

North Branch Elkhart River Flood Committee minutes for the meeting of Oct. 14, 2010

Meeting session called to order 7:00 PM in the training room of the Ligonier Police Station.

Present: DaraghDeegan, John Richardson, Mike Shellman, Ken Schuman, Bill Reynolds, Lynn Reynolds, Rick Smigielski, Jomary Baller, Dave Nance, Dave Abbott, Gene Lightner, Joe Miller

1. Gene Lightner presented background info on unsteady state flow modeling. At the last meeting of Aug. 12, 2010 it was decided the flood committee needed to obtain an explanation of the workings and value of an unsteady flow model for the North Branch Elkhart. John Richardson followed up by contacting Joseph Miller, Banning Engineering, who wrote a proposal for the model and came to this Oct. 14 meeting to discuss it with the committee. A copy of the Banning proposal is included elsewhere in the minutes.
Joe Miller explained the modeling and its use to quantify the effects of watershed projects that impact the water flow. Several committee members commented on the importance of being able to determine a future projects value in relation to flooding. Joe Miller pointed out that there are limits to determining the impact of a project when that project is relatively small compared to the area of the watershed.
Jomary Baller asked for the time involved to complete the study. Joe Miller estimated that data collection would take six months. Some data could be gathered locally in support of this modeling. Dave Nance pointed out that while the Silver Jacket report included much information, other things were learned that were not able to be included in the SJ report and this model would be an opportunity to all that information to our knowledge of the workings of the watershed.
2. A brief discussion followed about where to obtain money to pay for a contract to produce an unsteady flow model. Using Region 3-A for grant writing, OCRA grants, DR-2 grants were all mentioned.
3. The pros and cons of working toward an unsteady flow model for the entire Elkhart watershed were discussed. Cost would be 8 to 9 times the cost of just doing the North Branch.
4. Rick Smigielski has the south side of West Lakes surveyed and plans to complete the north side next week, Oct. 18-22.
5. Gene Lightner reported that Joy Lecount has received the original home owner flood surveys back. We next need to learn what it takes to obtain a grant to finance buyouts of floodplain structures. The St. Joe River Basin Commission is willing to assist this process if the Flood Committee asks them.
6. A short discussion began regarding the length of time storm water retention areas actually hold water. It was thought that Noble County used the forty-eight state standard. Since the Elkhart River is unique in the state in that it already has a

slow discharge, an addendum covering the impact area could require more stringent discharge standards. This would involve the surveyor/s.

7. Lynn Reynolds pointed out that there is ground along the middle branch that has potential to retain water.
8. Next meeting was set for Nov. 11, 2010.
9. Meeting adjourned 8:34 pm.