

**FLOOD SALES TAX COMMITTEE  
MARCH 19, 2012—11:00 AM**

**1. MEETING TO ORDER**

Commissioner Darrell Vanyo called a meeting of the Flood Sales Tax Committee to order on Monday, March 19, 2012, at 11:05 AM in the Commission Room, Cass County Courthouse, with the following present: County Commissioner Ken Pawluk; County Administrator Keith Berndt; County Auditor Michael Montplaisir; Joint Water Resource District Representative Rodger Olson; and County Commissioner Darrell Vanyo.

Also present were Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; city officials; local residents; staff from engineering firms; and members of the local media.

**2. MINUTES APPROVED**

*MOTION, passed*

**Mr. Berndt moved and Mr. Montplaisir seconded to approve the meeting minutes from May 18, 2011, as presented. Motion carried.**

**3. FLOOD SALES TAX FUND UPDATE**

Mr. Vanyo said when the flood sales tax was approved by voters in 2010, the county estimated \$11 million in revenues would be raised per year. Based on that figure, \$10 million would be set aside for FM diversion expenses, and \$1 million for other county projects.

Mr. Montplaisir said the current balance of the Sales Tax Fund is approximately \$6.5 million. He estimates an additional \$9 million will be generated in the remaining nine months of 2012. He said about \$10.1 million will be available this year after payments are made for diversion design costs.

Mr. Vanyo suggested the committee consider the use of 2011 dollars as a guideline when reviewing project requests today. He said the committee could also consider using funds raised the past three months of 2012.

The sales tax raised \$7.6 million in 2011 and based on that figure, \$692,783 would be available for county projects.

**4. PROJECTS REVIEWED AND APPROVED**

Mr. Vanyo said a spreadsheet of all project requests received in 2010 and 2011 was prepared for review by the committee. He said one of the requirements for him to consider a project is whether construction is scheduled this year or has already begun.

Mr. Berndt reviewed the list with recommendations for the committee to consider. He suggested the county consider funding 50% of the local cost share along with each entity contributing 50%.

The committee was presented with information and discussed the following projects:

- City of Argusville levee recertification
- City of Oxbow flood control improvements
- City of Mapleton levee raise
- Round Hill Subdivision home acquisition
- Upper Red River Watershed retention plan
- Upper Maple River Dam environmental assessment

Mr. Pawluk supports the Upper Red River Watershed retention plan, but does not consider this a priority as it leads to more study, not an actual project.

Mr. Olson asked about the request from the Maple River Water Resource District for Pontiac Township Improvement District No. 73 to remove high water from flooded county and township roads. He believes construction may begin this fall on the project. He said safety and access are issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Berndt considers this a road or mitigation project and said highway or county mitigation dollars could be considered for this project. He said last year the county spent significant funds to re-route two roads in the area because of flooding.

Mr. Vanyo said more definite numbers are needed regarding the local cost share before a decision is made on the request for this improvement district.

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Pawluk moved and Mr. Montplaisir seconded to fund the county projects highlighted by the committee as follows:**

- **\$168,925 for City of Argusville levee recertification**
- **\$140,000 for City of Oxbow flood control improvements**
- **\$ 52,500 for City of Mapleton levee raise**
- **\$350,000 for Round Hill Subdivision home acquisition**
- **\$ 20,562 for Upper Maple River Dam environmental assessment**

**On roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.**

The committee approved a total of \$731,987 in sales tax proceeds be allocated for the projects.

Mr. Vanyo suggested that Mr. Benson and Mr. Montplaisir be involved with the project costs and construction schedules in order to release the funds to each entity.

The committee reviewed the requests from other entities. Mr. Berndt said the majority of those not chosen today either will not be constructed this year or did not identify detailed information on the local cost share.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Montplaisir provided a map of the Heritage Hills area showing what lots are county owned and privately owned. He said the county may want to consider purchasing some of the lots in the future. Mr. Benson said the Sheriff's Office has expressed concern about activities occurring in the area since much of the county-owned lots are vacant. Mr. Berndt said one of the remaining homes may be purchased in the latest Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application submitted to the state.

Mr. Berndt asked about distribution of funds raised by the three mills levied for emergency and mitigation projects, and who will decide on how the dollars will be allocated. Mr. Vanyo said the directive on how to spend the funds should come from the county commission.

**6. NEXT MEETING**

Mr. Vanyo suggested the committee meet again in late summer to consider use of sales tax funds raised in 2012.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION, passed***

**On motion by Mr. Pawluk, seconded by Mr. Berndt, and all voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.**