

## METRO FLOOD STUDY WORK GROUP MEETING

Thursday, November 5, 2009

3:30 p.m.

Fargo City Commission Room

A meeting of the Metro Flood Study Work Group was held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 5, 2009 in the Fargo City Commission Room.

Work Group Members present: Fargo City Commissioner Tim Mahoney, Fargo City Commissioner Brad Wimmer, Moorhead Council Member Nancy Otto, Moorhead Council Member John Rowell, Moorhead Council Member Lauri Winterfeldt, Cass County Commissioner Darrel Vanyo, Cass County Commissioner Scott Wagner, Clay County Commissioner Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner Kevin Campbell, Cass County Water Resource District Manager Tom Fischer, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Manager Gerald VanAmburg.

Work Group Members absent: None

Staff Members present: Fargo City Administrator Pat Zavoral, Fargo City Engineer Mark Bittner, Moorhead City Manager Mike Redlinger, Moorhead City Engineer Bob Zimmerman, Moorhead Senior Engineer Jody Bertrand, Cass County Administrator Bonnie Johnson, Cass County Engineer Keith Berndt, Clay County Administrator Vijay Sethi, West Fargo City Administrator Jim Brownlee, Dilworth Mayor Elect Chad Olson.

Others present: US Army Corps of Engineers Senior Planner & Project Manager Craig Evans, US Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager Aaron Snyder, US Army Corps of Engineers Zoltan Montvai, US Army Corps of Engineers St. Paul District Support Team Lead Bob Peterson and US Army Corps of Engineers Col. Jon Christensen, Commander of St. Paul District.

Tim Mahoney opened the meeting and called for introductions.

Colonel Christianson introduced the Corps team from Vicksburg, Mississippi and Washington, D.C. Mr. Montvai, Vicksburg, gave an overview of the Corps process arriving at a solution for the flood risk mitigation.

Aaron Snyder and Craig Evans gave an overview of the USACE's FM Metropolitan Feasibility Study. Mr. Snyder updated the group on the alternatives ranked by net benefits and the effects of the various diversions using 50, 100 and 500 year flood levels. He said no matter which plan is implemented, both Fargo and Moorhead will have to implement other efforts. Mr. Evans said there are greater challenges with the North Dakota side alternatives because of the environmental impacts with crossing several tributaries. He said they are working with resource agencies to help solve those issues. He said the west diversion would take more land out of the flood plain. He said there is also a need to focus on the up and down stream impacts. He said upcoming tasks include developing additional benefit information and costs for negative impacts

and refining the alignments in order to minimize costs and working with the local agencies on the changes they request. With the interest in a ND side diversion, he said, the Corps will need to optimize the plan to get above a 1.0 cost/benefit ratio. Questions for local authorities, he said, include determining what level of risk is tolerable and choosing a locally preferred option by December 1. At the next meeting, he said, the group can discuss the arrangement for funding and cost-sharing arrangements. Implementation cannot take effect without local consensus, he said.

There was discussion regarding the levee options versus diversion plans. Mr. Snyder said it would take 60 miles of levees to protect to the 100 year flood stage. Mr. Evans said real estate costs would be more than 50% of the cost of the levee plan. Nancy Otto said it was not logical to pursue the levee plan.

Brad Wimmer moved the levee plan be removed from the list of alternatives. Nancy Otto seconded.

Vijay Sethi said a levee plan may still be part of the flood protection even if not part of the preferred option. Mr. Snyder agreed that any diversion would have tie-backs of some kind connecting the diversions.

All members of the Metro Flood Study Work Group voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Kevin Campbell said any decisions by the Metro Flood Study Work Group will be brought to the larger group as a recommendation.

There was discussion regarding the diversion plan, what level of risk is tolerable and the timeline needed by the Corps. Mr. Snyder said the Corps will continue to work on cost benefit numbers but would like direction in order to spend time on specific options that may be considered. Gerry VanAmburg questioned if the group should focus more on flood stage than volume. Co-Chair Mahoney indicated he sensed the work group wanted a 500 year level of protection.

Darrel Vanyo moved the 25K diversions be removed. Nancy Otto seconded the motion.

John Rowell suggested that a North Dakota 30K option might offer the best chance at getting the required benefit/cost ratio required for federal funding.

Nancy Otto removed her second from the motion.

Darrel Vanyo then moved to remove the Minnesota 25K diversion from the list of alternatives. Scott Wagner seconded.

Mr. Montvai said the 100 year plan is not adequate and the 500 year plan is more appropriate if the Corps can come up with viable solutions and numbers to back them up.

All members of the Metro Flood Study Work Group voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

There was discussion regarding the addition of a 30K diversion.

Brad Wimmer moved the addition of a 30K diversion to the North Dakota side be added to the list of alternatives. Grant Weyland seconded.

All members of the Metro Flood Study Work Group voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Lance Yohe, Red River Basin Board, reported his Board is working with MN and ND water boards regarding upstream storage issues.

Ken Parke, Dilworth City Administrator, said a Minnesota diversion would have a major negative impact on the City of Dilworth. He said Dilworth is in favor of a ND plan and hopes the Corps will focus on that. Mr. Snyder said the Corps will work with the concerns of Dilworth but needs to consider the Clay county aquifer.

Kevin Campbell announced the next meeting will be held November 12, 2009 at 3:30 p.m., in the Fargo City Commission Room. The two items not covered today - the ownership/maintenance of the selected project and the funding contributions for a local match will be added to the next agenda. He said the motions made today will be forwarded to the Metro Flood Management Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.