

open, and the plan was to backcheck them upon review of the next draft report to be prepared for Alternative Formulation Briefing documentation.

4.2.2 Feasibility Scoping Meeting (FSM)

The Feasibility Scoping Meeting was held on May 19, 2009. The PDT and the Vertical Team discussed the preliminary planning efforts, the range of alternatives, and the proposed planning activities needed to complete the study. The results of the meeting were documented in a memorandum (See Attachment 1 - FSM Memo).

4.3 PHASE 1 KEY ASSUMPTIONS

4.3.1 Future without project assumptions

The future without project assumptions were key to the analysis and were discussed in the FSM documentation submitted to the ATR team and the vertical team. Comments from both the ATR and vertical teams addressed these assumptions. The key assumptions for this phase were:

- The city of Fargo's potential "Southside Flood Control Project" was assumed to not be in place as part of the future without project condition. This is consistent with guidance in IWR 88-R-2, National Economic Development Procedures Manual - Urban Flood Damage, Volume 1, Page VI-3, paragraph 6 which states: "If local action is planned to occur only as the result of no Federal action, the project should not be assumed as part of the "without" condition. Local interests should not be penalized for their own incentive."
- No credit was given to flood fights and emergency measures. The vertical team requested that a sensitivity analysis be completed in the future to provide the decision makers with this information.
- Climate change was not included in the Phase 1 analyses, although there appeared to be an increasing trend in both peak flows and flood frequency in recent decades. The vertical team agreed that it would be appropriate to use an expert opinion elicitation process to obtain recommendations on this topic and to use those recommendations.
- Loss of life was not considered as part of the initial economic analysis. The vertical team requested that a loss of life analysis be completed to supplement the Other Social Effects (OSE) account, but no dollar value was to be placed on the loss of life.

4.3.2 Hydrology

The hydrologic information used in Phase 1 was the best available data when the work began in 2008. It was based on earlier work done by the Corps after the 1997 flood. The Corps hydrology was different from the data used by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in updating flood insurance maps, because FEMA's flows were based upon an earlier administrative determination. Phase 1 hydrology did not include the 2009 flood, the flood of record at the Fargo gage, because it did not occur until after the initial analyses were under way