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New Numbers: Does this mean a new plan for the diversion?

Fargo, ND (WDAY TV) - New information, new numbers; does this mean a new plan for a flood diversion in the F-M area? New data released shows higher flood damage costs, a larger area needing protection, and a better case for a Minnesota diversion, which is not the locally preferred plan.

Local leaders support putting a diversion on the North Dakota side, so as the cost to benefit ration for the Minnesota option continues to climb. Now just above 2.3, leaders, well, they're smiling.

Even the Mayor of Dilworth is feeling positive after his city threatened to sue if the diversion came through it, interrupting city development plans.

You see, engineers armed with new data and using a shorter sequence of history for analysis, found reason to expand the NED project. At a 2.37 cost to benefit ratio, it may even make it into the President's budget.

Whatever funding the NED project can get, local leaders can have 65 percent of that to put toward the locally preferred project.

That will help offset unforeseen costs, like more expensive construction in North Dakota because of its soil, another factor discussed yesterday.

There is one concern, now looking at an expanded plan, it could delay the project. As Mayor Walaker says we've been on the fast track with this so far, and we'd like to keep it that way.

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