

Drainage Committee Monthly report for February,2011

Action occurring this past month consisted mainly of contacts and reports with the Harris County Flood Control District(HCFCD) meetings. We were fortunate to have a member of our committee represented in committees with the HCFCD thus furthering our contacts while implementing our opinions to those that matter in one sense. The Memorial SN needs allies in their ventures. While we have some very well placed contacts more of these are needed to ease the way forward and we will continue to look for this type of help to reach our goal. A summary of finding of these meeting reported concern on the use of retention ponds on Buffalo Bayou,the problems that have occurred over the years, where HCFCD chooses to stand on retention ponds as far as current manegment in the HCFCD is concerned and what the City is doing concerning retention ponds on Buffalo Bayou.

During the early 90s the HCFCD proposed putting either 6 or 9 retention ponds along Buffalo Bayou located on both sides of the Bayou, both North and South sides. Then engineering studies showed large benefits would be derived from this venture. Only two retention ponds were constructed by HCFCD being located on the North side of the Bayou. None of the planned retention ponds were ever built on the South side of the Bayou although engineering studies indicated them to be not only feasible but also very effective in reducing flooding. Currently upper management of the HCFCD expresses a belief only 200 acres retention ponds might work well but none in his mind this size now exists. His 'bang for the buck" theory he has expressed several times is killing the probabilities of reducing flow capacities in the Bayou thus not allowing reduction of flooding Lack of funds available to HCFCD may also contributes to the lack of desire/ability of the HCFCD to move forward.

The City of Houston investigated nine potential locations for retention ponds during the past year. Currently they have selected a site on the Sotuh side of the Bayou slightly West of Beltway 8. This is improvement is included in their current CIP. Effect of this retention pond should help their localized drainage project but also should help lower the water levels in the Bayou, hopefully enough to have some effect on draining the streets adjacent to this location.

We will be working to have HCFCD and the COH to implement more retention ponds,cleaing the Bayou.

We will be working with the Corps of Engineers to allow putting bypass waters behind the dams and increasing the storage volume behind the dams. The Corps has been contacted concerning these issues as has Congressman's Culberson's office.

Bill Hopkins - Drainage Committee,SN 16