

WATER-RELATED TOPICS OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 30, 2011
Harvest Room, State Capitol
Bismarck, North Dakota

Good Afternoon members of the Water-Related Topics Overview Committee, my name is Jim Neubauer, I am the City Administrator for the City of Mandan.

I am pleased to tell you that the within the City of Mandan, we have not had any evacuations of homes, injuries or loss of life during this prolonged flood fight.

Through efforts of the Corps of Engineers, State Water Commission, North Dakota National Guard, City of Mandan employees, North Dakota Department of Emergency Services, North Dakota Department of Transportation, Morton County Emergency Management, many other organizations and our citizens we have been able to provide reasonable protection to all areas within the City of Mandan.

We believe that decisions made to plug the entrances from the Missouri River to the four bays (Bridgview, Marina, Borden Harbor and Lakewood), construction of earthen levees, Hesco barriers and sandbagging efforts on the southeast part of Mandan saved not only much of the infrastructure, but also citizens homes and businesses from overland flooding and reduced the effects of underground waterflows.

Major infrastructure issues we have faced this summer have been related to our waste water treatment plant discharge line and our intake structure at the water treatment plant. With river elevations above 17' we were forced to discharge to the south and west of our waste water plant rather than west to Missouri River. We are currently exploring options to construct a more permanent alternate discharge line for the future. Our water treatment plant intake structure, which we share with the Tesoro Refinery, has become plugged with sand and debris from the Missouri River. We have had divers on site since July 5 working to keep the intake structure clear of the sand and other debris. We are currently making plans for the winter months in case the sandbar in front of our intake structure continues to grow and migrate closer to the intake structure.

Activity in the coming months will see removal of the protective measures that have been placed west of the property adjacent to the Missouri River. We plan on keeping the protective measures, including the plugs in the bays, on property adjacent to the river in place throughout the fall and winter. We feel this is the most prudent step as we monitor the water levels in Lake Sakakawea and the precipitation this winter and spring. In order to do this, we will be requesting a six month extension from the State of North Dakota to FEMA to keep these protections in place.

To date, the City of Mandan has spent \$2.2M related to flood control, and expect that number may double related to the removal of the installed protections. After FEMA and State assistance, we are expecting the local share could reach \$250k.

Thank you for providing us the time to update you on the flood impacts to the City of Mandan, and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

