



MOUSE RIVER PLAN

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PROGRESS

Mouse River Plan PROGRESS was developed by the Souris River Joint Board and its' partners to keep project stakeholders, constituents, and the region updated on the progress of the Mouse River Enhanced Flood Protection Project (MREFPP). The MREFPP is a basin-wide endeavor focusing on flood risk reduction along the Mouse River. The estimated \$1 billion project was initiated following the devastating 2011 flood and is anticipated to be completed in 20 years.



US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Feasibility Study

On February 16, 2018, the Souris River Joint Board was represented in a meeting with USACE officials from the St. Paul District, the Mississippi Valley Division and Headquarters where the decision was made by the USACE to proceed with the project defined as the Maple Diversion with a north levee along with a western tieback levee. This meeting, known as the Agency Decision Milestone, represents the agency's concurrence with the Souris River Joint Board's and the St. Paul District's preferred federal plan.

The plan includes constructing the Maple Diversion to a design level of at least 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). Based on current information, it is anticipated that the plan will optimize economically at a design level near the flood of record (27,400 cfs). The optimized federal plan will be eligible for up to 65% funding from the federal government once the project is authorized and appropriated by Congress.

The original schedule for completion of the Feasibility Study called for the Chief's Report (the final report to Congress) to be complete by April 2019. Recent information received from sources within the USACE indicates that Congress may enact its next version of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) legislation at the end of 2018. As such, the schedule for completion of the Chief's Report is being advanced to November 2018 in an attempt to get the project authorized by Congress when it acts on the next WRDA bill.

PHASE MI-1 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE 4TH AVE/PUMP STATION

The pre-construction meeting for Phase MI-1 4th Avenue flood protection is set for March 1, with significant construction likely to begin before the end of the month. The Souris River Joint Board approved awarding the low bid of \$43.45 million to Park Construction out of Minneapolis over the winter. The contractor has just over 2.5 years to finish substantial completion on the project.

The Phase MI-1 4th Avenue urban flood control project includes levees, approximately 2,250 feet of floodwalls, a major pump station at the southwest corner of Broadway and Fourth Avenue NW, and realignment of 4th Avenue to provide ample setback from the river. The project spans from just west of Broadway to the east side of Third Street NE, on the north side of the river – covering approximately six blocks of flood protection.

Residents and the driving public can anticipate roadway closures, traffic impact, and lots of overall activity in this area until the end of 2020. The latest information on this project can be found at the www.mouseriverplan.com website, through the Mouse River Plan's Facebook page and in other media and public sources.

Substantial completion on a number of milestone items are reflected in the contract, including the project substantial completion date of Oct. 1, 2020. As for work expected to be started or done in 2018, the contractor will be building the Broadway Pump Station and executing some road closures along 4th Avenue in order to relocate underground utilities and construct floodwalls.



PHASE MI-2 & MI-3 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE NAPA VALLEY/FOREST ROAD

In December 2017, the Record of Decision on the Environmental Impact Statement for the project was signed by James Dalton, Director of Civil Works of the US Army Corps of Engineers. Additionally, Mr. Dalton signed the required Section 408 permission, which authorizes the SRJB to modify the existing federal flood control project. In early February 2018, all necessary permits were received from the Office of the State Engineer of North Dakota, and on February 21, 2018, the final necessary federal permit, the Section 404 permit, was received from the Regulatory Office of the US Army Corps of Engineers in Bismarck. As a result, the Souris River Joint Board awarded the construction of the Napa Valley and Forest Road Levees (Phase MI-2/3) to Wagner Construction of International Falls, Minnesota.

The total estimated project cost of the Napa Valley and Forest Road levees is \$45.2 million. Construction is expected to begin in March 2018. Initial work will consist of removing trees and pavement along the proposed levee route west of 16th Street Southwest. Additionally, the Dakota Bark Park will be relocated to the north side of 7th Avenue Southwest, west of the Jack Hoeven Baseball Complex, where a temporary dog park facility was constructed concurrently with the construction of the Perkett Ditch improvements in 2017. Work is also expected to begin near 16th Street Southwest, where pre-consolidation of soils is necessary at the interface between the earthen levees and the concrete floodwalls associated with the roadway closure structure across 16th Street Southwest.

A groundbreaking ceremony for the first three phases of the project has been scheduled for 1:30 PM on March 28, 2018.



International Joint Commission (IJC) Plan of Study

In July, the governments of the United States and Canada issued letters of reference to the IJC authorizing the study of reservoir operations on the Souris River system in the United States and Canada. The study being undertaken by the IJC will evaluate potential operational changes to the reservoirs with the goal of increasing the system's resilience to both water supply and flood risk management.

On February 20, 2018, the International Souris River Board (ISRB), a subordinate watershed board of the IJC, held a public input meeting in Minot to solicit comments from interested persons in an attempt to inform the IJC study board of the concerns throughout the basin. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting.

The IJC study board is meeting regularly to advance the reservoir operational study. It is expected that their work will be completed by 2020, at which time the report and recommendations will be forwarded to the IJC for its action. Following IJC approval, the report and recommendations would be sent to the federal governments of the United States and Canada for consideration.

State of North Dakota Funding

The 65th North Dakota Legislative Assembly appropriated \$136 million to flood control statewide. Within previous appropriations bills, the legislature indicated its intent to provide \$66.5 million per biennium to the Fargo-Moorhead Diversion project. This would leave \$69.5 million available for other flood control projects across the State of North Dakota in the current biennium. Of the \$69.5 million of available flood control authority, the SRJB has secured approximately \$63 million, and the City of Valley City has secured approximately \$2 million. The SRJB intends to secure the remaining \$4.5 million of flood control authority as early as April. There is a possibility that the State Water Commission will not release this funding due to concerns related to revenues to the Resources Trust Fund in the current biennium.

On February 21, 2018, the Souris River Joint Board presented an update to the North Dakota Legislature's Water Topics Overview Committee in Bismarck. Legislators expressed their support for the project as well as their compliments on the achievements that the project has made over the past two years, including securing all funding and permits necessary to construct the first three phases of the project in Minot.

The Water Topics Overview Committee will be meeting in Minot on August 8th and 9th, 2018, to review the progress on the project and to solicit input on the needs of the project as the legislators prepare for the legislative session to begin in January 2019.

ENGINEERING FUN FACT

As construction begins on each of the phases throughout Minot, you may notice some things that make you question, "I wonder why they did that?" In this month's issue, our engineers explain the process of geotechnical preconsolidation using a temporary surcharge pile and answer your question as to why you will see very large piles of dirt along the levee path before construction even begins. That pile of dirt has a purpose! Let's look below the surface to find out more.

One of the first steps in the construction process will be to compress soils at the interface of earthen levees and rigid structures, like floodwalls. Temporary surcharge piles, up to 25 feet high, will be placed at these locations for a period of several months to compress and compact the existing soils. Once the soils have compressed, the temporary surcharge piles will be removed to allow for the construction of the levees and floodwalls.

WHAT'S THAT PILE?

