

NBER Flood Committee of the ERRA minutes for the meeting of Oct. 20, 2011.

Present: Bill Reynolds, Lyn Reynolds, Patti Fisel, Mike Shellman, Gene Lightner.

1. Minutes of the Sept. 15, 2011 accepted.
2. Unfinished business: Inventory of Silver Jacket recommendations the Flood Committee has addressed and what still needs addressed.
  - A. The effort to present FEMA home buy out information to West Lakes residents has not resulted in any takers to date. Putting buy out info, contact info, and the initial application form on the West Lakes' web site would enable residents to more easily revisit this possibility.
  - B. Elevation of flood prone homes has been addressed and the method for home owners to pursue this is in place.
  - C. Flood warning system. Mick Newton, Noble County Emergency Management Services, has in place a variety of warning methods including sirens, cell phone notification, radio announcements, and police/fire use of personal contact and blow horns. Other methods will be added as they evolve.
  - D. Increase the use of flood insurance. Rodney Renkenberger, Maumee River Basin Commission, has addressed both our committee and a group of interested home owners on both FEMA buy outs and insurance issues. Putting the insurance info on the West Lakes web site would help address the need for continuing outreach.
  - E. Elevate well heads, anchor propane tanks. In 2012 the multiyear hazardous mitigation plan for Noble County will be updated. These items will be addressed in that plan so it is clear who is responsible, what ordinances need to be put in place, and what methods of follow up need to be used.
  - F. Inventory of flood prone roads. Rick Smigielski has most of this completed. What we know so far is any change in road elevation will be very difficult.
  - G. Protect/restore existing and historical, natural flood storage areas. This process is in its beginning. We have agreed to focus on the area between Kendallville and Sylvan Lake to locate acreage that has the potential to store water and have committee members who agreed to work on this. Step #1 is to identify willing land owners of appropriate ground.
  - H. Limit fertilizer, nutrient, and sediment loading. Target the "transition area" of the river. First step here is to complete unsteady flow modeling.
  - I. Maintain existing streams using BMP's. Local volunteers with the support of ERRA members have continued to monitor the river and keep log jams in categories one or two as identified in the Drainage Handbook.
  - J. Clear span at 900 n bridge. This will be addressed after the unsteady stream modeling if the results determine it is worth doing.
  - K. Increase gage network in basin. Scott Morlock has offered to help us determine what gages we need and how we can get support to pay for them. We have not followed up on this as yet. We feel we need both accurate rainfall data and stream flow measurements to measure changes in coefficient of runoff.

Other water measurements are being implemented at West Lakes especially to determine water turbidity. Rick Smigielski has worked to put together a team of lake resident volunteers for this project.

There is other Elkhart River historical water data that is being gathered with the goal of organizing it and having it made available Through the ERRA web site.

- L. Strengthen regional leadership regarding the floodplain. The Elkhart River Restoration Association (501-c-3) has become that watershed wide organization.
  - M. Identify and gather data for grant opportunities. Contacts have been maintained with LARE, Great Lakes Initiative, FEMA, U.S. Corps of Eng., and local sources which can support projects with 319 grants.
  - N. Public outreach, long term plan, seek sustainable growth. These are efforts that will come from the ERRA which has a broader scope than our committee.
3. The date of our next meeting was set for Thursday Dec. 15, 2011 at the Ligonier police training room. There will be NO gift exchange this year.
  4. Meeting adjourned 8:30 PM.