

Metro Flood Study Work Group Meeting
Thursday, December 9, 2010
7:00 p.m.
Bennett Elementary School

A meeting of the Metro Flood Study Work Group was held at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, 2010, at Bennett Elementary School.

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

Work Group Members absent: Fargo City Commissioner Brad Wimmer.

Staff Members present: Fargo City Engineer Mark Bittner, Fargo Senior Engineer April Walker, Moorhead City Manager Mike Redlinger, Moorhead City Engineer Bob Zimmerman, Cass County Administrator Bonnie Johnson, Cass County Engineer Keith Berndt, Clay County Administrator Brian Berg.

Others present: Oxbow Mayor Jim Nyhof, Moorhead Mayor Mark Voxland, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager Aaron Snyder, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Craig Evans and Terry Williams, Red River Basin Commission Executive Director Lance Yohe, Jake Gust representing Cass County Water Resource District Manager Tom Fischer.

Corps of Engineers Presentation

Aaron Snyder provided a brief history on the diversion process. The Corps has studied computer models to locate a zero impact point downstream, but the initial model showed no zero impact point, which was not anticipated. The Corps is in the process of reviewing methods to reduce downstream impacts, which include upstream storage cells and upstream staging. The number of controlled storage cells has not been identified. The Corps intends to quantify both downstream and upstream impacts; analyze non-structural solutions downstream; and analyze non-structural solutions such as buyouts, relocations and ring levees upstream. He said survey work is being done now along with other geotechnical work.

Mr. Snyder discussed the feasibility study timeline. He said meetings will be held with impacted areas upstream and downstream in February and March of next year. He believes the Corps will have more definite data about upstream impacts by May 2011.

Metro Feasibility Study Report from Technical Team

The technical team consists of city staff, county staff, water resource district staff and local consultants from Moore Engineering and Houston Engineering. The team has developed a model to quantify downstream impacts from flood protection alternatives. Preliminary mitigation concepts include protected/interior storage, upstream staging, ring dikes and community levees, transportation improvements, buyouts, flowage easements and upstream storage.

Oxbow Mayor Jim Nyhof discussed Oxbow's flood protection plan. He said the city recently completed a \$1 million road construction project and has received state funding through the North Dakota State Water Commission for a \$500,000 flood protection project. The ability to protect their city is limited by geotechnical constraints. He asked for a fair and timely response from the Corps regarding upstream impacts. He believes there is a way to protect everyone during a flood event, and asked to work jointly with the technical team.

Mr. Campbell said Oxbow is invited to be part of the process, similar to the Cities of Dilworth and West Fargo, whose representatives attend all Metro Flood Study Work Group meetings.

Mr. Vanyo asked upstream residents to allow the Corps and engineers to complete their analysis work. He wants to work together to solve flooding problems not only for the metropolitan area, but for surrounding communities as well.

Question and Answer Period

The committee and other staff members provided time to answer questions from the public regarding upstream impacts.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.