



Red River Basin Commission

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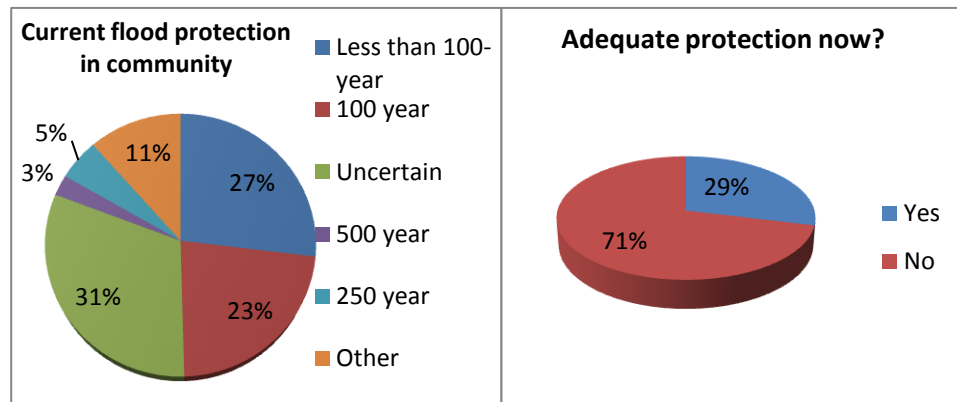
LONG TERM FLOOD SOLUTIONS 2009 -- UPDATE December 30, 2009

✓ We are generating first-hand information to use for leaders in the basin and policy makers.

- **Public forums:** To date, we sponsored 16 public forums around the basin to engage with the public and solicit feedback on a comprehensive plan. Collectively, more than 700 residents have attended. Another six forums are scheduled in January in proximity to Fargo-Moorhead in part, because of the increasing interest of the proposed diversion:

Tuesday, January 5, 2010	Georgetown, MN	Community Center 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 6, 2010	Breckenridge, MN	Northern Grille 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 7, 2010	Dilworth, MN	Community Center 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, January 12, 2010	Argusville, ND	Community Center 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, January 13, 2010	Horace, ND	City Hall 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, January 14, 2010	Hickson, ND	Community Center 6:30 p.m.

- **Public surveys:** Basin residents are completing our ongoing public survey, with their views on ideal levels of protection, and proposed solutions, among other things. We are currently exploring opportunities to vastly expand the scope and depth of this tool of public engagement. A sample of preliminary findings of a few hundred responses so far:



- **Board retreat:** RRBC's 41-member board met November 4-5 to begin a process of setting basin-wide goals and principles with which to approach flood solutions. RRBC is uniquely made up of state agency, city, county and watershed district representatives from Minnesota and North Dakota and their counterparts in Manitoba.

✓ We are leveraging funds in the basin to expand the resources to efficiently get results on long term flood solutions.

- State funds RRBC received in 2009 from Minnesota and North Dakota are being used to leverage federal funds through the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Red River Basin-wide Feasibility Study** for a one-to-one match .
- This study will result in collection of **digital elevation data, modeling, and development of a decision support system**. The primary focus of this work will be to develop, coordinate and document basin-wide goals pertaining to runoff for each of the

subwatersheds in the Red River Basin. In addition to flood damage reduction, other objectives to be incorporated in this multi-beneficial project will be: improved water quality, ecosystem restoration, and water supply.

- At the direction of RRBC , USACE **will be updating existing or developing new Hydrologic Model System (HMS) models** ,a physically-based distributed-parameter model system, for all Minnesota and North Dakota subwatersheds.
- ✓ **We are formulating goals and principles that will guide us through this project and into the future on basin-wide comprehensive water management. Consent among the basin’s key players, represented on RRBC’s board and committees, is an investment that takes time, but will pay dividends.**
- **Levels of flood protection goals** for the Red River Basin are essential to a coherent and comprehensive strategy for providing a reliable, safe and secure place for basin residents to live and contribute to the economic well-being of the region. I.e. what is sufficient for each metropolitan area and community: 100, 250 or 500-year protection?
 - **Goals for the reduction (20%) in flood flows for each tributary** on seven mainstem locations throughout the basin are essential to determining the locations, size and operation of upstream floodwater retention storage. RRBC has initiated a Red River mainstem unsteady flow model for this purpose.
 - Guidelines for upstream **floodwater retention** storage is a critical component of the comprehensive watershed approach to long term flood solutions. Retention storage is essential to reducing flood flows at downstream locations, is a necessary supplement to local protection measures, and should be a component of any plan.
- ✓ **We are developing creative and effective pilot projects to get results.**
- We are working with water managers on the front lines to identify key **impediments** to implementing projects and developing “outside the box” solutions to overcome them.
 - We are looking at new, innovative **funding** opportunities for projects.
 - We are addressing other **key issues** such as the impacts of drainage, on-stream storage, the mitigation of downstream impacts, improving the permitting process, and opportunities for multi-use of existing wetlands.
- ✓ **We are preparing recommendations and a report to state policy makers for action.** As mandated by the 2009 Minnesota Legislature, we are preparing recommendations in a report to the **2010 Legislature**.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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