

Metro Flood Study Work Group Meeting  
Thursday, September 9, 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, September 9, 2010 in the Fargo City Commission Room.

Work Group Members present: Fargo City Commissioner Tim Mahoney, Moorhead Council Members Nancy Otto and Diane Wray-Williams, Cass County Commissioners Scott Wagner and Darrell Vanyo, Clay County Commissioners Kevin Campbell and Grant Weyland, Cass County Water Resource District Manager Tom Fischer, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Manager Gerald VanAmburg.

Work Group Members absent: Moorhead Council Member Dan Hunt and Fargo City Commissioner Brad Wimmer.

Staff Members present: Fargo City Administrator Pat Zavoral, Fargo City Engineer Mark Bittner, Fargo Senior Engineer April Walker, Moorhead City Manager Mike Redlinger, Moorhead City Engineer Bob Zimmerman, Cass County Engineer Keith Berndt, Clay County Administrator Vijay Sethi.

Others present: Fargo City Attorney Erik Johnson, West Fargo City Administrator Jim Brownlee, Dilworth Mayor Chad Olson, Red River Basin Commission Executive Director Lance Yohe.

Approval of the August 5, 2010 Minutes

Scott Wagner moved the minutes from the August 5, 2010 Metro Flood Study Work Group meeting be approved. Diane Wray-Williams seconded the motion. All members voted aye, and the motion was declared carried.

Technical Committee Update

Mark Bittner said Engineering is continuing to do more modeling with local consultants as well as additional work on the downstream location where there is zero impact. He said Engineering has gotten as far down as Drayton and there is still impact, not significant; however Engineering will continue on until a place is found where there is zero impact. He said Engineering is also looking at some options for incorporating storage in the County. He said some areas in Cass County have been located; however, additional modeling would need to be done at an added cost of \$100,000.00. The hope is, he said, to have the work done by mid-September or the first part of October, which would give the City a sense if there would be a zero impact with the North Dakota option.

Tom Fischer said the concern is that the permitting is much longer for on-stream storage and large storage projects than some of the projects Mr. Bittner was referring to. He said off-stream projects such as North Ottawa or even smaller than that, which is

associated with drains and/or small tributaries. He said it is a long process considering Maple River dam took ten years to get the permitting and two years to build.

#### Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation Economic Report

Mary Batcheller, Director of Business Development for the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, presented the Regional Economic Impact of Cass County, North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota.

#### Downstream Impacts

Lance Yohe said the MN Watershed Districts and the ND Water Resource Districts are in the process of a long-term flood solution project which includes doing some modeling in the tributaries to identify sites that can be used for storage. He said the Red River Basin Commission has had several individual meetings with downstream communities' leadership to gather feedback on concerns the communities have. He said the information is being processed, it will then be sent back to the communities for review, any further feedback from the leaders will be processed to ensure the information is accurate and the information will then be reported back to this group.

#### Update on the Joint Powers Agreement

Erik Johnson stated there are three issues that are being worked on. The first one, he said, is who is going to own the diversion, what name it will be in and if there may be need for indemnities. A lot of the issues, he said, will be resolved when it is determined how insurance will cover the diversion. The second issue, he said, is determining membership on the Board and how the voting will lie. He said this is an important issue to be resolved. The last issue, he said, is the recreational element and who is going to take over the cost and maintenance of those elements. He said when the JPA is brought to this group there will be a number of contingencies due to the fact that there are upcoming legislative sessions in North Dakota and Minnesota and the outcome of those sessions will be important. He also stated some of the contingencies will need to be removed before entering into an agreement with the Corps. He said he is hoping to have an agreement ready by the next meeting of this group.

#### Next Meeting Date

The Committee agreed to meet on Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.