

Memorandum

To: PPO Subcommittee

Re: Waterloo Levee Certification Update

Date: February 4, 2009

From: Amanda Grint, Water Resources Engineer

In January 2008, the Village signed an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to designate the Waterloo levee as a Provisionally Accredited Levee (PAL). The PAL designation requires that all necessary documentation to support the levee accreditation will be submitted by January 15, 2010. This allows 24 months for the Village to study the existing levee and bring the levee into compliance or FEMA will take steps to remap the area to designate the Village as a flood prone area without levee protection.

In June of 2008, the Board entered in to an interlocal agreement with the Village to cost share (50/50) on the design of the levee improvements in order to certify the levee. JEO Consulting Group was retained by the Village to perform the study and levee design for \$397,000. They have completed a hydraulic analysis of the Elkhorn River, geotechnical study, and 60% plans for levee improvements to date. During this year of design work the most notable change came from the updated hydraulic analysis on the Elkhorn River which indicated that a railroad bridge had been modeled incorrectly in the published FEMA flood study. The revised study shows increases in flood elevations of 3-4 feet in some locations, creating a substantial change to the length of levee needing to be raised and impacts to the potential costs. The initial rough construction estimate to raise the levee to meet freeboard requirements was \$2 million but now with 60% plans complete the estimate is \$3.8 million. There are several items that are currently being worked out in the design phase which could impact the cost, namely land rights. There is a contingency figured in the estimate and as title work and final design is completed a more refined estimate will result.

On Thursday evening, February 26, the Village of Waterloo will hold a public meeting to update the residents on the progress and inform them of the alternatives (build or not build) and the costs associated with those alternatives. In order to represent the reality of the cost implications for this project, the Village would like an indication of the District's financial participation in the construction of levee improvements if that is the option chosen by the Village. Staff believes that a 50/50 cost share on the construction phase of the project as well would be consistent with District policy and in consideration of upcoming similar projects in the future.

- **It is management's recommendation that the Subcommittee recommend to the Board of Directors that the General Manager be directed to draft, for future Subcommittee consideration, an interlocal agreement with the Village of Waterloo that provides for the equal sharing of the costs of improvements necessary to certify the Village's flood control levee.**