

**FLOOD SALES TAX COMMITTEE
MAY 18, 2011—3:35 PM**

1. MEETING TO ORDER

Commission Chairman Darrell Vanyo called a meeting of the Flood Sales Tax Committee to order on Wednesday, May 18, 2011, at 3:35 PM in the Commission Room, Cass County Courthouse, with the following present: County Commission Chairman Darrell Vanyo; County Engineer Keith Berndt; County Auditor Michael Montplaisir; Water Resource District Representative Rodger Olson and County Commissioner Ken Pawluk.

Also present were Jim Nyhof, Oxbow Mayor, and members of the local media.

2. MINUTES APPROVED

MOTION, passed

Mr. Montplaisir moved and Mr. Berndt seconded to approve the meeting minutes from March 2, 2011, as presented. Motion carried.

3. LIST OF PROJECTS REVIEWED

Mr. Vanyo said after the last meeting several other project requests were received from local entities and residents.

Mr. Vanyo received an email from an individual asking about a county-funded ring dike program. Mr. Olson said funds are available through the State Water Commission and the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help individuals who may need assistance with costs associated with ring dikes.

The committee discussed how to proceed with the list of projects. Mr. Vanyo said sales tax dollars most likely will not be available until the spring of 2012. He said any projects submitted after the county solicited requests from local entities should be considered by the committee. He asked Mr. Berndt to update the list including the new projects discussed today. Mr. Berndt suggested individual requests be kept on the list, but the county would need a formal letter from each person.

The committee also discussed how to prioritize the list of projects as they relate to protection from the proposed diversion. Mr. Olson said anyone negatively impacted by the diversion will be part of the mitigation process. Mr. Vanyo suggested a tier of prioritization be considered for the first round of sales tax dollars.

The committee reviewed the flood sales tax policy, which outlines the criteria to be used for projects. The consensus was that road-related projects are not considered flood protection, and any road raises or culvert installation project should be reviewed by the water resource districts.

The committee reviewed the list of projects as follows:

- #1 and #2 from Argusville City (levee and dike projects) – remain on the list;
- #3 through #12 from Harwood Township – asked Mr. Berndt to determine whether the projects are protected by the diversion and provide a GIS map of each one;
- #13 from Harwood Township (road raise)– eliminated from the list as it does not meet the criteria for sales tax funds;
- #14 from Arthur City (re-ditching water) – eliminated from the list as it does not meet the criteria;
- #15 from Oxbow City (flood control improvements) – remain on the list; the city is requesting 50% of \$200,000 cost;
- #16 from Pleasant Township (addition of culverts) – eliminated from the list as it does not meet the criteria;
- #17 and #18 from Mapleton City (levee and slope repair) – remain on the list;
- #19 from Argusville City (levee closure) – remain on the list;
- #20 from Kindred City (dike) – remain on the list;
- #21 for drainage improvements to Horace Diversion – eliminated from the list as it does not meet criteria and a flood improvement district is in place to cover these costs;
- #22 through #26 home acquisitions, levees and ring dikes in the Forest River, Round Hill and North Chrisan Subdivisions – remain on the list; Mr. Berndt asked Houston Engineering to look at the projects, which he plans to discuss with the county commission for consideration;
- #27 for road raise in Raymond Township – eliminated from the list as it does not meet criteria;
- #28 for road raise and bridge replacement in Lake Shure Estates – eliminated from the list as it does not meet criteria;
- #29 from Willow Creek Subdivision – remain on the list at a lower priority because according to Mr. Berndt, no homes had flood damage in 2009 or 2011;
- #30 from Rush River Water Resource District (study of retention projects) – remain on the list;
- #31 from Maple River Water Resource District (water retention plan) – remain on the list;
- #32 from Harwood City (several flood protection projects) – remain on the list;
- #33 from Kensington Subdivision (ring dike and road raise) – ring dike to remain on the list, but eliminate road raise as it does not meet criteria;
- #34 from Tower Township near Buffalo (road raise) – eliminate from the list as it does not meet criteria.

Mr. Montplaisir said the county owes \$2.9 million to the City of Fargo for costs associated with the proposed diversion. He said next month the county should receive the first sales tax money and anticipates it will take four or five months to accrue funds needed to reimburse Fargo.

4. FIELD TRIP TO TOUR PROJECTS

Mr. Vanyo suggested the committee tour the projects on the list and possibly meet with representatives to briefly discuss their requests. There was discussion on projects where additional information is needed regarding costs and engineering studies. Mr. Montplaisir suggested the committee ask about timelines associated with each project to help determine when funds would be needed.

Mr. Vanyo suggested letters be sent to each entity letting them know the county will be considering the first disbursement of sales tax dollars in the spring of 2012 and ask for more detailed costs and engineering studies if they were not already submitted. He suggested entities be given a couple of months to gather any additional information needed by the committee and then a tour could be arranged.

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION, passed

On motion by Mr. Montplaisir, seconded by Mr. Pawluk, and all voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM.