

# Cass County Mitigation Planning Committee Meeting

October 16, 2013, 1:15 PM

Public Safety Building, 4630 15 Avenue N, Fargo, ND

	Anderson, Kay	Benson, Jason	Boerboom, Nathan	Durand, Hall	Lysne, Kurt	Masten, Daryl	Murphy, Doug	Reitan, Mike	Rogness, Dave	Schaan, Amber	Schlafmann, Leon	Scribner, Brady	Solberg, Tim	Walker, April
Present	X		X	X	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	
Absent		X				X			X					X

**Guests:** Wayne Lorshbough, City of Fargo GIS; Dan Mahli, City of Fargo Planning

Meeting called to order.

### Review from previous meetings

Schaan followed up on tasks assigned at the last meeting:

- Walker previously recommended to use the 34,700 cubic foot per second H&H model for HAZUS, but would still like to clarify some conflicting information on the use of this number from FEMA. As Walker is not in attendance, Schaan will follow up with her.
- Schaan said the Fargo assessors have not come to a final agreement on changing the values of the undervalued structures. Boerboom will follow up.  
Anderson said the county assessor looked over the county values and they appear to be valid.  
Schaan will contact the West Fargo assessor about their potentially undervalued structures.

### Plan Layout Discussion

Schaan said a recent planning course she attended emphasized giving every jurisdiction a separate section in the plan.

Each jurisdiction needs to have a minimum of one mitigation project to be included in the plan. The projects can either be listed under each jurisdiction's own section or as a comprehensive list of prioritized projects. The plan is simpler to review if all jurisdictions projects are listed separately, but it may be of more use to the county to have them listed comprehensively. The prioritization of projects does not impact which projects may or may not be funded by FEMA, and many of the small cities' projects are not eligible for FEMA funds.

The group consensus is that it is simpler to list the projects under each jurisdiction's section.

### Prioritize Mitigation Actions

Schaan asked the group to review Fargo and Cass County's mitigation projects. Each list of projects, along with the accompanying data and priority levels, was created by their respective engineering departments. Schaan mentioned that there are scoring tools that can be used to rank mitigation projects, but the score variations are often minimal.

Solberg said the committee trusts the engineering departments to prioritize their own projects, and most committee members would not have the firsthand knowledge the engineers do.

Schaan said the prioritization of all jurisdictions' projects must be consistent and justified. Boerboom gave a brief overview of how Fargo prioritized their projects, which included looking at flood records, lift station elevations, and other impacts. Projects already included in Fargo's comprehensive flood protection plan were deemed as high priority. Durand said Benson provided most of the input on the County's mitigation projects. Schaan asked that the timeline for the county's projects be defined in years. Schaan will put together a narrative describing the prioritization of the mitigation projects with input from those submitting projects that can be reviewed and approved by the committee. Another look may need to be taken to ensure current prioritization levels have taken all criteria identified into account. She reiterated that the prioritization does not affect future funding. The process of prioritization assists jurisdictions in thinking through all the factors of a project instead of focusing on the projects that are easiest or cheapest.

### **Other**

Schaan asked for committee opinions on mitigation projects that are tied to the potential diversion project, since a Red River diversion is not included in the plan. Oxbow, for example, has a number of projects all tied together as part of the diversion. Reitan questioned since the referenced projects are already scheduled to occur, if they need to be included in this plan. Solberg and Boerboom also recommended identifying specific projects that address current issues in such communities not tied to potential large scale multi-jurisdictional projects. The committee agreed. Schaan reminded the group that the plan should be as comprehensive as possible.

Anderson said FEMA has used mapping technology for the city of Denver to create an interactive flood map that includes estimated building damage cost information, property values, etc. They would like to use Cass County's data to create a similar map. Schaan said it would be useful for other plans to be able to incorporate the HAZUS data so plans are integrated and consistent, but the data may be confusing to the general public. If the map is created it would be hosted by Fargo's geo portal, and would most likely be password protected.

Schaan said she needs the reviewed Fargo undervalued structures spreadsheet as soon as possible to allow Houston to continue running the HAZUS model. She will continue to send out items to committee members to review as needed.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 6, at 1:15 PM.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**