

**The Woodlands Township
Drainage Task Force Meeting
Meeting Summary
October 22, 2019**

Purpose of this Document: This document is designed to capture the essence of the discussion, and will serve to summarize the results, actions, and follow-up items agreed to during this meeting.

Call meeting to order / Introductions / Chairman's Report – The Woodlands Township

Task Force members and visitors were welcomed by Task Force Chairman Bruce Rieser – Director, The Woodlands Township. Members in attendance included: Jim Stinson, Woodlands Water Agency; Laura Norton, Helen Bostock, Mark Vonderau, and Bruce Cunningham, Montgomery County MUDs; Jackie Chance, Sr., Montgomery County WCID #1; Emil Jacobs, Harris Montgomery Counties MUD 386; Matt Barrett, San Jacinto River Authority; Alan Black, Harris County Flood Control District; Antonio Paz, The Howard Hughes Company; Kyle Brown, The Woodlands Country Club; Trent Williams, Representative Steve Toth's Office; and, Burton Johnson and Don Norrell, The Woodlands Township.

Copies of meeting sign-in sheets for members, visitors and public comments are included in **Attachment 1**.

Chairman Rieser reported:

The announcement by Howard Hughes Corporation naming Paul Layne as CEO, and intentions to move their headquarters to The Woodlands:

Montgomery County Commissioner's Court met today and included an agenda item to discuss flood mitigation initiatives throughout the county discussion, many involving east county (San Jacinto River west fork and east.) Sawdust Rd. improvements are in the county's 2020 budget for funding;

He has a meeting with Commissioner Noack on November 7 to discuss this task force and flooding initiative. Spring Creek is unique, bordered by both Montgomery and Harris counties, resulting in 2 sets of design standards and the continued use of Atlas 14 data by Montgomery County.

Suggestion has been made to harmonize standards, and to include retention ponds, as opposed to only adding more fill to foundation builds, to meet standards.

Discuss the feasibility of the formation of a flood control district within the Township Boundaries.

A request was made at the last meeting to have the legal opinion document reviewed for consideration of forming a Township flood control district. Chairman Rieser reported having the document reviewed by legal counsel and Representative Toth's office and the state Attorney General concluding that the Township may not impose authority for this purpose, rather, the entities currently authorized would have to relinquish control. The Woodlands Water Agency has been contacted to assess interest in pursuing the transfer of responsibility.

Chairman Rieser suggests a five-county consolidated flood control/drainage district that covers the entirety of the San Jacinto River watershed. Similar planning is underway for a regional group by the Texas Water Development Board. Spring Creek does not have a short term solution to drainage, flooding and subsidence. Any discussion involving the two counties would need to begin with the executives (County Judge) from each county.

Flood control district builds infrastructure and maintains the infrastructure built – it does not have authority for land use or design standards.

Receive a report from Harris County Flood Control District on the Harris County Bond Projects for Flood Control

Mr. Black reported the initiation of one more project for total of 183 projects, increase of 1. The district was approached by and accepted agreement with the Natural Resource Conservation Service for key individual projects that take neighborhoods which over the years have experience voluntary buyouts, and use NRCS funds to restore those areas to the flood plain. This partnership is the first of its kind nationally, and shows a high level of confidence in HCFCD's ability to accomplish the goals of this pilot program; specific locations within Harris County include White Oak, Armand, and Greens bayou areas.

Review the status of the proposed regional flood mitigation study for the San Jacinto basin which includes Spring Creek

Mr. Black reported the website is up and running, and is updated for *sanjacstudy.org* for the San Jacinto Regional Watershed Master Drainage Plan. The website is the information source for the study, including project background and goals, fact sheet, and map of the study area. Multiple open house/expo meetings are planned for community engagement, including presentations and open house to take questions.

Consultants have held a kick-off meeting for the Siting study with various stakeholders, including members of this task force; target completion date of May, 2020, with three technical advisory committee meetings to include the MUDs. Internal feedback encouraged, by contact with the MUDs, to sync with the TWDB developments.

Receive reports from Task Force agencies

Woodlands Water Agency (WWA) – Montgomery County MUD's – Mr. Stinson reported continued work on the Panther Branch / Bear Branch improvements, including refining cost estimates, and will bring to Township staff for review before making a public presentation. It was determined that enlarging Grogan's Point culverts would not have prevented flooding during Hurricane Harvey; further evaluation by engineer to determine other rain event criteria that would benefit from larger culverts, and any downstream effect of larger culverts.

Harris - Montgomery Counties MUD 386 – Dr. Jacobs attended the project kick-off meeting for the SanJac study; meeting with HCP4 Commissioner Jack Cagle's office is scheduled Monday, November 4, to discuss mitigation of flooding around Spring Creek.

San Jacinto River Authority (SJRA) – Mr. Barrett reported on forecasting tools – public meeting planned for Lake Conroe; coordinating to prepare scope of work for efforts to remove silt and sediment along the river and tributaries.

Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) – see notes above.

Updates from Task Force Members

GMA meeting was postponed, reason not readily known.

Public comment

None.

Confirm date and time for the next meeting

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 3, 2019 - 3:30 p.m., to combine meetings for November and December, due to holidays.

Adjourn meeting

The meeting was adjourned.