

MUD 113 Newsletter

February, 2019

Flood Mitigation Update

This Newsletter summarizes a meeting that was held on January 22 at the SJRA Administrative Offices on Lake Conroe and attended by Woodforest residents in Sanderling and Capriccio affected by Hurricane Harvey, MUD 113 Board of Directors Sewer and Drainage Committee, SJRA staff, and our Engineering firm LJA. The principal presenter was Diane Cooper, Flood Plain Administrator for Montgomery County.

A number of Woodforest residents believe there is a cause and effect relationship between SJRA releases into the West Fork of the San Jacinto River and the rise of Lake Creek in the Woodforest area. Ms. Cooper explained that this effect, termed “backwater”, is highly unlikely due to the 14 ft. elevation difference between Lake Creek at Woodforest and the elevation of the confluence of Lake Creek at the West Fork. Modeling shows that the limit of backwater into Lake Creek is about 2 miles of the total 4.7 miles west from the confluence to Woodforest. The cause of the rise of Lake Creek in our area is actually due to water coming from upstream in the huge Lake Creek watershed which extends well northwest. (Note Lake Creek starts in Grimes County). Ms. Cooper pointed out that there is a backwater effect between Fish Creek and Lake Creek however. At high Lake Creek levels, it can back up by 0.7 mile into Fish Creek, which is near the waste water treatment plant.

The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps were presented for our area. An illustrative map for the Sanderling and Capriccio areas including the confluence of Fish Creek and Lake Creek is attached. Areas in blue are part of the 100 year flood plain (defined statistically as a 1% chance of occurring every year) and areas in brown are part of the 500 year flood plain (defined as a 0.2% chance of occurring every year). The FEMA maps will never match a given storm event. Real world factors such as ground moisture, ditch and stream levels, and vegetation growth will affect the consequences of a specific storm. It should be kept in mind that 100 year and 500 year floods can occur in the same year, and if we are in a wet pattern, there is an increased chance of having back to back events. As for FEMA mapping updates, the goal of the county is to prioritize undeveloped areas in order to guide future development. However, this is the decision of FEMA and the Texas Water Development Board.

The Hurricane Harvey Event Analysis prepared last year for MUD 113 by LJA Engineering offered an option to protect Sanderling by constructing a berm around this community. Ms. Cooper pointed out that this approach is fraught with difficulty. Multimillion dollar costs, possible floodplain requirements, and the requirement not to make flooding worse in neighboring areas (per Texas Water Code) stand in the way of recommending this approach.

Here are some ways we can prepare for an impending storm:

- Be alert to National Weather Service forecasts of heavy rainfall anywhere in the Lake Creek Basin;
- Monitor the USGS River Gages along Lake Creek, particularly the Dobbin and Sendera Ranch Road gages;
- Sign up for ALERT MCTX notification and download the Montgomery County App;
- Purchase flood insurance in our area no matter what the elevation of your homesite is.

An extensive list of useful links to websites that will provide a great amount of information for storm readiness is being published on our www.mcmud113.com website.



FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL)

Zoom in to see the FEMA Flood Haza.c



▼ Woodforest Golf Club at Fir X 🔍

Show search results for Woodf...

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Map title: FEMA Floodplain

Layout: Landscape_11x17

Format: PDF

AREA OF MINIMAL FLOOD HAZARD - Zone X

Zone AE

Advanced Print

1. FEMA Floodplain

Clear prints

600ft
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