COMMUNITY MEETING COMMENTS/RESPONSES
18-047.01 TIMBERS CREEK
HPFMD, UDFCD, Douglas County
Community Meeting 6/6/19

COMMUNITY COMMENTS/CONCERNS:

1. **Is there an increased fire risk with planting more vegetation in Timbers Creek?**
   While most new vegetation introduced to a naturalized, forested area can increase the fire risk, most of the planting for this project will be focused within the channel itself and will consist of riparian vegetation that provides limited fuel and does not have access to the forest canopy in the event of a fire. Furthermore, the Metro District has made a significant effort to reduce fuel loads including ladder fuels in the project area consistent with the county's Community Wildfire Protection Plan. These efforts will continue, and they will be modified as needed during the life of the project with continued observation and monitoring by the South Metro Fire Rescue Authority.

2. **Will the standing water increase the number of mosquitos?**
   The proposed improvements are intended to mimic natural features, so it is not anticipated that the improvements will create mosquito habitat beyond what develops naturally.

3. **Will the culverts (S. Pinery Pkwy, Sage Thrasher, Fox Sparrow) clog during a storm event? What would be the potential impact if any of these culverts clogged and the road overtopped?**
   Generally speaking, most if not all culverts have the potential to become clogged during a storm event. In the event that the culverts at S. Pinery Pkwy, Sage Thrasher Rd, or Fox Sparrow Rd became clogged, there is still minimal flood risk to homeowners as all properties are above the elevation of the road at each creek crossing. This means that these roads will overtop before the backwater created by the clogged culvert will flood any homes. Because the low point of each road is at the creek crossing, flow will be redirected back into the creek in the event of overtopping. Thus, the flood risk for homeowners is still minimal if any of the culverts were to clog.

   In addition, it is important to note that a significant portion of the existing downed debris, including dead trees and brush, has been removed with ongoing fire mitigation efforts. Most of the available debris has been reduced in size via maceration and woodchipper operations and can pass through the culverts. Standing or downed, dead and diseased trees are routinely removed or treated (i.e. macerated) by the Metro District. All of these maintenance efforts lower the risk of the culverts blocking. Thus, the primary risk for culvert blockage is due to sediment or live trees toppling during storm events. Sediment blockage is monitored, and at times, has actually been cleared out of the culverts by significant storm events. Ongoing maintenance efforts will be continued to manage any toppled trees or substantial sediment collection.

4. **Is the new development impacting Timbers Creek?**
   Most of the "new" development discussed at the public meeting is located outside of the Timbers Creek basin, so runoff from this area does not drain to Timbers Creek. The amount of development that is occurring within the upper portion of the Timbers Creek basin is very small compared to the remaining portion of the basin and therefore likely contributes very little additional stormwater to the project area.

5. **Is there a long-term holistic plan for Timbers Creek? Should we invest funds into creating a plan?**

There is not currently a plan for the entire reach. It is advised against spending funds to create such a plan at this time. The funds for Timbers Creek are limited and spending the current budget on developing a plan would take funds away from constructed improvements. Because of the rapid change in technology in the industry, such a plan would likely be considered out of date in the future and would have to be redesigned anyway. In addition, the project design is a unique and site-specific approach to restoring Timbers Creek downstream of S. Pinery Pkwy. It is not recommended for this approach to be applied uniformly throughout the entire reach.

6. **Will this project fail? Will it be a waste of $1,000,000?**
   There is no guaranteed success for any project, but the design was created to increase stream resiliency and lower erosion potential. Additionally, funds will be set aside by the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District (UDFCD) over the next three years to perform monitoring and maintenance. These funds will allow UDFCD to mobilize contractors quickly to make any necessary repairs or adjustments to the project.

7. **Is there any implication for homeowners if the wetlands become jurisdictional?**
   No, it will only affect permitting requirements for future construction projects.

8. **How can we stop the old-growth trees from not being buried or drowned?**
   Currently, the most significant stressor of the old-growth trees appears to be the channel erosion that is exposing roots, which is particularly evident on the upstream section of Timbers Creek. The project design will include covering exposed tree roots and minimizing future root exposure. Secondary stressors include sand deposition around the tree trunks along with changes to groundwater levels. Within the design channel, grades can be established to optimize the resulting water table for the trees. Additionally, stream stabilization efforts should reduce the mobilization of sediment which in turn will reduce the amount of deposition that occurs around tree trunks.

9. **Can we have photo documentation before and after the project in order to document change?**
   Photo documentation will be crucial for evaluating the success of this project and to identify maintenance needs. Photos have already been taken pre-construction, and photos will be taken both immediately after construction and in the following years of maintenance. Homeowners are also encouraged to take their own photos and videos of storm events through the project site as long as their safety is not at risk. HPFMD will add photos of storm events to the HPFMD website. Homeowners can send their photos to the HPFMD board members, and they will be uploaded to the District website and provided to the design team.

10. **Down at the bottom, we do not care about natural. We're losing so much ground; we just don't want to lose a competition ring.**
    While the bottom of Timbers Creek is not within the scope of this project, stabilization of the channel upstream should help downstream conditions. UDFCD and Douglas County staff are also open to additional communications to learn more about the downstream conditions which may help to identify potential solutions.

11. **Keeping the creek looking as natural as possible is a priority.**
    The proposed improvements have prioritized creating a natural channel corridor for Timbers Creek. Specifically, this will be accomplished by utilizing extensive vegetative stabilization measures while avoiding the use of concrete, boulders, and riprap.

12. **What is the likelihood of obtaining additional funding to complete future work along the full length of Timbers Creek?**
    Unfortunately, there is a limited amount of funds for drainage projects in Douglas County. While it is unlikely that Timbers Creek will receive additional funding in the future, reaching out to representatives can be an effective means for garnering attention and support for additional work. As mentioned earlier, the current outlook is positive in that UDFCD/Douglas County has already allocated funds in 2020 and 2021 for the maintenance of this project.

13. **Will this project help the erosion conditions downstream between Fox Sparrow and the CHP?**
    It is unlikely that this project will significantly affect the sediment transport conditions between Fox Sparrow and the CHP. While this project will reduce the sediment supply originating from downstream of S. Pinery Pkwy, it is unlikely that this change will have measurable effects on conditions downstream of Fox Sparrow Rd due to the distance between Fox Sparrow Rd and the project site.