



Status Report

Month ending October 31, 2008

Technical Team

The Feasibility Study Team is gathering survey data for the Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H) study, as well as preparing the Existing Conditions portion of the Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Survey Data

The USACE met with Technical Team engineers to discuss data. It was determined that most of the data meets specifications. Potential reservoir sites from the 1962 study have been identified. The Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership (NWOFP) will contract with URS to provide additional data identified by USACE.

Existing Conditions

The Study Team conducted a half-day workshop to format the draft Existing Conditions. The Study Team submitted their sections to the Technical Team, but the Oct. 1 deadline was missed due to scheduling conflicts. The final document will be submitted to the USACE at the November 13 panel discussion.

Aesthetics Team

NWOFP representatives discussed with Kinzelman, Kline, and Gossman Architectural firm the need to begin a process to identify community desires in regard to aesthetics. We expect several opportunities to solicit community input before the 2011 design begins. Kinzelman, Kline and Gossman will submit a proposal November 12.

1962 Study

After a discussion with the USACE, it was determined that an in-depth analysis is needed on the 1962 and 1964 studies to determine if any of the solutions are still viable. The USACE will analyze them and URS also will conduct an independent analysis for NWOFP. If there are portions that are still viable, a case will be made for beginning design and implementation right away. This is a departure from USACE's usual procedure, which requires that the entire study be completed before beginning design. Analyses are expected to be completed by Mid-December 2008.

Funding

The Hancock County Commissioners, on September 24, 2008, voted to impose two separate sales tax issues by emergency measure and place the issues on the November 2009 ballot. A one-quarter percent tax was imposed for County Capital Improvements and a one-half percent tax for county operations and flood mitigation. A separate fund will be established for the flood mitigation portion of the tax. The tax will be assessed beginning January 1 and distributed at the end of March 2009. If the tax issues are not affirmed by voters in November 2009, the tax will continue to be assessed until April 1, 2010, with distributions continuing through June 2010. Flood mitigation efforts would receive 15 months collection estimated at \$3,400,000.

Long Term Public Entity

It was recommended that the NWOFFMP board that it pursue a Conservancy District that would encompass the Blanchard River Watershed and not become a sub-district of the Maumee. NWOFFMP representatives then met to discuss the concept with judges of the Maumee Conservancy Court and Putnam, Hancock, Allen, and Hardin Counties, and representatives of the Maumee Conservancy District and the Village of Ottawa. It was agreed that it would be best to form a new conservancy district. Since the petition will likely be filed in his court, Judge Niemeyer was given the duty of working with the NWOFFMP.. Additionally, Robison, Curphey, and O'Connell were engaged to begin the legal work needed to form the district. Meetings will be held with judges from Seneca and Wyandot Counties to discuss this effort.

Formation of a Cost Allocation Committee

A committee will evaluate cost allocation, evaluating the whole watershed and determining a defensible cost allocation method that will apportion cost to each county.

Purchase of Property

There has been a delay in receiving the \$3 million awarded from the State of Ohio for non-federal share costs associated with flood mitigation projects. The NWOFFMP will move forward with property purchases and awarding contracts for proposals from qualified appraisers, title agencies, and buyer's agents. The Partnership will advance the money needed for appraisals and title searches and be reimbursed when the State funds are available. Appraisals and title searches are expected to be completed by Dec. 31, 2008.

Northwest Ohio Flood Mitigation Partnership
101 West Sandusky Street, Suite 200
Findlay, Ohio 45840
567-251-3802 office • 567-251-3803 fax
www.floodpartnership.org
