

## McDowell Farms Flood Information Meeting Summary

03/19/2019

Police and Fire Training Center

1770 Shopton Road, Charlotte, NC 28217

6:00 – 8:00 PM

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### I. Introduction

**Tim Trautman**

Meeting purpose:

- Share the history and current condition of the floodplain behind McDowell Farms
- Share findings of a recent Flood Risk Reduction Study completed for the McDowell Farms neighborhood
- Get input and reaction from residents on two potential mitigation options

### II. Greenway Trail and Maintenance of Floodplain

**Park and Rec, Health Dept.**

- Changes in creeks & floodplains (like sand and standing water) are common.
- Health Department (Tim Dutcher) will inspect and treat standing water as needed throughout the mosquito breeding season.
- Large brown mosquitos breed in standing water in forests. Small black mosquitos with striped legs come from standing water in containers (gutters, flower pots, cups, tires, etc.) found as trash left over from flooding or in the yards of residents
- The existing dirt-way is not part of the County greenway system. A paved trail on existing property owned by the County is planned for 2024-2026. Public meetings will occur in a few years once design begins.

### III. History of McDowell Farms Floodplain

**David Kroening**

- Brief history of construction of McDowell Farms and changes in the FEMA floodplain maps since development.
- Homes in McDowell Farms were built compliant with floodplain maps/ordinances at that time.
- Subsequent map predictions of the FEMA floodplain have resulted in flood height increases of up to 7-feet.

### IV. McDowell Farms Current Flood Risk

**David Love**

- Many homes in the McDowell Farms floodplain now rank near the top of Storm Water Services priority list to reduce or eliminate flood risk.
- Provided overview of flood risk in McDowell Farms compared to risk in other areas of Mecklenburg County.

- Next Fiscal Year (FY2020) planning is underway. Decision on exploring/funding work should be presented to the Storm Water Advisory Committee in June.

**V. McDowell Farms Flood Risk Reduction Study** **David Kroening**

- Provided overview of Flood Risk Reduction study on McDowell Farms.
- Shared all flood risk reduction options evaluated:
  - i. Creek Grading/Enlargement
  - ii. Increasing capacity through culverts or under bridges
  - iii. Constructing a berm/levee
  - iv. Adding Detention Ponds
  - v. Flood proofing houses
  - vi. Elevating (lifting) homes
  - vii. Voluntary Acquisition and Demolition
  - viii. Combination of options
- Described why the only potentially feasible options for McDowell Farms are 1) Berm/Levee construction or 2) Acquisition and Demolition.
- Reviewed the significant challenges with a potential Berm/Levee

**VI. Existing Mitigation Program** **David Love**

- Discussed the existing Storm Water Services program, which includes voluntary buyouts and homeowner grants to retroFIT buildings.

**VII. Next Steps** **Tim Trautman**

- Work with meeting attendees to distribute summary information to neighborhood
- Gain additional input from homeowners on the two potentially feasible options via roadside meeting along Mounting Rock Rd.
- Develop path forward by May 2019