

Metro Flood Study Work Group Meeting
Thursday, May 13, 2010
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, May 13, 2010 in the Fargo City Commission Room.

Work Group Members present: Fargo City Commissioners Tim Mahoney and Brad Wimmer, Moorhead Council Members Dan Hunt, Nancy Otto and Diane Wray-Williams, Cass County Commissioners Scott Wagner and Darrell Vanyo, 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, Cass County Administrator Bonnie Johnson, Cass County Engineer Keith Berndt, Clay County Administrator Vijay Sethi.

Others present: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager Aaron Snyder, Fargo City Attorney Erik Johnson, West Fargo Mayor Rich Mattern, Dilworth Mayor Chad Olson, Red River Basin Commission Executive Director Lance Yohe.

Commissioner Campbell opened the meeting with introductions.

Approval of April 22 and April 25, 2010 Minutes

Scott Wagner moved the minutes from the April 22 and April 25, 2010 Metro Flood Study Work Group meetings be approved. Nancy Otto seconded the motion. All members voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Status Report

Aaron Snyder said the preliminary analysis has been completed using the updated hydraulics and hydrology. He said the analysis resulted in the MN 35k being the plan with the most net benefits and would tentatively be identified as the NED plan; however, an analysis through some additional modeling will be completed on a MN 40k or 45k, to determine the NED plan. The biggest changes came, he said, in the hydrology and hydraulics which resulted in a change to the annual average damages. **He said the MN and ND 35k diversion channel no longer meet the work group's goal of a stage of 36' for that .2 percent flood event, which is a 500-year flood event.** Additional work needs to be done on the ND diversion, he said, due to an error that was made on the initial benefit calculations for the Sheyenne River. **He said they are also working on updating the cost estimates on the ND side due to some geotechnical and stability issues with the ND diversion. The soils on the ND side are fairly poor, he said, and will drive the costs up pretty significantly on the ND Diversion.** They are working on getting the cost

estimates to determine what the local cost shares will be, he said, but at this time it is still too early to determine if those costs will go up or down from a local cost share perspective. He said even though the NED plan is getting bigger the local cost share might not change a whole lot.

Mr. Snyder said right-of-entry requests were sent by their office to all potential impacted landowners and the return response has been about 40%. He said if the group decides on going with a MN 40k or 45k the Corps may have a tough time meeting the schedules.

In response to a question from Nancy Otto regarding the raise in flood stages, Mr. Snyder stated there were two things that drove the flood stages up; one was the hydrology and the other was the updated hydraulic models.

Local Funds Spent to Date

Mark Bittner distributed a Local Cost Summary of the FM Metro Flood Control Feasibility Study. He said the handout shows what the local cost shares are and what has been encumbered thus far. He said the City of Fargo has also been contracting for work in-kind which gets credited against the local share. He said Fargo and Moorhead have contributed the majority of the funds to date. The Corps, he said, is asking the locals to take the lead on the estimated pending work that needs to be done.

In response to a question from Scott Wagner regarding the money that was set aside during the last legislative session for permanent flood protection, Tom Fischer said it is limited to use on the construction of permanent flood protection, not for use on the design phase.

Scott Wagner moved staff be authorized to complete the estimated pending work. Brad Wimmer seconded the motion. All members voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Cass County Informational Meetings

Darrell Vanyo said Cass County Officials have held three informational meetings so far. He said they gave a presentation about the North Dakota Diversion and discussed funding sources. He said the meetings have been very positive and they received appreciation from City Officials for hosting the meetings.

Downstream Issues

Lance Yohe said his group is working on a long term flood solution that will be reported to the ND and MN Legislatures in January of 2011. He said this year work has been done on modeling, stream flow reductions and a basic picture of what needs to be done, including pieces like the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion. He said his group is interested in helping in any way that they can with staff and resources.

Next Meeting Dates

The committee agreed to meet on Wednesday, May 26th at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

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