

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA  
April 20, 2009**

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Moorhead, Clay County, Minnesota, was duly held in the Council Chambers, City Hall, April 20, 2009, at 5:30 PM.

The following were present for roll call:

Mayor:	Mark Voxland	Present
1st Ward Council Member:	Nancy Otto	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	Diane Wray Williams	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Dan Hunt	Present
2nd Ward Council Member:	John Rowell	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Greg Lemke	Present
3rd Ward Council Member:	Lauri Winterfeldt	Present
4th Ward Council Member:	Mark Hintermeyer	Present
1st Ward Council Member:	Dan Bohmer	Absent

**Committee of the Whole Meeting**

1. [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permanent Flood Protection Study - Phase 1 Update & Discussion](#)

**Minutes:** 6:56 PM

**Minutes:** 5:29 PM

**City Manager Redlinger summarized the purpose of the discussion tonight, which is to provide preliminary outcomes and information from the Phase 1 portion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) study. The study is per an agreement between Moorhead, Fargo and USACE to study permanent flood protection measures in the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. The first phase of the USACE study is being conducted in conjunction with the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District and is nearing completion. The Corps of Engineers has scheduled public meetings for May 19 and May 20, 2009 to receive input from the public on the study. Two additional study phases will follow in late 2009 and 2010.**

**City Engineer Zimmerman reviewed the first handout (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flood risk Management Feasibility Studies Status Update). He noted federal funding for flood control projects falls under the USACE authority and normally follows a three step process:**

- **The USACE conducts a reconnaissance study to determine if there is adequate justification to support Federal participation in a project. Reconnaissance studies are 100% Federally funded.**
- **If the reconnaissance study indicates potential**

Federal interest, the project moves to a feasibility study to analyze specific alternatives, recommend the preferred alternative, and complete environmental documentation necessary for the project to proceed. Feasibility studies are cost-shared equally between USACE and local partners. Feasibility studies are reported to Congress and a request for project authorization.

> The Fargo-Moorhead and Upstream Feasibility Study is currently in Phase 1b and the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan Feasibility Study is nearing completion.  
-If funding for the project is secured, the project is constructed. Funding is typically 65% Federal, 35% local (excluding land acquisition, which is 100% local). Zimmerman noted the local share of USACE projects in other jurisdictions in the Red River Basin have been subsidized with State assistance.

The Fargo-Moorhead and Upstream Feasibility Study was initiated in August 2004 following completion of the reconnaissance report. The study area encompasses the entire headwaters of the Red River upstream of the metro area. Its purpose is to evaluate alternatives that would reduce flood damages and restore wetland habitat. Funding for the study is 50% Federal (USACE) and 50% local cost-sharing partners.

The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Feasibility Study was initiated in September 2008 to evaluate the potential for Federal interest in solutions to flooding, ecosystem degradation, and other related water resource problems and opportunities in the vicinity of the metro area. The study will examine comprehensive alternatives to reduce flood risk for the entire metro area for the 100-year event and larger flood events.

The cities of Moorhead and Fargo are the local sponsors for this study. The 50% local cost share (\$550,000) for Phase I was split 60% City of Fargo (\$330,000) and 40% Moorhead (\$220,000). Zimmerman pointed out the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District contributed 50% (\$110,000) of Moorhead's share. As noted above, the USACE has scheduled public meetings (May 19 in Fargo and May 20 in Moorhead) to discuss the findings of Phase 1 of the study. Zimmerman added although the results of Phase 1 will not be available until

that time, USACE has indicated that justification exists to move to Phase 2, which is estimated to cost \$1,400,000 (the City of Fargo would fund \$560,000 and the City of Moorhead would fund \$140,000 of the \$700,000 local match.)

City Engineer Zimmerman continued by reviewing the information regarding the recovery framework for the 2009 flood. He noted the record March 2009 flood event was set apart from many previous spring flood events not only by the river stage, but also by the rate of rise, early crest date, and adverse weather conditions. The City worked cooperatively with Federal and State partners and the countless hours of volunteer effort to successfully battle the flood event. He pointed out the conditions under which the flood was fought emphasize the need for new approaches. Flood protection measures must become more agile and less dependent on outside resources, which take time to secure and mobilize.

As a result of the recent flood event, Zimmerman related a 'Framework for Recovery' has been developed to address the recovery mode. This plan considers not only the short-term recovery and damage restoration efforts, but incorporates a variety of flood-related activities currently underway in the metropolitan area. It recognizes the needs for close coordination with, and support from, the Moorhead's Federal, State, and local partners as well as the City residents. Zimmerman reviewed the proposed recovery Framework. The following is a summary of the listed activities:

1. **Protective Measures:** This involves the removal of all protective measures placed during the flood event. The USACE work will be paid with 75% Federal funding and 25% State funding.
  
- 2-A. **Damage Assessment and Restoration - Public Infrastructure:** This entails damage assessment and projects to restore/repair all public infrastructure.
  
- 2-B. **Damage Assessment and Restoration - Private Property:** This includes damage assessments for private property and the issuance of building code and flood plain development permits for the restoration/repair of private property. It was noted initial inspections are

underway and permits issued as repairs are made.

**3-A. Mitigation - Private Property:** This consists of investigating alternatives for substantially damage private property, securing funding, and implementing mitigation.

- Issuance of permits will occur as applications for repairs are made.
- A list of property owners seeking voluntary buy-outs is being compiled.
- Preliminary discussions regarding funding have been initiated with appropriate state agencies.

**3-B. Mitigation - Public Infrastructure:** This includes identifying, securing funding, and constructing public infrastructure mitigation projects including improvements to storm sewers and flood control lift stations, sanitary sewers and lift stations, and permanent levees on public property.

- Initial estimates for conceptual improvement projects total \$20,000,000.
- Funding sources include FEMA's Public Assistance Program, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program administered through the State Dept. of Homeland Security, State bond funds administered by the Minnesota DNR, local funds via special assessment, and other sources to be determined.

**4. Future Flood Protection:** This includes continued participation in on-going USACE feasibility studies for comprehensive long-term flood risk reduction, continued advisory roles for the Oakport Flood Protection Project and Fargo Southside Flood Control Project, revisions to the City's Flood Preparation Manual and GIS tools, and potential interim studies of flood protection in priority areas within the City.

- The USACE's Fargo-Moorhead and Upstream Feasibility Study is an on-going effort.
  - The Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Feasibility Study is scheduled to commence Phase 2 in May and be completed at the end of 2010.
  - Permitting and construction of initial phases of the Oakport Flood Control Project are anticipated to begin in 2009.
  - Activities associated with the Fargo Southside Flood Control Project are on-going.
- Updates to the City's Flood Preparation Manual and GIS tools are scheduled to be completed in

**2009.**

**- Interim studies could be initiated at the Council's discretion.**

**5-A. Floodplain Management - Preliminary Floodplain Maps: This includes all City functions associated with adoption of the preliminary, revised FEMA Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Map.**

**- The City has received the preliminary study and rate map.**

**- FEMA is in the process of scheduling the Preliminary Results Meeting and Public Open House (anticipated in May or June).**

**- Approximately five to six months after the Public Open House, FEMA will issue a Letter of Final Determination. The revised study and rate map will become effective six months after issuance of this letter.**

**- Approximately four to five months after issuance of the Letter of Final Determination, FEMA will issue the final Flood Insurance Study and Flood Insurance Rate Map.**

**- Ordinance revisions must be adopted by the Mayor and Council and approved by the DNR prior to the revised study and rate map becoming effective (approximately one year after FEMA's public open house.)**

**- Policy revisions and a coordinated program/policy for ground surveys (Elevation of Certificates and Letters of Map Amendment should be drafted prior to FEMA's public open house.**

**5-B. Floodplain Management - Community Rating System: This includes making application to, and on-going participation in, FEMA's Community Rating System.**

**- In response to previous inquiry, the City has been accepted to make application for participation in the Community Rating System. A field representative will meet with staff in May to assist in completing the application for a June submission.**

**- Additional floodplain management activities will be identified and implemented as resources allow.**

**6. This activity includes legislative efforts to secure Federal and State funding assistance and authorization for various program initiatives essential to ensure long-term community competitiveness.**

- Discussions with Federal and State delegations have been initiated.

- State legislation providing for flood recovery is anticipated during the current session.

- Longer-term funding initiatives associated with the mid- to long-term mitigation and flood risk management will continue into the future.

**Minutes:** City Manager Redlinger reported on recent updated information. **6:56 PM**

2. [City Manager Reports](#)

**Minutes:** Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m. **5:29 PM**

The proceedings of this meeting are digitally recorded and said electronic file is available for public review.

APPROVED:

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MARK VOXLAND, Mayor

ATTEST:

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KAYE BUCHHOLZ, City Clerk