

Notes from the August 12, 2010

Elkhart River Restoration Association Flood Focus Committee Meeting

Ligonier Police Department, Ligonier, Indiana

In attendance: Gene Lightner, Mike Shellman, Joy LeCount, Patty Fisel, Rick Smigielski, John Richardson, and Nancy Brown.

Gene began the meeting by handing out copies of the agenda. The minutes were approved as sent.

Gene indicated that Dave Wick spoke with Ron McAhrn and David Yarde, and they may be able to assist with federal funding. Joy is researching the road situation and presented a map indicating the county roads in the area, and the location of flooding in March 2009. Waldron Lake Drive had 25 inches of standing water in one area. She also indicated that many roads in the area are private. It is not yet known how feasible it will be to raise the roads, as that could cause other issues, such as damming back the water and making it impossible to make the height adjustment for driveways and doorways. Rick also agreed to look into this situation and develop a "Preliminary Feasibility Engineering Report." He will keep the committee informed. Dave Wick told Gene that Representative Yarde is interested in meeting with the committee at some point in the future. The committee agreed by consensus to continue to investigate this issue.

A discussion on how to address and eliminate risk in the floodplain was held. Dick Adair and Steve Kirkpatrick should have key information on who was flooded during the 2008 and 2009 events. Joy will talk to them about this, and how much information they have to assist landowners. The committee agrees that anyone who is interested in a buy-out should be given assistance to help be prepared when and if that opportunity presents itself. Nancy offered to help coordinate the information regarding buy-outs; flood insurance; securing LP tanks and wells; and other risk prevention materials. It was suggested that the information could be included in Lake Association publications and on their website. Joy also mentioned that locating landing places for helicopters should be researched before another event occurs.

Joy will try to get a copy of the surveys that were sent to Ken Smith. We will try to develop a

list of individuals who would be interested in a buyout from the list of individuals who have been flooded. Joy will coordinate with Dick and Steve, and Nancy will contact Manuela Johnson, Indiana Department of Homeland Security, after that if necessary.

Rick told the group that Dave Wick has been talking to Dave Yarde about a study of the transition area. We need to identify the scope of what we want studied. We discussed including weed control; log jam removal; and determining if the bridge or the pipe are obstructions. We are discussing a HECRAZ or an unsteady state flow model, and the cost is estimated at \$6-8,000 per mile. Rick indicated he would help with this, and John will also look into finding out how many miles there would be in a transition zone study.

It is still a goal to pursue a modeling of the entire Elkhart River watershed, but as that is a longer term project, requiring working with our Congressman, we will work on the transition zone as well.

We will address planning/networking and financial concerns at the next meeting.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 14 at 7 PM, at the Ligonier Police Station. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.