NORTHWEST OHIO

Flood Mitigation Partnership, INC.

What Has Been Done

- Since 1871, six reports have been written on flood control.
  - The US Army Corps of Engineers reports (1962 for Findlay and 1964 for Ottawa) recommended that a federal project be authorized. Findlay accepted the US Army Corps' recommendation and in 1963 the Army Corps sent a request to Congress. It is unknown why nothing was done. Ottawa declined the federal government's recommendation in 1963 and for financial reasons, declined again in 1987.
- Four rain and stream flow gauges were added in the fall 2007 to forewarn residents to protect moveable property. Residents can review data from the gauges at http://www.ci.findlay.oh.us/?id=194.
- Ottawa developed a "Comprehensive Stormwater Plan" that resulted in $11 million in storm water improvements since 1990.
  - All new construction within the Village is required to incorporate this plan, which was updated in 2007.
- Property acquisitions using state and federal grant and city funds.
  - The demolition of these "at-risk" properties, converting them to green space, will allow for more flood storage capacity inside the floodplain.
- Ottawa obtained a "Class 9" rating from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System.
  - Citizens to receive a 5 percent reduction in flood insurance rates.
- Findlay subdivision regulations were updated to require increased storm water retention for new developments in the flood plain.
- Ottawa requires all new subdivisions, commercial and industrial structures, without exception, to incorporate into their design plans the parameters of the Village's stormwater plan.
- Liberty Street Dam was lowered in 2006 to have more volume capacity inside its normal channel to take additional flood waters.

What We Know About A Solution

- A permanent solution to this problem is a long-term issue - **3 to 5 years to develop and implement a viable solution.**
- The solution will be expensive. Findlay's portion of a flood solution could be in excess of $50 million. A separate amount will be needed for the Village of Ottawa.
- Must be approved by US Army Corps of Engineers for federal funding of up to 65% of the cost of construction.
- Though not a solution, Hancock and Putnam counties have each received $1 million grants through the Ohio Department of Labor to remove debris and log jams from waterways in their regions. Work is scheduled to begin Spring 2008.

About The Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership

- A private/non-profit organization whose purpose is to expedite the design and development of a flood mitigation plan.
  - Implemented in coordination with responsible public authorities in the Blanchard River Watershed.
- Working with consultants, local government, the Blanchard River Watershed Partnership, the Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, state and federal legislators.
- Findlay, Ottawa, Putnam County and Hancock County officials recently signed resolutions endorsing the Partnership's efforts. The group expects an agreement soon with Hardin County and Bluffton officials.
- Developing a feasibility study with Army Corps could take 24-31 months.
- Assisting local governments in keeping federal legislator attention on the issue.
- Determining a funding plan for construction.

For more information, visit our website at www.floodpartnership.org

What We're Dealing With

Blanchard River Watershed

- Covers nearly 771 square miles, approximately half is upstream of Findlay.
- Forms in Hardin County and includes Hancock, Allen, Wyandot, Putnam and Paulding Counties.
- Hancock County makes up 49.2 percent of the entire watershed while Putnam County is the second largest at 24.2 percent.
- Receives approximately 36 inches of annual rainfall.
- 70 percent of the flow during the 100-year storm enters the river east of Findlay and a large part of the remaining 30 percent is added by Eagle and Lye Creeks.
- 80 percent of the watershed is cropland.

The Blanchard River

- Normal flow rate is approximately 1,000 gallons per second.
- The rate is up to 37,000 gallons per second before it reaches flood stage.
- During the August 2007 flood, the rate was 116,700 gallons per second.
- The Blanchard River is predominantly flat with more than 83 percent of the land at less than a 2 percent slope.

Flooding

- The largest flood occurred in March 1913 when 9.2 inches of rain fell in a 4-day period; exceeded the 500-year flood.
- August 2007 was 2nd largest recorded.
- *The term a "100-year flood," means that there is a 1 percent chance that a "100-year flood" could happen in any given year.*