

NBER Flood Committee of the ERRA minutes of  
the meeting April 14, 2011, 7:00 PM  
Ligonier Police Training Room

Committee members present: Dave Wick, John Richardson, Rick Smigielski, Mike Shellman, Joy LeCount, Bill Reynolds, Lyn Reynolds, Gene Lightner

Guests: Rodney Renkenberger, Maumee River Basin Commission, Mick Newton, Noble County Emergency Management, Jack Herendeen, Noble County Commissioner, DaveDolezel, Noble County Commissioner

Background of this meeting: The primary purpose of this meeting was informational regarding FEMA grants. Rodney Renkenberger, MRBC, was invited to present information on the process of obtaining FEMA grants and to address related questions and comments. Mick Newton was invited because of his role in county emergency services. Commissioners Jack Herendeen and Dick Dolezel were invited for informational purposes. Commissioner Joy LeCount has been a member of the committee since its inception.

The meeting opened with introductions followed by a brief summary by Gene Lightner, committee interm chair, of why the committee is pursuing FEMA buyout grant information .

In our July 2010 meeting this Flood Committee adopted the Silver Jacket recommendations given in their report as priority items to resolve flooding damage in the watershed. The Silver Jacket report identified a major cause of flood damage in the watershed can be attributed to construction of structures in the flood plain. A solution is to help owners obtain FEMA grants to sell, relocate or elevate flood prone homes.

Rodney Renkenberger of the Maumee River Basin Commission has a wealth of experience dealing with flood plain risk management and FEMA grants. He was willing to spend an evening introducing the committee to some of the processes and issues related to FEMA grants. He opened his presentation with “Steps to a Successful Flood Acquisition Program” and responded to questions and issues raised in past meetings and enumerated in the agenda.

Some other items raised include:

The disposition of newly vacant property, who would have title to it, maintain it, hold the liability coverage for it.

Do FEMA buy outs cover currently vacant land on the flood plain?

How would lost sewer revenue be made up?

How is assessed value determined?

Rodney and Mick Newton pointed out that some of the steps to applying for a grant have already been accomplished, ie. gathering property records, populate structure information base, multi-hazard mitigation plan.

Several people commented on the complexity of the grant process. Rick Smigielski, V.P. of the West Lakes Assoc., suggested that before the process was started, it would be important to know that the Commissioners were officially supportive of it. Dave Wick, Pres. of the West Lakes Assoc., concurred.

Adjourned: 9:15 PM

Next Meeting: Thursday May 19, 2011, 7:00PM, Ligonier Police Training Room

Note: Regarding the May 19 meeting: Dave Wick invited Rep. Dave Yarde to attend and he accepted.