

CECW-MVD

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Cedar River, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Flood Risk Management Project, Feasibility Study Report with Integrated Environmental Assessment (Study), Civil Works Review Board (CWRB)

1. The subject meeting was held 18 November 2010 from 1300 until 1530 EST. The Agenda (Attachment 1) and List of Attendees (Attachment 2) are attached.
2. The purpose of the meeting was to gain approval by the CWRB to release the Study for State and Agency (S&A) Review.
3. The meeting was opened by Major General (MG) Grisoli, CWRB Chair and Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, who offered welcoming remarks and provided an overview of the meeting purpose for the benefit of the Study Sponsors and others in attendance. The CWRB is a corporate checkpoint to ensure that documents are ready for S&A Review, and to provide an opportunity for learning and sharing within the organization. Major General Grisoli encouraged an open and transparent discussion of issues. After MG Grisoli's opening remarks Representative Loeb sack (IA-2) was provided an opportunity to make a statement in support of the Study.
4. Colonel Shawn McGinley, Commander, Rock Island District (District), provided the briefing of the Cedar River, Cedar Rapids Feasibility Study, including the flood of 2008, the problems addressed, future without-project conditions, alternatives considered, the Recommended Plan and its cost, and the status of the Agency Technical Review (ATR) and Independent External Peer Review (IEPR).
5. The Recommended Plan, Alternative 4C, would provide flood risk management along the east bank of the Cedar River in the City of Cedar Rapids (City). Constructed on the east bank of the Cedar River, the Recommended Plan consists of approximately 2.2 miles of floodwall and 0.8 miles of earthen levee with a height of approximately 14 feet, 15 closure structures, and 6 pumping stations. No recreation or ecosystem restoration measures were found to be justified and therefore were not included in the Recommended Plan. The project does not require any separable mitigation as the project has been designed to avoid any potential adverse impacts.

Based on October 2010 price levels, the estimated total first cost of the Recommended Plan is \$99,000,000. The Recommended Plan is the National Economic Development (NED) plan.

6. The Study briefing was followed by statements from the City, represented by Mr. Ron Corbett, Mayor of the City of Cedar Rapids and Mr. Jeff Pomeranz, City Manager; Linn County, Iowa, represented by Ms. Lu Barron, County Supervisor; and Rebuild Iowa Office, represented by Executive Director Major General (Ret) Ron Dardis. Both the Mayor and City Manager conveyed the City's overwhelming support of the Study recommendations, and emphasized the importance

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of providing flood risk management to the area. All of the other speakers were also in favor of Alternative 4C, the Recommended Plan.

7. MG Michael J. Walsh, Commander, Mississippi Valley Division, provided Division concurrence with the District Commander's Recommended Plan and recommended approval of the final Study and release of the Study for S&A Review. He found the Study complied with all applicable laws and policies, they were consistent with the Corps' Environmental Operating Principles, and anticipated a favorable response to the proposed Report of the Chief of Engineers.

8. Mr. Thomas Hughes, Review Leader, Headquarters Office of Water Project Review (HQ OWPR) presented a summary of areas of significant policy concern during review of the Study, as well as their resolution. He indicated that OWPR had been working on the concerns with the District and Division and believed that a plan had been reached for resolution. The concerns were:

- A. NED and locally preferred plans;
- B. levee crest elevation; and
- C. future without-project conditions.

Items "A" and "B" have been resolved, and item "C" is addressed in the following recommendation.

9. The HQ OWPR recommended a contingent approval to release the Study for S&A Review, following updating of the Study to reflect a collaborative strategy for implementation of an integral element of the Recommended Plan, and any changes to documentation of future with- or without- project conditions as a result of the collaborative plan.

10. Karen Johnson-Young, Program Manager, Battelle Memorial Institute, summarized the IEPR process for the Study. The important issues identified by the IEPR Panel include incomplete cultural resources investigations-potential increase in Study costs; economic uncertainties associated with existing and future without-project conditions; rationale and justification behind selection of Recommended Plan; and lack of west-side protection, raising questions of Environmental Justice. Final coordination and review between the IEPR Panel and the Product Delivery Team (PDT) resolved all comments. The IEPR process ended with attendance at the CWRB.

11. Following is a summary of questions and issues raised during the Board's discussion of the Study.

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A. A comment related to climate change was raised and it was recognized that once guidance is developed in the next few years, climate change could potentially be addressed in the future.

B. The Board asked what the confidence level of the cost estimate was. The District noted that the confidence level of the Cost DX-certified cost estimate is 80 percent.

C. The Board asked if a takings analysis was performed to address induced flood stages to the area on the opposite bank of the river and whether flood warning plans were developed. The District indicated that a takings analysis was performed and that the City has a flood warning plan in place. The City also stated that they have an existing Flood Plain Management Plan that outlines the flood warning plan.

D. The Board asked about the level of risk reduction afforded by the Recommended Plan, Alternative 4C. The District estimates that the Recommended Plan has a 91 percent chance of containing the 500-year flood event on the east bank of the City and will roughly reduce residual damages to the east bank area by 84 percent. Alternative 4C would afford risk reduction to approximately 10,000 persons out of the 30,000 affected by the 2008 flooding. The remaining risk is mostly on the west side of the river.

E. The Board suggested investigating Risk to Life Index Analysis. The Index could be looked at in greater detail but has no effect on the selection of the NED plan.

F. The Board asked the City how it plans to fund its share of project costs. The City explained that it has a AAA bond rating and is also working with the State legislature on sales tax and other funding options.

G. The final question asked by the Board related to what was the limiting factor that drove the technical solution to floodwall versus levee. The limiting factor was limited space for most of the project area.

H. Mr. Doug Lamont, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Project Planning and Review) raised a concern with environmental justice as it relates to the west bank community. The Study plan formulation looked at a wide range of alternatives; with only the east side justifying for structural flood risk management measures under Corps policy and guidelines. As an overall comprehensive plan (in combination with the District's Alternative 4C) the Recommended Plan the City, Linn County, and private property owners are implementing includes non-structural measures with FEMA, HUD, and Local Option Sales Tax programs. These programs are providing funds targeted at buying down the risk in the west side floodplain. The programs include flood-proofing City and County buildings on Mays Island, concentrated FEMA buyouts in the 100-year floodplain adjacent to the Cedar River in the Time Check area, Edgewood and Rompot neighborhoods, HUD buyouts in the entire floodplain to remove the properties that were greater than 50 percent damaged, moving critical public facilities out of the

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floodplain (example Central Fire Station), and individual property owners flood-proofing without assistance.

12. In addition, Board members provided the following comments:

A. Thanked all the local officials for briefings and especially the photographs which put life to the raw numbers in the CWRB process, as it shed light on the pain the citizens of Cedar Rapids suffered, in addition to the numbers. This type of briefing humanizes the impact these natural disasters can have, which is an important element of this process. Even though it can't be formally recognized through the resource allocation it was appreciated.

B. This Study is a great example of how to move the planning process along as quickly as possible to be more responsive to customers, noting several key items regarding expediting the CWRB process:

1. availability of funding
2. sponsor involvement
3. resource agency cooperation
4. vertical team engagement, early and often
5. follow the standard feasibility study process, with discipline.
6. bring the right expertise to bear, not only in the District but in the region as a whole, as well as across the country in terms of helping agency support with technical review to get to a better product.
7. command engagement and leadership focused the team on delivering the mission

13. Mr. Brown moved that the Board adopt the HQUSACE OWPR staff review team recommendation: Contingent approval to release of the Proposed Chief's Report and Feasibility Report Study and Environmental Assessment for S&A Review. The Study needs to be updated to reflect:

A. a collaborative strategy for implementation of an integral element of the Recommended Plan, including the authorities/requirements/timing needed for implementation of a portion of the Federal project through advanced design and/or construction by the sponsor or other non-Federal interests; and

B. any changes to documentation of the future with- or without-project conditions as a result of the collaborative plan.

The District should submit Study documentation to HQ for approval prior to S&A Review.

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14. Mr. Stockton moved to amend the last portion of the motion to allow the Corps to document the changes, and go with an addendum in the Study for S&A Review, and incorporate all changes into the final Study to accelerate the process.

15. The Board voted unanimously for contingent release of the Study for S&A Review, subject to including the additional Study documentation requested in the OWPR staff recommendation. For the S&A Review, the revisions can be provided in an addendum to the Study; however, the changes will need to be incorporated into the final Study.

16. The meeting concluded with discussions led by Colonel McGinley and Mr. Mark Mazzanti, Director of Programs, Mississippi Valley Division of the following challenges / lessons learned:

- A. expedited study schedules are critical to facilitate a community's disaster recovery
- B. sponsor planning activities can contribute greatly to expediting the Study
- C. providing all funds up front is a critical piece to be able to accomplish the 18 month Study schedule
- D. the PDT must actively participate in the Cost Schedule Risk Analysis, ATR, and IEPR review processes
- E. effective and continuous communication with the sponsor, stakeholders, and the vertical team is essential for Study success
- F. completion of feasibility studies in 18 months requires extraordinary flexibility regarding Study details, timing, review processes, and leadership commitments

17. MG Grisoli thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting at approximately 1530 hours.

ATTACHMENT #1

CEDAR RIVER, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

Civil Works Review Board – 18 November 2010

AGENDA

- 1300 Welcome MG William Grisoli
CWRB Chair and
Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations
- 1305 Introductions MG William Grisoli
CWRB Chair
- 1310 Project Briefing COL Shawn McGinley
District Commander, Rock Island District
- 1400 Sponsor Support Hon. Ron Corbett -- Mayor, City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Mr. Jeff Pomeranz -- City Manager, City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Ms. Lu Barron -- Supervisor, Linn County, Iowa
Maj Gen (Ret) Ron Dardis -- Executive Director, Rebuild Iowa Office, State of Iowa
- 1420 Honorable David Loeb sack Member, U.S. House of Representatives
- 1425 Division Commander Briefing MG Michael Walsh
Division Commander, Mississippi Valley Division
- 1440 Policy Review Mr. Tom Hughes
Office of Water Project Review, HQUSACE
- 1455 Agency Technical Review Mr. Gregory Steele
ATR Lead, Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise
- 1500 Independent External Peer Review Ms. Karen Johnson-Young
Program Manager, Battelle Memorial Institute
- 1510 Board Discussion MG William Grisoli
CWRB Chair
- Member Questions
 - Office of ASA(CW), OMB Questions
- 1530 Action Mr. Theodore Brown
Chief, Planning & Policy Division
- 1535 Lessons Learned / After Action Report: COL Shawn McGinley
District Commander, Rock Island District
- What was supposed to happen?
 - What did happen?
 - Why did it happen that way?
 - How will we improve next time?
- 1540 Lessons Learned MVD, OWPR, Sponsor, Others
- 1545 Summary of Project Briefing COL Shawn McGinley

ATTACHMENT #2

CEDAR RIVER, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

**Civil Works Review Board
18 November 2010 – 1:00pm**

Attendees

Civil Works Review Board (CWRB)

Name:

CWRB Chair and Deputy Commanding General for
Civil and Emergency Operations

MG William Grisoli

Director of Civil Works

Mr. Steve Stockton

Commander, Great Lakes and Ohio River Division

MG John Peabody

Chief, Planning & Policy Division

Mr. Theodore (Tab) Brown

Chief, North Atlantic Division Regional Integration Team (RIT)

Mr. Mohan Singh

Office of Management and Budget (OMB)

OMB Examiner

Mr. William (Dick) Feezle

Department of the Army – Office of Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Project Planning & Review)
Assistant for Water Resources Planning
Senior Economist

Mr. Doug Lamont

Mr. Terry Breyman

Ms. Marianne Matheny-Katz

Planning & Policy Division

Deputy, Planning & Policy Division

Mr. Harry Kitch

Civil Works Programs Integration Division

Chief, Future Directions Branch

Ms. Jennifer Greer

Office of Counsel

Counsel, USACE

Mr. Scott Murphy

Office of Water Project Review (OWPR)

Chief, Office of Water Project Review

Mr. Wesley Coleman

Policy Review Lead

Mr. Tom Hughes

Policy Review Team

Mr. Jeff Trulick

Policy Review Team

Mr. Scott Nicholson

Policy Review Team

Mr. Miguel Jumilla

Policy Review Team

Mr. George Boguslawski

Civil Works Review Board Team

Ms. Patricia Bee

Civil Works Review Board Team

Ms. Marilyn Benner

**CEDAR RIVER, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA
Civil Works Review Board
18 November 2010 – 1:00pm**

Attendees (cont.)

Mississippi Valley Division Regional Integration Team (MVD RIT)

Civil Works Deputy, MVD RIT	Mr. Zoltan Montvai
Program Manager/Planner, MVD RIT	Mr. John Lucyshyn
Planner, MVD RIT	Mr. Chris Haring

Mississippi Valley Division (MVD)

Division Commander	MG Michael Walsh
Director of Programs	Mr. Mark Mazzanti
Chief, Planning CoP	Mr. Rayford Wilbanks
Deputy, District Support Team	Ms. Renee Turner
Program Manager, District Support Team	Ms. Elizabeth Ivy

Rock Island District (MVR)

District Commander	COL Shawn McGinley
Chief, Planning Division	Mr. Roger Perk
Chief, Project Management	Mr. Dennis Hamilton
Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulic Engineering	Mr. Kevin Landwehr
Project Manager	Mr. Michael Zukowski
Project Engineer	Mr. Kirk Sunderman
Economics Technical Lead	Mr. John Carr
Study Manager	Mr. Steven Johnson

City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa – Non-Federal Sponsor

Mayor	Hon. Ron Corbett
City Manager	Mr. Jeff Pomeranz
City Councilmember	Ms. Monica Vernon
Public Works Director/City Engineer	Mr. Dave Elgin
Community Development Director	Ms. Christine Butterfield
Linn County Supervisor	Ms. Lu Barron
Linn County Supervisor	Mr. Ben Rogers
Cedar Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, President	Ms. Shannon Meyer

State of Iowa

Executive Director, Rebuild Iowa Office	MG (Ret) Ron Dardis
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Cedar Rapids Gazette

Reporter (Listening via phone at City of Cedar Rapids Office)	Mr. Rick Smith	(via phone)
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Congressional Offices

Member, U.S. House of Representatives	Honorable David Loeb sack
Chief of Staff, Office of Representative David Loeb sack	Mr. Eric Witte
Staff, Office of Representative David Loeb sack	Mr. Tyler Wilson
Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Tom Harkin	Mr. Richard Bender
Legislative Correspondent, Office of Senator Tom Harkin	Mr. David Howard

CEDAR RIVER, CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

Civil Works Review Board 18 November 2010 – 1:00pm

Attendees (cont.)

Flood Risk Management Planning Center of Expertise (PCX) – South Pacific Division

Program Manager, FRM-PCX	Mr. Eric Thaut	(via phone)
Agency Technical Review Lead	Mr. Gregory Steele (Norfolk District)	
PCX Lead for IEPR	Mr. Daniel C. Moore (Baltimore Dist)	

Independent External Peer Review Team (IEPR)

IEPR Program Manager	(Battelle Memorial Institute)	Ms. Karen Johnson-Young	
Project Manager	(Battelle Memorial Institute)	Mr. Richard Uhler	
Deputy Program Mgr	(Battelle Memorial Institute)	Ms. Rachel Sell	(via phone)
Project Manager	(Battelle Memorial Institute)	Mr. Julian Digialleonardo	(via phone)
Panel - Plan Formulation	(GEC, Inc.)	Mr. Barton Rogers	(via phone)
Panel – Economics	(Independent Consultant)	Dr. Lloyd Antle	(via phone)
Panel - Environmental/Ecology	(Wetland Science Applications, Inc.)	Mr. Charles Newling	(via phone)