

NBER Flood Committee of the ERRA minutes for the
Meeting of Jan. 20, 2011

Present: John Richardson, Gene Lightner, Rick Smigielski, Dave Abbott,
Patty Fisel, Joy LeCount, Scott Zeigler, Mike Shellman

1. Rick Smigielski opened the topic of selecting engineering firms for a request for a proposal/s to complete an unsteady state stream model which at a minimum would include the NBER. It was noted that the actual assigned project manager is as important to producing good results as is the company selected. The SOQ's submitted were discussed and by consensus the committee selected Christopher Burke and Banning. Rick will work with Scott Zeigler to polish the scope we previously discussed. When that is complete the scope will be forwarded to Flood Committee members for comment then communicated to the two firms. This will happen in the next few days. The committee set an interview date of Thursday Feb. 10, 2011, 6:30 PM at the Ligonier police training room. The format will be a 45 minute presentation/question/answer session by one firm followed by a 15 minute committee discussion to evaluate that firm. This procedure will repeat for the second firm. From this process the committee will narrow the scope of study to pursue and learn what estimated costs will be. Rick will contact these two firms to confirm the scopes of study, the date of the meeting and procedure we plan to use.
2. John Richardson , Gene Lightner and Mike Shellman gave an update on efforts to pursue grants, hire a project coordinator and develop organizational support to implement the projects discussed under the Silver Jacket's report and in numerous watershed studies that have been conducted over the years. There are multiple organizations conducting studies and implementing projects throughout the watershed that relate to flooding and sedimentation including at least five lake associations.
While each of the groups are responsible and dedicated within their own respective areas of the watershed none of the individual groups can focus on and truly represent the entire Elkhart River Watershed except for the ERRA.
The Great Lakes Commission (GLC) is set to announce its 2011 grant opportunity for reducing erosion and sedimentation in the Great Lakes Basin including the Elkhart River Watershed. There is also grant

money for building organizational capacity and implementing projects.

The best long term approach is building the organizational capacity of the ERRA to coordinate not only flood reduction actions, but also sediment and erosion control practices throughout the watershed.

This is essential to obtaining the grants necessary to accomplish the work in an efficient and coordinated system. Gene Lightner will contact ERRA leadership to pursue these ideas with them and see if they are willing to volunteer as sponsor of this grant.

3. GIS mapping with locations of West Lakes flooded homes is a work in progress.
4. Rick Smigielski reported his work on measuring roads at West Lakes is still in progress but on hold while the work on the unsteady modeling proposal has taken priority.
5. Gene Lightner suggested that recruiting a three person team of West Lakes residents would be a first step to manage movement forward on obtaining FEMA grants. Rick said he will introduce that in an upcoming West Lakes board meeting.
6. Date of the next meeting is Thursday Feb. 10, 2011, 6:30 PM in the Ligonier police training room.
7. Meeting adjourned 8:45 PM