

North Branch Ecorse Creek – 2nd Stakeholder Meeting Agenda and Summary

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

Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday, May 11, 2011, from 1:00 – 3:00pm

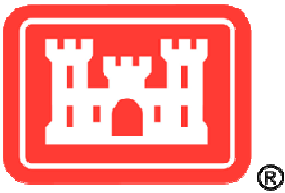
Attendees: See attachment

Agenda Items

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
 - a) Wayne County/Corps Project Team
 - b) Community Representatives and Other Interested Parties
- 2) Study Overview
- 3) Alternatives Formulation
 - a) Screening Analysis
 - b) Alternatives
 - Alternative 1: Without Project
 - Alternative 2: Corps 1988 Retention Basin
 - Alternative 3: Wayne County 2008 Greenway
 - Alternative 4: Single Optimized Detention Facility
 - Alternative 5: Detention Facilities with a greenway channel
- 7) Next Steps
- 8) Questions & Answers
- 9) Project Contacts
 - i) Wayne County
 - Greg Tupancy, Project Manager
Telephone (313)224.7558 or Email gtupancy@co.wayne.mi.us
 - Kelly Cave, Project Director
Telephone (313)224.8282 or Email kcave@co.wayne.mi
 - ii) US Army Corps of Engineers
 - John Niemiec, Project Manager
Telephone (313)226.7885 or Email John.M.Niemiec@usace.army.mil

Attachments

- Presentation Handout



North Branch Ecorse Creek – 2nd Stakeholder Meeting Agenda and Summary

Attendees – See the attached attendees list for the 2nd Stakeholders Meeting. Adam Fox and John Denlinger were also present.

Agenda Overview:

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

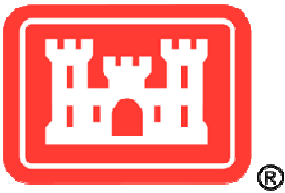
Welcome and Introductions:

Mike Donahue extended the initial welcome to attendees (See Slide 1 – 2). 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, speaking from slide 3, Mike Donahue articulated the goal of the meeting, which was to provide a status update of the study and to solicit input on the formulation of a sixth alternative.

Study Overview:

Adam Fox, Corps water resources planner, provided an overview of the study that included the following points: problem being addressed (reoccurring damaging flooding), benefits that will result from the study (flood risk management measures to assist with reducing damages), and the study components (General Reevaluation Report [GRR] and Environmental Impact Statement [EIS]). Adam spoke from pages 4 – 6 of the attached PowerPoint presentation.

In 1988, the Corps completed a feasibility study to investigate the damages that occur on Ecorse Creek. That study recommended an alternative for implementation. That alternative was not implemented for several reasons, and over time, the information became outdated. The Corps received authorization to conduct a reevaluation of Ecorse Creek. The reevaluation, or the GRR, incorporates applicable information from the original feasibility study, and the 2008 Wayne County Flood Control Study, to develop an overarching flood risk management plan. Components of the GRR and their status were EIS, hydrology and hydraulic, economic modeling, plan formulation and floodplain management (in progress), and structure inventory (completed October 2010).



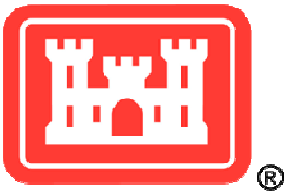
Alternatives Formulation – Flood Risk Management Measures

Adam provided an overview of the plan, or alternative formulation process, used for the GRR. The process included evaluating structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, and developing and screening alternatives. The process yielded five alternatives which were discussed later in the presentation. Adam spoke from pages 5 – 7 of the presentation and highlighted the following points: non-structural flood risk management measures, such as acquisitions, buyout, ring levee...etc; remove damage structured from the floodplain; and do not impact the physical floodplain. While structure flood risk management measures, such as levees, floodwalls...etc, physically change the characteristics of the floodplain, using non-structural and structural flood risk management measures, the project team has identified comprehensive alternatives to address the flooding problem.

Alternatives Formulation – Screening and Selection

John Denlinger, HDR quality manager, summarized the plan formulation process using pages 8 – 12 of the attached presentation. John emphasized the following points:

- Formulated alternatives needed to meet the initial screening criteria, which require each alternative to be technically effective, environmental sound, socially/politically acceptable, cost effective, and constructible. When looking at the cost effectiveness of an alternative, the Corps process uses the benefit-to-cost (B/C) ratio and net benefits as screening and selection tools, respectively.
- Formulating alternatives started with the 1988 Corps Retention Basin and 2008 Wayne County Greenway selected alternatives. The PDT then generated additional alternatives by:
 - Considering and combining flood risk management measures (non-structural and structural)
 - Focusing on damage centers and the federal interest (to maximize cost effectiveness and net benefits of an alternative)
 - Considering stakeholder and public input (using feedback from meetings)
 - Comparing costs of levees and floodwalls to greenway channel
 - Considering buyouts/acquisitions
 - Evaluating storm water detention options
 - Understanding how the Dartmouth Road overtopping influences performance of an alternative. At certain stages, water from North Branch Ecorse Creek finds it way up and over Dartmouth Road. Once the water goes over Dartmouth Road it ends up in the Rouge River Basin.
 - Avoiding induced damages
 - Using updated hydrology and hydraulics models



Alternatives Formulation – Detailed Review of the Alternatives

Mike Johnson, HDR project manager, provided detailed information as presented on pages 14 – 42 of the attached presentation. The information included a description or conceptual design of the five alternative, 2-year and 100-year storm inundation area maps, current probable project costs and B/C ratios, and damage reduced by community if the alternative is implemented. Below is the summary table of the alternatives.

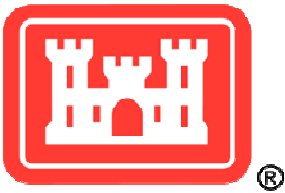
Plan	Current Opinion of Probable Cost	With Plan Damages	Damages Reduced	Benefit / Cost Ratio	Net Benefits
Alternative 1 - Without Condition (No-Action)	\$0	\$21,711,000	\$ 0	-	-
Alternative 2 – With Corps 1988 Retention Basin	\$12,700,000	\$20,340,000	\$1,371,000	2.2	\$742,000
Alternative 3 – With Wayne County 2008 Greenway	\$283,800,000	\$203,000	\$21,508,000	1.5	\$7,125,000
Alternative 4 – With Single Optimized Detention Facility	\$15,800,000	\$14,710,000	\$7,001,000	8.9	\$6,214,000
Alternative 5 –Detention Facilities with Greenway Channel	\$220,800,000	\$8,813,000	\$12,898,000	1.2	\$1,927,000

Locally Preferred Plan

Adam spoke to the fact that before the start of the GRR process, the Greenway Alternative, from the Wayne County 2008 North Branch Ecorse Creek Drain Flood Risk Management Study, was the locally preferred plan (LPP). As we move forward, the communities have the option of endorsing the recommended plan or identifying another alternative. If the communities want to go with something different from the recommended plan, that plan would become the LPP. If the cost of the LPP is more than what the Corps can justify federally, the communities will be responsible for funding/addressing those costs.

Next Steps:

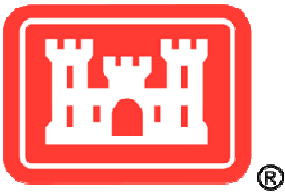
- Solicit input from stakeholders on Alternative 6
- Finalize alternatives
- Public information meeting: Late Summer 2011
- Submit Draft Document for Review: Late Summer 2011
- Submit Final 100 percent GRR: Early Fall 2011



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.

- Alternative 4 is of concern; it addresses some flooding and takes a large portion of property off the city of Dearborn Heights tax rolls. Although the B/C ratio is high, it is not a good solution for the city of Dearborn Heights. In addition, a portion of the location where the basin is proposed is being considered for commercial sale. Alternatives 3 and 5 present amenable alternatives. The city of Dearborn Heights owns approximately 100 properties along the creek and adjacent to Southfield Freeway (M-39), and they would like those considered during the evaluation of formulated alternatives. The city will have Dan Brooks, city engineer, provide the property information.
- Property acquisition costs seem too high. (**Question**) Are the acquisition costs used for the project based on current market values? (**Answer**) The costs are based on a real estate appraisal completed in 2010.
- Greenway flood risk management measure would greatly improve the aesthetics of the area.
- Addressing the flooding issue would greatly improve the value of properties in the primary damages center (Dearborn Heights).
- The 2008 Wayne County study had some street flooding which has been eliminated. Consider using streets as storage to address flooding. Use of streets would reduce the required storage volume.
(**Response**) With the new hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, the 2008 Wayne County Greenway alternative showed improved performance where street flooding was effectively eliminated (See Pages 29 and 30 of the attached presentation). Given the scale of the GRR, it is difficult to allow street flooding and not have impacts to adjacent properties.
- (**Question**) What is the process after completion of Plan 6 and the identification of a recommended plan? (**Response**) When the GRR is completed, with the recommended plan, the report will go to an independent peer reviewer, and then there are several steps and approvals required with the Corps, which could take about a year. Once the Corps approvals have been addressed, the plan will then require authorization and appropriation for final design and construction.
- Ecorse Creek is a top priority in WRDA (Water Resources Development Act) funding for the state of Michigan representatives. They are ready to support a project. However, the communities need to be aware of existing funding uncertainties.
- The GRR is funded by ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) funds that take the project through the Draft GRR phase, which is slated to be completed at the end of the fiscal year (end of September) 2011. Future funding is uncertain as the project is not in the president's fiscal year (FY) 2012 budget and congress is working on their FY 2012 budget.



- (**Question**) What is the difference between Alternative 2 and 4, they seem very similar? (**Response**) Alternative 4 is a different configuration, stays above Power Road, and takes advantage of additional storage. Alternative 4 also has increased benefits as a result of the outlet reconfiguration.

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
 - 313-226-7885
 - john.m.niemiec@usace.army.mil