when the park would be open, if there will be any lighting, and if there will be a playground on site. Mr. Rodriguez noted that the park will be open sun up to sun down and that there is no planned lighting. Mr. Rodriguez also displayed the Overall Site Plan and noted that there will be a walking trail on the north side of the existing swale that runs parallel to Boulder Drive. There will not be a playground as the project is intended to focus on the nature preserve. Mr. Rodriguez also noted that the cascading ponds will aide in the reduction of phosphorus of which the City has been identified with as having undesirable amounts in our waterways.

Mr. Dunham inquired if the Mills Creek project will reduce the flooding along Lear Nagle. Mr. Rodriguez stated that it will.

A resident asked if the Service Department's work along Lear Nagle was on private property. Mr. Rodriguez noted that it was but NRCO 1028 pertains to ditch maintenance and gives the City a right of access to maintain the City's ditches. Each ditch has a prescribed right-of-way width over it and the Mills ditch has a 50 foot wide area for access and maintenance.

Mr. Holland, representing Cross Creek Subdivision, asked if they could get help with the heavy vegetated growth in the (Watson) ditch that runs through their subdivision. Mr. Rodriguez suggested meeting on site to review.

Mr. Winkle inquired about the progress of the I&I investigations. Mr. Rodriguez noted that Engineering was conducting another study in the Noll and Aurenson area. Mr. Rodriguez also noted that Engineering is doing a redesign of the sanitary sewer system along Mills Road between Jaycox Road and Mills Industrial Pkwy which includes new geometry at the intersection with the FCWWTP trunk line and upsizing of the City's sewer along Mills. We anticipate that this will help reduce the backup for residents in the northeast corner of the City that feed into this system and could reduce basement backup.

Mr. White inquired about rear yard drainage behind the houses on Garrett and Birch. He noted that the flooding has gotten worse in the last 5 years. Mr. Rodriguez noted that it is not one of the City's named ditches but Engineering could look into the problem more.

D. Meeting Adjourned

City Engineer, Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm. Board Member Masterson seconded the motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Eavenson, P.E.
Assistant City Engineer