

2023 Spring Run-off Committee Meeting Minutes

3/23/23 @ 1:00 p.m.

Location: Aspen Grove Family Camp & Conference Center

Present:

Stewart Olsen, Dr. Stephen Minton, Scott Hart, Pablo Nabuco, Brad Stewart, Matt Thygerson, Chief David Marsella, Chris Wright, Mike Black. Steve Spiker, Emily Johnson

This group met to discuss preparation for the possible 2023 Spring run-off due to the extreme weather conditions and high snow fall in 2023 at the North Fork Special Service District (District) in Provo Canyon. Stewart Olsen reported committee contacts and information and findings or actions of this committee will be posted at the North Fork website, NFSSD.org.

Discussion was had regarding District roads, HOA's and homeowner's responsibilities vs State, County and District responsibilities. The geography of the historic riverbeds, gullies and streams were reviewed.

Rock travel/flow in the runoff water is a major concern. The narrower the water flow, the faster and more powerful it is (Venturi Effect). Should the snow and ice melt run off rapidly, it will bring rock and debris into the river and streams with it. Natural run off with a slow melt would be the best scenario to spread the water flow out and drop debris sparsely, otherwise high waterflow will make the current swift making streams/streams dangerous. Permission from homeowners in comprised areas may be needed to monitor gullies and flood potential areas.

Timpanogos SNOTEL as of today is 45.1 inches. Aspen Grove Spring and Stewart Springs have been the District's sources for water. Aspen Grove is the only source producing at this time for the District and is the single water source. The District's public works department is monitoring the Spring especially closely. Discussion of the integrity of the Aspen Grove Spring and the anticipated flooding in this area as well as possible contamination were discussed. The Spring is currently sealed and protected from run off. Brad Stewart stated that 10 p.m. to midnight is historically the high-water flow times.

Stewart Olsen described how he recalls the river bed formations were made of rock dropping uniformly which caused braiding. Where the river narrows, it can overflow it's banks. There is less concern for Stewart Falls connection to stream, Brickerhaven area is steeper, if the stream is compromised with debris, it could a problem. A lot of debris was pushed to the stream during tree removal of the January 2023 storm that broke many trees. Areas where the river is near roads and the bridges are high risk areas for flooding.

Someone questioned if the District's main waterline is at risk? Chris Wright-District Public Works Director states there are a few spots that could be comprised, but the system is deep enough it should be safe.

Action to be taken by the committee:

Take inventory of what debris is in the stream, push snow away from structures that are compromised.

Devise a map of river with committee contact designated for response areas, mapping bridges with jurisdictions of HOA, no mans land or common land.

Dead wood can be removed by the wildland crews this Spring, as the District received a wildland grant, the grant can only be used to pay district employees for wildland mitigation. Written permission by the homeowner will be needed, Dr. Minton stated he would contact the District lawyer to draft up an agreement.

Collection points and staging areas for sandbags are needed but the committee is not sure of a location yet. Mitchell X is doing snow removal with HOA's and may be a good to set up a prep area where Mitchell X is pushing snow and see if they could assist in removal of debris after the snow is melted. The UDOT rest area where the recent avalanche occurred was discussed as another possible site, currently it's covered with snow due to a large avalanche. The lot at Sundance was mentioned as possible collection point as well as Timp Lodge.

HOA Assessments for debris removal is being considered.

UDOT is concerned about the lower SR92 road/river area. Chief David Marsella-District Fire Chief talked to UDOT about them doing mitigation work in the river with their heavy equipment from the Sundance entrance down to Highway 189. They will be in contact with him later regarding this.

Utah County has the ability to get 1.3 million sandbags. Chief Marsella will secure getting bags if or when needed. Chief Marsella stated that a 1-foot-high wall by 10 feet long is approximal 50 bags and 2000 lbs. of sand, these are manual fill bags and would need to be filled by the property owners. Bags can't be prefilled and laid until the ground is exposed, otherwise they will leak and wash away.

Chief Marsella stated he will be in daily contact with the Utah County Emergency Manger.

HOAs will get written permission from owners to access properties along the river, Dr. Minton will talk to the District's lawyer about drafting up a release form.

Mitigation work will begin on lower areas that melt first and work our way up SR 92/River.

We are at the mercy of the weather, there will be notifications through HOA's, who will be working with the District. Persons who would like to volunteer are encouraged to contact Steve Spiker who will coordinate their activities. Steve's phone number is 661.992.9675 and email is rekips@gmail.com.

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

*Meeting minute notes taken and drafted by Emily Johnson, North Fork District Clerk.