

North Branch Ecorse Creek – 3rd Stakeholder Meeting Agenda and Summary

Meeting Location: Romulus Athletic Center, Cirrus Room, 35765 Northline Road, Romulus, MI

Meeting Date and Time: Tuesday, August 16, 2011, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

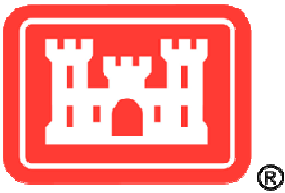
Attendees: See attachment

Agenda Items

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Brief Study Overview
- 3) Review of Alternatives Formulation
 - Screening Analysis
 - Formulated Alternatives
 - Alternative 1: Without Project
 - Alternative 2: Corps 1988 Detention Basin
 - Alternative 3: Wayne County 2008 Greenway
 - Alternative 4: Single Optimized Detention Facility
 - Alternative 5: Detention Facilities with a greenway channel (w/ varying channel widths) and associated road crossing improvements from Madison Street to Allen Road
 - Alternative 6: Single Optimized Detention Facility with a greenway channel (with varying widths) from Madison Street to the Detroit River
 - Alternatives Performance Comparison
- 4) Selected Alternative
- 5) Next Steps
- 6) Question and Answer
- 7) Project Contact Information
- 8) Project Contacts
 - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
 - John Niemiec, Project Manager: (313)226-7885 or John.M.Niemiec@usace.army.mil
 - Wayne County
 - Greg Tupancy, Project Manager: (313)224.7558 or gtupancy@co.wayne.mi.us
 - Kelly Cave, Project Director: (313)224-8282 or kcave@co.wayne.mi.us
 - Ecorse Creek Website: <http://www.nbecorsecreek.com/>

Attachments

- Presentation Handout



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Attendees – See the attached attendees list for the 3rd Stakeholders Meeting.

Agenda Overview:

Mike Donahue, URS project principal and moderator, provided an overview of the agenda, addressed housekeeping items, and presented the goals of the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions:

Mike Donahue extended the initial welcome to attendees. The initial welcome was followed by a welcome from Lieutenant Colonel Derosier; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Detroit District commander, and Kelly Cave; Director, Water Quality Management Division, Wayne County Department of Public Services, and North Branch Ecorse Creek project director. The meeting was then opened for introductions from the project delivery team (PDT) and stakeholders. Following the welcome and introductions, Mike Donahue articulated the goal of the meeting, which was to provide a status update of the study and receive feedback.

Study Overview:

Adam Fox, Corps water resources planner, showed a virtual tour of the study. The video will be available on the project website and will be shown at the public information meeting. Adam provided a brief overview of additional elements of the study. Adam indicated that the plan selection is based on what provides the greatest benefit, which includes economic considerations.

Alternatives Formulation – Detailed Review of the Alternatives:

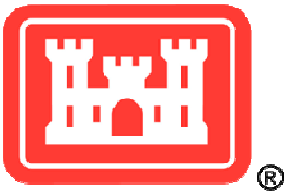
Mike Johnson, HDR project manager, provided detailed information on alternative options analyzed for the project. Information included the anticipated costs, damages, damage reduction, benefit/cost ratio, and net benefits for each plan.

Selected Alternative:

Mike Johnson indicated that Alternative 6 has the greatest net benefit of the plans in the study. Alternative 6 is less intrusive to the community than other plans and greatly mitigates downstream impacts.

Next Steps:

Mike Donahue discussed the next steps for the project. Two public information meetings will be held. The draft documents (General Reevaluation Report and Environmental Impact Statement) will be submitted to the Corps and Wayne County for review. A



submittal of the final draft of the documents will be delivered to the Corps and made available for public comment.

Comment, and Question and Answer Portion:

Mike Donahue facilitated the questions and answer portion of the meeting. The following are general comments, and questions and responses generated at the meeting.

- A number of questions were emailed to the project delivery team. Responses to those questions will be posted on the project website. **(Question)** How many parcels will be affected by the proposed project **(Response)** 275 parcels and approximately 39 acres of easements. Field soil sampling for the study is currently in progress. Operation and maintenance of the facility will be done by Wayne County. The proposed detention basin (Powers Basin) was designed to minimize the maintenance. The project cost is split approximately 65 percent federal and 35 percent non-federal; cost-share agreement is pending.
- **(Question)** Work is going on with the storm drains in Allen Park under Highway 94. Is that part of this project? **(Answer)** That is not part of this project.
- **(Question)** Is there an estimate for the number of bridges affected by this project? **(Answer)** It is anticipated that six bridges will be affected; five bridges will be replaced and one bridge will be removed. **(Clarification)** Of the five bridges to be replaced one is footbridge, and the bridge to be removed is located within a parking lot.
- **(Question)** What is the anticipated length of construction? **(Answer)** It is a two- to three-season construction phase. There is more work to do before the construction phase occurs, including independent exterior peer review and political authorization. It will be several years before construction would be implemented.
- **(Question)** Is the difference between Alternative 4 and Alternative 6 the Greenway Channel? **(Answer)** That is correct.
- **(Question)** What is the formula for determining the net benefit? **(Answer)** Damages and project implementation costs were annualized over a 50-year period. A 50-year period is a typical analysis length for the Corps of Engineers.
- **(Question)** Is the benefit-cost ratio not the most important factor in selecting a plan? **(Answer)** The net benefit is the most important factor, though the benefit-cost ratio must be positive to move the project forward. **(Clarification)** The benefit-cost ratio must also be greater than 1.
- **(Question)** How are individual storm events taken into consideration for the benefit, given the chance of experiencing each and the anticipated length of the project? Were other alternatives considered based on more frequent events? Were social and economic factors included in the analysis for each event? **(Answer)** The environmental condition, social impacts, preliminary design, cost and construction, and maintenance impacts have all been evaluated. More alternatives have been evaluated; the presented alternatives were selected for more detailed analysis due to the preliminary results. Not all of the information could be presented.
- **(Comment)** Alternative 5 and Alternative 3 do not meet criteria due to their cost. Perhaps Alternative 4 and Alternative 6 should be used with a cost array as the



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primary factor to show the public. The damages prevented for smaller storms, for the cost of the project, would generate greater public support. Present the options in a manner that the public does not think that a decision has already been made.

(Comment) More expensive options should be considered; residents are paying up to \$1,500 annually for flood insurance. Residents are unhappy with flooded basements, people are relocating. Many people do not want to own homes in the area; citizens would rather rent. People need to be confident that their homes will not flood and streets will not be impassable. Alternative 4 may not help considering the amount of flood insurance and the likelihood of rising costs.

- **(Response)** Alternative 6 is the recommended plan at this point, though other plans can be selected as the Locally Preferred Plan, which is factored into making decisions. The best net benefits are ultimately the most important factor.
- **(Question)** Progress is dictated to a certain extent by political authorization. Is there a timeline for that component? Is there an alternate plan if the authorization is not obtained to help the communities? **(Answer)** Funding is available to put together this report; these projects are typically authorized by the Water Resources Development Act, but can be authorized in other ways. Funding is often difficult to obtain. Wayne County has plans that could be pursued with local communities and they would not be predicated from moving forward. A theoretical timeline for political authorization is approximately 3 to 4 years.
- **(Question)** How will design of the Greenway Channel look, given public emphasis on recreational areas, flood control, erosion control, and sustainability? **(Answer)** The vision is a grass-type surface near the creek without intrusive vegetation cutting down the floodway slopes. More trees and shaded areas are envisioned further away from the creek. The vegetation is accounted for in hydraulic models and factored into other components. The community can reflect opinions via the Locally Preferred Plan, including recreation amenities as long as the purpose of the project is maintained.
- **(Question)** Is there a point where the GRR becomes out of date for Water Resources Development Act funding? **(Answer)** Two (2) years.

Conclusion:

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m. at which time John Niemiec, Corps project manager, invited the stakeholders to send him, or Greg Tupancy, Wayne County project manager, questions and/or comments by Friday, May 20, 2011.

- Greg Tupancy, Project Manager
Wayne County
 - 313-224-7558
 - gtupancy@co.wayne.mi.us
- John Niemiec, Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
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 - john.m.niemiec@usace.army.mil