

Discuss and take appropriate action on the Lake Creek drainage project.

John Jansing advised Gray Jansing Engineering is the design consultant for the Lake Creek improvements - main stem of Lake Creek channel- from a section beginning upstream at Town and Country Optimist Club to Parmer Lane. An associate project identified as Tributary 2 comes off the main stem in the area of Town and Country running through a developed subdivision.

Mr. Jansing attended many meetings before the City of Austin decided to intercede and exert authority over the project resulting in several more meetings with committees and commissions. Mr. Jansing reported three meetings with the Environmental Review Board of the City of Austin which controls environment, tree removal and construction within the trickle water quality zone.

The design was altered to preserve some trees and wetland areas before presentation to Planning Commission Tuesday, October 13, 1998. Members of an adjacent neighborhood attended this meeting opposing the channel, sighting loss of property values and destruction of a channel they felt was an asset to their community. They prefer to pay flood insurance and keep the channel.

As late as October 19, 1998, Mr. Jansing received a telephone call from one of the neighbors protesting the design as it stands today. As a result of the protest the Planning Commission has again postponed hearing this issue until November 17, 1998. The Planning Commission has scheduled a field trip to walk the channel November 7, 1998.

The goal here is to convey the 100 year flood plane through the reach removing 85 homes from the flood plane.

Commissioner Heiligenstein plans to contact the City of Austin requesting specific performance on their commitment to downstream some construction work from the terminal point. "They had made a commitment to day light the water downstream on which they never followed through. This is part of the channel which is now causing the Planning Commission and environmental concerns. The other issue is the request for a 4 to 1 tree replacement by the Environmental Board on any trees disturbed or removed by this project and the preservation of wet lands. In the bid process I want those items deducted out as non cost to Williamson County. If the bid comes in at budget and we can identify half a million dollars or \$250,000.00 associated with those two projects those item dollar amounts need to come from a source other than our citizens bond money. Our citizens approved a drainage channel to take people out of the flood plane. We did not approve an environmental dream for a planning commission. That was conveyed to them last Tuesday during the meeting. Wet lands is essentially caused by a sewer plant which would come off line, dry up and no longer be a wet land. If that pleases the court, I feel this is the line we need to draw. We're not going to roll over and assume the cost of all these items that people are dreaming up."

Moved: Commissioner Heiligenstein

Seconded: Commissioner Boatright

Motion: To accept Gray Jansing report with specifications that City of Austin be financially responsible for the additional expenses required by the Planning Commission and environmental board.

Vote: Motion passed 3 - 0 with Commissioner Mehevec absent from the dais.

Commissioner Heiligenstein told Mr. Jansing he realized this makes his job more difficult because now we've said essentially the environmental board recommendations to the Planning Commission are not valid in our eyes unless they come up with the money to pay for such recommendations.

Mr. Jansing said "I understand and we were planning to argue that issue on the floor last Tuesday night before the Planning Commission but we never got that far".

Commissioner Heiligenstein thanked Mr. Jansing for his presentation. He also advised the office of the Austin Mayor and City of Austin staff have been very cooperative in their difficult position.

Mr. Jansing advised the City of Austin staff realizes the tremendous problem. That area received 5 inches of rain this past week-end which did not encroach on the homes or lots. If they had received the 18 inches like San Antonio the area residents would have realized the magnitude of the existing problem.