



MOORHEAD CITY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA
April 20, 2009 - 5:30 PM
City Hall Council Chambers

Committee of the Whole Meeting

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permanent Flood Protection Study -
Phase 1 Update & Discussion _____
2. City Manager Reports _____

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SUBJECT: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Permanent Flood Protection Study - Phase 1 Update & Discussion

RECOMMENDATION: It is respectfully requested that the Mayor and City Council receive an update from City staff regarding the US Army Corps of Engineers Permanent Flood Protection Study - Phase 1. It is further requested that following this update the Mayor and Council receive information regarding the Spring 2009 Flood Event and issues related to flood recovery in the City of Moorhead.

BACKGROUND: The Mayor and City Council previously authorized an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City of Fargo 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. The first phase of the study process is nearing completion, with two additional study phases to follow in late 2009 and 2010.

The purpose of this evening's briefing is to provide the Mayor and Council with preliminary outcomes and information from the Phase 1 portion of the USACE study and share information with the public regarding opportunities for citizen input in the later stages of the study process. The Corps of Engineers has scheduled public meetings for May 19 and May 20, 2009 to receive input from the public on the study.

KEY ISSUES: The Cities of Moorhead and Fargo have jointly agreed to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to study various flood protection measures and their related cost-benefit ratios for the Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area. Following the review of the USACE Phase 1 Study, City staff will provide an overview of recovery efforts currently underway following the Spring 2009 Flood Event in the City of Moorhead.

Recovery measures to be discussed with the Mayor and Council this evening include the following:

- Planned short- and long-term future mitigation projects with the federal government and the State of Minnesota
- FEMA/State of Minnesota private property buyout process and overview
- State of Minnesota recovery programs and special legislative initiatives for the City of Moorhead

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS: It is the policy and practice of the Mayor and Council to receive updates on studies and initiatives of the City of Moorhead. This evening's Committee of the Whole discussion is intended to provide information to the elected body on the first phase of the USACE study and provide an overview of short- and long-term flood mitigation measures currently being discussed by the City Engineering Department. A more detailed presentation will be distributed to the Mayor and Council on Monday evening.



FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: The US Army Corps of Engineers Study will occur in three phases. The schedule and costs for the phases of the study follow:

- Phase 1: Completion April 2009 \$1,300,000
- Phase 2: Completion April 2010 \$2,500,000
- Phase 3: Completion December 2010 \$1,500,000

Future study phases will require additional local contributions from the Cities of Moorhead and Fargo as well as outside partner agencies, such as the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS: None.

Respectfully Submitted:



Michael J. Redlinger
City Manager

Department/Response Person: Engineering/Zimmerman-Redlinger

Attachments: USACE Information Paper: Flood Risk Management in the Fargo-Moorhead Metro

Agenda Item No. 1.

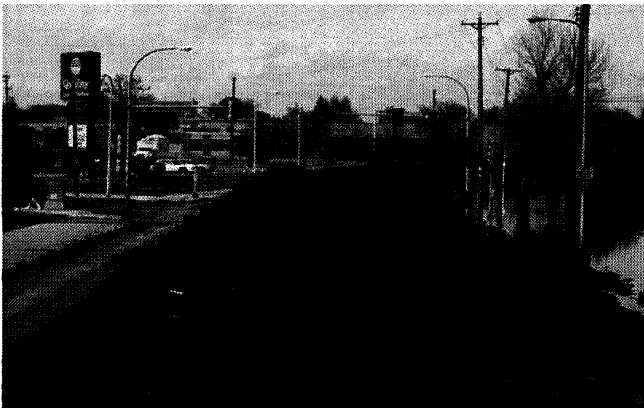




**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Risk Management: Fargo-Moorhead Metro, North Dakota and Minnesota



An emergency levee protects the city at Second Street during the 2001 flood.

Background

The Fargo-Moorhead metropolitan area is a major health, educational, cultural, and commercial center serving southeastern North Dakota and west-central Minnesota. The area is prone to flooding; the Red River has exceeded flood stage in 49 of the past 105 years and every year from 1993 through 2008. A 500-year event would flood nearly the entire city of Fargo and a large portion of the city of Moorhead, as well as several smaller communities in the area. Flooding occurs not only from the rivers, but also from large rainfall events that overwhelm storm drainage systems. Average annual flood damages are estimated at over \$22 million.

Emergency flood fights have been very successful in Fargo and Moorhead, but the record-setting flood of 1997 was smaller than a 100-year event. The area is significantly vulnerable to flooding, despite the history of successful responses to the relatively small flood events that have occurred.

Contact

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Status

The Corps and the cities of Fargo and Moorhead are jointly conducting this study. The study will assess the feasibility of measures to reduce flood risk in the entire metropolitan and surrounding area. The study will consider an array of potential alternatives including nonstructural flood proofing, diversion channels, levee/floodwall systems, and flood storage.

The study is not intended to replace other projects already in place or being developed. Rather, it will evaluate additional measures that would further reduce flood risks in the entire study area. The study will determine whether Federal participation can be recommended to implement any proposed measures.

Why Now?

Local leaders recognize that flooding poses a significant risk to people in the entire metro area. Since the 1997 flood, they have taken many actions to reduce that risk, including buying and removing flood-prone homes, building levees, and improving storm drainage systems. There are several projects going right now like Oakport, Fargo-Ridgewood levees, and the Fargo Southside project. But there are limits to what each community can do by itself. They have asked the Corps to help look for a regional solution that would reduce everyone's flood risk.

Schedule and Costs

<u>Phase</u>	<u>Completion</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Phase 1	April 2009	\$1,300,000
Phase 2	April 2010	\$2,500,000
Phase 3	December 2010	\$1,500,000

Phase 1 consists of initial alternative formulation and economic calculations. Phase 2 includes the screening of the alternatives and development of a selected plan. Phase 3 will fully develop the selected plan and make a recommendation to Congress.

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SUBJECT: City Manager Reports

RECOMMENDATION: There is no specific request for the Mayor and Council to consider at this time. Space is merely reserved on the agenda for Mayor and Council to receive a report and/or update from the City Manager on recent issues/events.

BACKGROUND: Time is set aside to facilitate the timely reporting of late-breaking information to Mayor and Council.

KEY ISSUES: There are no specific issues concerning this particular agenda listing. Space is merely reserved to accommodate the timely dissemination of current information to the Mayor and Council pertaining to City issues, events, and projects.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS: There are no specific policy considerations at this time.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS: There are no financial considerations as it relates to the timely dissemination of information, unless so directed by the Mayor and Council.

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS: Agenda space is merely reserved to provide Mayor and Council with timely reports concerning issues of interest.

Respectfully Submitted:



Michael J. Redlinger
City Manager

Department/Response Person: **Administration**

Attachments: **None**



