

[Flood Task Force Meeting]

4/10/2017

Noon-1pm

Meeting Called by | Mayor Knight

Invitees | Sheri Pierce; 'allen@valdezak.net'; AnnMarie Lain; 'Brandon Reese'; Elke Doom; Donna Schantz; 'Dwain Dunning'; Jason Miles; Jim Burzinski; 'Lea Cockerham'; Nate Smith; Robert Comstock; Robert Dunning; Ruth E. Knight; Scott Benda; Lisa VonBargen; Cindy Rymer; Rick Wade, Brad Melocik

2017 Flood Mitigation

- City Council approved the contract with DOWL for the 2017 Flood Mitigation Action items, which include the following below items and associated time-lines. Items with check-marks have updates at this task force meeting, items without check-marks are still waiting completion.
 - Glacier Stream Downstream Design March 24, 2017
 - Glacier Stream Gravel Extraction Plan March 30, 2017 (Submitted to Permitting Agencies)
 - Mineral Creek Gravel Extraction Plan April 14, 2017
 - Lowe River Slope Improvement Design May 5, 2017
 - Lowe River Levee Evaluation Review June 9, 2017

Glacier Stream Downstream Design

- The design was completed on schedule March 24th.
- This design is for the kicker dikes along the northwest side of the Glacier Stream below the bridge.
- DOWL was under the impression the City could apply for a temporary land use permit for the work and following construction would apply for a permanent easement with DNR because these are permanent structures.
- This is not correct. For permanent improvements DNR requires a permanent easement be in place prior to construction.
- The permit application was submitted to DNR on March 24th. Public Notice was issued by DNR that same day. This application includes the kicker dikes and the NRCS project.
- The public notice period is 30 days, followed by a 30 day appeal period. This means the permit will be granted no earlier than May 24th. Staff fully understands the implications of this permitting time period. There is an option to make a request to the DNR Commissioner that the appeal period be shortened to 20 days, instead of 30. It is staff's understanding that sometimes this type of a request creates significant complications which actually impedes permits being issued. Staff is still evaluating if this is a worthwhile alternative.
- This public posting of this work including the kicker dike project and gravel extraction in the south Glacier Stream begins April 5th. The pre-bid meeting is scheduled for April 12th. The bid opening is scheduled for April 19th. Council award of the contract is scheduled for May 2nd. The bid documents will indicate work may begin as soon as the DNR permit is issued around May 24th.
- In addition to the permanent easement from DNR a Corps of Engineers (COE) permit is required as these are structures being built in waters considered (federally) as navigable. DOWL has advised us the kicker dike project falls within the scope of the existing COE permits for excavation and fill of the channel. No additional COE permit is required.
- No permit from ADF&G is required as the Glacier Stream is not anandromous.

Glacier Stream Gravel Extraction Plan

- The extraction plan was completed on March 30th.
- The plan was submitted to the permitting agencies on April 3rd.
- This includes a permit with the Corps of Engineers and a Temporary Land Use Permit with DNR.
- DOWL has again advised us this work falls within the existing COE excavation and fill permits so no new permit is necessary.
- The DNR Land Use Permit requires only a 14 day public notice period, plus the processing time to issue the permit. We are hopeful the permit should be issued sometime during the third full week of April. However, DNR notified DOWL that processing can take 2-6 weeks. They also committed to working as quickly as possible to process the permit. This means the extraction portion of the project can begin immediately following bid award on May 2nd.
- No ADF&G permit is required for the extraction as the Glacier Stream is not anadromous.

NRCS Proposed Project

- Federal funding for the project has been authorized. Total cost of the project is estimated to be \$1,993,965
- The City's match is approximately \$653,715
- The original project budget numbers reflected a total approximate cost of \$1,787,00 with the City's match at \$445,000. However, those numbers reflected the project before it was decided by the task force that the revetment should be widened to maintain drivable road access along Copper Ave.
- The Permanent Easement application with DNR was submitted on March 24th as part of the same application for the kicker dikes. The permit should be issued around May 24th.
- Again, no ADF&G permit is required as the Glacier Stream is not anadromous.
- The NRCS project falls underneath what is called a Nationwide Permit with the Corps of Engineers (COE). No additional COE permit is required.
- There is a question about land ownership in this area. When a river, owned by the State, overtakes land, depending on the manner in which the land was eroded and the State's determination of navigability, the area may revert to State ownership. An official determination of ownership by DNR is expected this week.
- For that land still remaining, and under private ownership, the City attorney is working with a representative of the property owners on obtaining a long term lease (50 years). Purchasing the property is also being explored as an alternative. If that option becomes a reality (given a determination by the State and a favorable response by the owners) the City has had the property appraised.
- As soon as site control is obtained, this project will be put out to bid.

Clarifying Points

- The gravel extraction and kicker dike projects are being bid together.
- The permanent easement application with DNR includes the kicker dike project and the NRCS project. They will issue the easements for each separately as the kicker dike project is on a faster timeline than the NRCS project.
- Bid contract award is scheduled to take place on May 2nd. If it appears DNR is going to issue the Temporary Land Use Permit for the gravel extraction quickly, staff may ask Council to hold a special meeting to approve the contract sooner so work in the river can begin earlier.
- The next meeting of the Flood Mitigation Task Force is scheduled for Monday, April 10th at 12pm in the Council Chambers.

- All other items on the DOWL contract task list are on track for an on-time completion. Staff is working on Phase II action items currently.

US Army Corp Assistance

- On April 3rd, the US Army Corp notified staff that they have secured the funding for the PAS effort on Glacier Stream and Mineral Creek.
- They have a meeting with staff in the upcoming week to discuss the study agreement, which will be geared toward a Comprehensive Plan and not just data gathering.
- The next step will be to enter an agreement on the study.
- The CAP Fact sheet on the Lowe River 205 project has been submitted; given that the COE is operating under a Continuing Resolution Authority they are projecting to find out in June what funding will be allocated for new CAP projects.

Low River Levee Certification

- The City of Valdez submitted to FEMA for levee certification/accreditation for the Lowe River levee system on October 31st, 2016. The process by which FEMA certifies levees is thru a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR). Required submittals include: a) design criteria; b) an operational plan; c) an interior drainage plan; d) a maintenance plan; and e) certified as-built levee plans. Additionally the City is required to provide public notice stating the intent to revise the regulatory floodway. These notices must include the extent of the proposed revision, the changes to the regulatory floodway, and contact information for any interested party. On March 6th 2017, an individual notice was sent to all property owners affected by the application for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) for levee certification.
- On March 13th, 2017 the City of Valdez responded to FEMA's request for additional supporting data which included an affidavit of mail on the individual public notices.
- The proposed changes to the flood zone boundary delineations reduces the amount of parcels located in Flood Zone A and places the majority of the subdivision in Flood Zone B. Whether or not FEMA will accept the proposed flood zone boundary delineations is unknown. FEMA has 90 days from the March 13th submittal to respond to the City.
- As reported to Council last November, FEMA has funded the Valdez Levee Analysis and Mapping Approach (LAMP) study which will be done on the Lowe River in the four-mile stream reach that is impacted by the levees. If FEMA approves the City of Valdez's application for a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), then it is our understanding that the LAMP study will no longer be required.
- If FEMA denies the application, then the LAMP study will move forward as planned. The LAMP study is intended to build off of the analysis that was done for the original flood mapping update effort. The analysis will include a natural valley run as well as other runs necessary for the LAMP analysis. It will also include a 2D analysis to determine water flow between the levee segments. The LAMP study, which is entirely funded thru FEMA, will begin work in 2017.
- City Council approved the FEMA Levee Seclusion Map study for the Alpine Woods/Nordic Subdivision area on March 1, 2016. Showing floodplain on the backside of levees has been a challenging area for FEMA. FEMA is currently reevaluating how this is done nationally under what is called a Levee Analysis Mapping Procedure (LAMP). The levee area is secluded from FEMA map updates to allow FEMA time to perform the hydraulic analysis in more detail utilizing the LAMP. The floodplain within the

designated secluded area will revert to the current effective floodplain and be updated when the analysis map is completed. This allows FEMA map updates for the remainder of the City to be updated, as a more detailed analysis is pursued for floodplains protected by the levees.

- It is staff's hope that by providing FEMA with an application for a Letter of Map Revision based on a 2D analysis, we can expedite the map revisions for the Alpine Woods and Nordic subdivisions so that homeowners can qualify for a reduced rate flood insurance as quickly as possible.
- Staff will continue to update the Council and Task Force as information becomes available from FEMA.

FEMA Open House

- On March 17, staff sent out approximately 90 individual notices to property owners in or near a revised flood hazard area. The notice included a property identification map of the preliminary flood hazard areas specific to the individual parcel(s), as well as an invitation to attend the FEMA Open House on April 6, 2017.
- A public notice regarding the FEMA Open House was sent out through the City of Valdez Public Information Office. Additionally, the City purchased paid ads about the meeting in both the local newspaper (The Valdez Star) and on KVAK radio which included radio ad spots plus their weekly email newsletter. The meeting information was also posted on the front page of the City of Valdez website and Social Media pages.
- The meeting was held on April 6, 2017 from 6-8pm at the Civic Center. Approximately 19 community members attended the meeting.