

North Davis Meadows  
County Service Area Advisory Committee #10  
Meeting Minutes  
Davis Municipal Golf Course Clubhouse  
October 29, 2014

Meeting Attendees include: Regina Espinoza, Supervisor Don Saylor, Bonnie Wolstoncroft, Bill Reinert, Antoinette Heberlein, Kathy Greenhalgh, Emily Henderson, Leslie Lindbo (Director of Environmental Health)

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Chair Bonnie Wolstoncroft.
2. Minutes from previous meeting, 8/28/13, were approved (Antoinette, Bill).
3. Public Comment- A question was asked about the replacement of the destroyed sign, at the entrance to NDM 1. Regina said that the quote she has received for replacement is expensive and the budget is limited. She needs to get three quotes. Later in the meeting, it was decided that the sign project would be looked into as a "community project." Bonnie asked Ed Green if he would help out. He agreed to look at the sign.
4. Regina said that there has been a long discussion period with the city of Davis, regarding the potential connection with their water supply for domestic use and replumbing the neighborhood and using existing wells for irrigation. There were periods when the city and county couldn't hold discussions, due to litigation issues the city was dealing with. She presented a "Chronology for the NDM/City of Davis Consolidation" to outline what has happened over the last 14 months. During that period, neighbors were updated on the status of the consolidation in April 2014, by a letter from Supervisor Saylor. Additional copies of this letter were distributed at the meeting. Neighbors were contacted by email (listserv) this past summer, with a timeline for getting a bid on the plumbing for street to home, water connection for irrigation. Both City/County staffs agreed to share the cost for this estimate, if the consolidation proceeded.
5. Regina said that the City of Davis government has been going through staff changes. There is a new city manager, and both Herb Neiderberger and Diana Jensen, engineers that were involved in the city water project, have left.
6. Supervisor Saylor stated that the City of Davis recently received approval for its State Revolving Fund Loan. They received a 1.7% loan for a period of 30 years. They did not need to include consolidation with North Davis Meadows to obtain this funding, due to a legislative change. Supervisor Saylor noted that his concern that there might be problems with the consolidation project favoring NDM, was shared in a letter sent to neighbors in April.

7. Supervisor Saylor said that the City of Davis no longer has the same incentive to provide the water consolidation package to NDM. The package presented in August of 2013 is no longer available. However, there still is interest on the part of the City Council to go forward with the project. They seem to have a strong interest in doing the right thing. He stressed that this does not mean that they want to annex North Davis Meadows. He said the city has some “sorting out” to do given the change in city staff. Some kind of “transition time” is anticipated. Future discussions with the city will involve determining if we can participate in their 1.7% funding and if we can avoid paying the connection fee and “out of city” water surcharges. The rates charged NDM for water will not be below what is charged to city residents. The city will be limited in what they are able to offer NDM because of their responsibility to their rate payers.
8. Supervisor Saylor mentioned that another dynamic involved is the proposed development activity south of NDM. If this proceeds it could be possible for some of the costs of consolidation to be shared. However, this development won’t be voted upon until March of 2016, so it isn’t something we can count on.
9. A neighbor asked about the “emergency situation” water signs that were placed in the yard of some homes at the Binning Tract. Leslie ???, the Director of Environmental Health for Yolo County, said the signs were not put up by a government agency. Binning has no political structure and has difficulty addressing its water and sewer needs.
10. Supervisor Saylor said that total reliance on wells is a major risk factor. The differing water standards that keep coming up and the impact of the drought with people who have had to lower pumps or experience dried up wells shows that use of wells can create a high risk situation. This is part of the reason he feels we should continue to hold discussions with the city regarding consolidation.
11. Regina said that the State of California set the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Hexavalent Chromium at 10ppb in July of this year. She said that the state is not requiring testing of Hexachromium levels until January of 2015. We will be able to get more information about Hexachromium in the deeper aquifer from Wildwings/Madison, once they have been required to test their water. The need to review updated data from the City of Davis’ deep wells was mentioned.
12. Regina reviewed a flow chart of what options NDM has for solving its water problem. NDM can still drill two new wells, as was previously planned, treat the water, or have each family drill an individual well. Problems with each of these solutions were discussed. She also discussed how we can continue to try to consolidate with Davis and the possibility of having NDM seek out its own CDPH SRF 20 year low interest loan.

13. Bonnie asked if we shouldn't just proceed with drilling two new wells. Bill expressed concern about having to operate with one well last summer, when a well was down for maintenance. Kathy and Antoinette shared their concern about meeting the State standards for hexavalent chromium and manganese, if we proceed with drilling. Kathy said she wouldn't want neighbors to pay 3 million dollars for new wells and then be told a short time later that another 2-3 million would be needed for treatment. Kathy mentioned that UC Davis will be connecting to the city and we need to determine if their decision was influenced by the quantity/quality of the water from their wells (they have 4 deep wells).
14. A neighbor expressed her frustration with the fact that everything related to this water project seems to take forever and wondered if the county was managing our issue in a timely manner. Supervisor Saylor said the project has been an "incredible challenge." The City's litigation and rate referendum, as well as periods of being nonresponsive, impacted the timeline. Antoinette expressed her appreciation for all the work that Supervisor Saylor has done and said she feels that he has been working hard on our project. It was discussed that there needs to be better communication with the CSA neighbors about the project.
15. A neighbor mentioned that he sees it as inevitable that we will need to get our drinking water from the Sacramento River. He asked what neighbors can do to help the move the consolidation project along. He suggested community advocacy and meeting with legislators. Supervisor Saylor said we are "close to that" but not at this point in time.
16. A neighbor asked about using the swales for distributing irrigation water, under the consolidation project. Antoinette thought that there might be a problem with this, as the city proposed using the existing plumbing, which connects to our fire hydrants, for irrigation and fireflow. Another neighbor mentioned concern with the swales being dug up. He said that they are graded so our drainage flows properly and it might be problematic to dig them up.
17. A neighbor asked about the status of our existing wells, if we continue to use them for irrigation and fireflow (City Option) He expressed concern about the age of well one and the fact that we were told it might have a casing leak. Kathy and Regina shared that well one has a new motor that was installed last summer. More information about the status of our existing wells, as possible irrigation wells, needs to be obtained.
18. Leslie Lindbo , Director of Environmental Health, said that so far the state has been tolerant of communities that are out of compliance for their water supply. However, the federal government has come down on the state for not enforcing regulations. As such, there is an increase in pressure for the state to have communities comply. NDM was supposed to have a solution in place by December of 2010.

19. Bonnie shared her frustration with the amount of time the water project is taking. In order to move forward, it was decided that we need to get the estimate for the street to home connection completed. The need to evaluate all 95 homes was discussed. It was decided that a sampling of homes would be more cost efficient.
20. Bruce Thompson moved and Antoinette Heberlein seconded, that NDM will proceed with the RFP for a 20 home sampling of home to street connections for irrigation, as a CSA expense. The motion passed.
21. Updated data will be obtained from the city and UC Davis to review the contaminant levels in their deep wells.
22. The water subcommittee will review the possibility of replumbing for irrigation using the swales. The longevity of well #1 as an irrigation/fireflow well needs to be reviewed.
23. A copy of the Fiscal 2014 sewer and water budget reports was distributed. Kathy said that we have been running deficits since 2010. Due to surpluses in previous years, the cumulative deficits are not as large as they might appear. The General Ledger Summary for Fiscal 2014 showed a cumulative deficit of \$36,703 for the water/landscaping budget and \$25,803 for the sewer budget. The water budget deficits are due to the ongoing water project expenses. The sewer budget deficit is because we are not collecting enough to pay our city of Davis bill. Rates have risen since our last Prop 218 in June of 2008. There is a \$381 difference in what we need to collect from each household for Fiscal 2014-2015. A Proposition 218 election for sewer needs to be held to raise our sewer assessment fee.
24. Bonnie asked about the timing of the Prop 218 election for sewer. Regina said that the Prop 218 election will be completed by June of 2015. Bonnie asked for Prop 218 information for our next meeting in January.
25. Regina discussed our storm drainage. She reviewed the area in September and Chris Starkey looked at it yesterday. She said there are some areas that need attention. The spray program has not been as effective for star thistle during the past couple of years, due to drier conditions. An area of erosion along the Road 29 ditch, just west of NDM 2 will be looked at by Panos in Public Works. The issue appears to have been caused by the repaving of Road 29.
26. The RFP for the individual home to street connection should proceed as soon as possible. This information will be discussed at our January meeting.
27. The next CSA meeting will be held in January.

Minutes submitted by Kathy Greenhalgh

