

Metro Flood Management Committee  
Tuesday, November 24, 2009  
7:30 a.m.  
Ramada Plaza Suites  
Fargo, North Dakota

A meeting of the Metro Flood Management Committee was held at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at the Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, North Dakota.

Metro Flood Management Committee members present:

Fargo Mayor Dennis Walaker, Fargo Commissioners Tim Mahoney, Dave Piepkorn, Mike Williams and Brad Wimmer, Moorhead Mayor Mark Voxland, Moorhead Council Members Mark Hintermeyer, Dan Hunt, Nancy Otto, Diane Wray Williams and Lauri Winterfeldt, Cass County Commissioners Vern Bennett, Ken Pawluk, Darrell Vanyo and Scott Wagner, Clay County Commissioners Jerry Waller, Kevin Campbell, Jon Evert, Grant Weyland, Cass County Joint Water Resource District - Senator Tom Fischer and Buffalo-Red River Watershed - Gerald VanAmburg.

Committee Members absent: Moorhead Council Members Dan Bohmer, Greg Lemke and John Rowell, Cass County Commissioner Robin Sorum, Clay County Commissioner Wayne Ingersoll.

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 Mayor Rich Mattern, Cass County Joint Water Resource District - Mark Brodshaug, Ray Wolfer and Mike Buringrud, Joan Carlson, representing U.S. Congressman Earl Pomeroy.

Mayor Walaker opened the meeting.

Scott Wagner moved the minutes from the November 5 and November 12, 2009 Metro Flood Study Work Group meetings be accepted. Nancy Otto seconded the motion.

All members of the Metro Flood Management Committee present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Aaron Snyder, US Army Corps of Engineers, gave an update on the Fargo Moorhead Metropolitan Feasibility Study regarding the flood mitigation projects.

Mayor Walaker suggested the Metro Flood Management Committee consider the three recommendations voted on by the Work Group regarding the flood mitigation options.

Commissioner Mahoney thanked the Work Group for the work done up to this point on narrowing the options for the Corps to consider. He said today the committee would

vote by voice vote, with the final recommendations being voted on by the individual jurisdictions.

Commissioner Campbell said the first recommendation from the Working Group is to proceed with nothing less than 500 year flood protection.

Lauri Winterfeldt moved to consider nothing less than 500 year flood protection for flood mitigation plans. Mike Williams seconded the motion.

All members of the Metro Flood Management Committee present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Commissioner Campbell recommended removal of the levee protection option as primary flood mitigation. The purpose being, he said, it would not meet the 500 year protection level and the cost share between federal and local would be difficult to attain.

Grant Weyland moved levee protection as primary flood mitigation be removed from the list of alternatives. Darrel Vanyo seconded the motion.

All members of the Metro Flood Management Committee present voted aye except Jerry Waller who voted nay and the motion was declared carried.

Commissioner Mahoney said the Working Group made a recommendation of narrowing the list of diversion options to three.

There was discussion regarding removal of the larger options from the list and the implications for meeting the Corps' timetables.

Aaron Snyder responded to a question from West Fargo Mayor Rich Mattern regarding the proximity of a North Dakota diversion to the West Fargo Sheyenne Diversion. Mr. Snyder said the alignments are up for further discussion but a North Dakota diversion would be close but not within the Sheyenne diversion.

Scott Wagner moved to narrow the options to three diversions - the MN 35K, ND 30K and ND 35K. Brad Wimmer seconded the motion.

All members of the Metro Flood Management Committee present voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

There was discussion regarding potential funding commitments.

Commissioner Mahoney said the Work Group needs to continue addressing the funding commitments for the potential project. He said each individual entity will discuss how funding would work depending on the percentages of impact and benefit of the selected mitigation project. The Work Group, he said, will discuss possible commitments at the December 17th Work Group meeting.

Aaron Snyder said the USACE will need to have sponsorship and funding commitments by July with the final report going to the USACE team by mid August. In response to a question regarding mitigating downstream impacts, Mr. Snyder said there could be federal participation for downstream projects depending on the Corps' analysis.

Diane Ista, Wild Rice Watershed District, said a working group is being formed of small communities on both sides of the Red River, north to the Canadian border, to address the downstream impact from a Fargo Moorhead Metro project. The Wild Rice Watershed District, she said, has invested funds to reduce the impact from Red River flooding and she asked that downstream impact be considered by the committee.

Tom Fischer said the North Dakota side is heavily involved with upstream retention concerns and projects that will help downstream impacts.

Commissioner Campbell said the Work Group will continue to discuss funding and sponsorship commitments at upcoming meetings. He said the governing aspect of the project will go hand in hand with funding commitments and each jurisdiction will deal with percentages according to impact.

There was discussion regarding the timetables on the final option adoption.

Aaron Snyder said the Corps should have the economic analysis completed by late January or early February. Public meetings will be held at the beginning of February, he said.

Commissioner Campbell set the next Work Group meeting for December 17, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. in Fargo City Commission Room.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 a.m.