

CCMC Steering Committee Meeting  
February 14, 2020

**In Attendance:** Ally Capps (City of Miles City), Samantha Malenovsky (City of Miles City), Jason Strouf (Custer County Commission), Julie Emmons (SEMDC), Austin Lott (Miles City City Council), Elizabeth Patten (Miles City Economic Development), and Becky Bey (KLJ)

**Overview of Current EDA Status and Project Opportunities** (also previously sent to committee members via email on 1/31/2020):

Since originally discussing the EDA grant, EDA has received an additional 8 applications and awarded some of those (in the amount of approximately \$19 million thus far - there is \$107 million available to this EDA region). The result of the influx of applications is that Kirk (EDA) no longer believes we can wait to utilize this grant funding for the construction phase of the flood protection project (and/or related projects such as property acquisition) because by the time the project is in this phase, the funding will all be allocated.

Given that information, and in discussion with Julie, Kirk thought the following might be more feasible and still valuable to the overall project goals

- Bringing the levy on the Yellowstone into compliance with PL84-99
- Remapping (utilizing 2D/3D modeling) in hopes of more quickly bringing some properties out of the floodplain/floodway
- Slough rehabilitation project

Kirk also indicated that if the County and City could not agree on the project, there was no requirement or worry about either application being less competitive if both entities decided to apply for separate projects.

Becky had a separate conversation with Greg from USACE and the 3 projects EDA discussed, were the projects Greg also indicated might be considered. He cautioned that before moving forward with the remapping, the city/county would want to have further discussions with FEMA to see if they would accept/certify the new maps. Currently, when they receive the 2D/3D maps, they convert back to 1D and these alleviate some detail around the floodway. He indicated it would be unfortunate to go through the work of finalizing the new mapping only to have FEMA decline to acknowledge it. He did confirm that remapping would change nothing in terms of BCA or economic analysis for the Section 205 as they are already using 2D mapping for their work.

**Committee Discussion:**

- Match – The City is unsure if they are able/willing to secure the 20 percent required match
- The County is interested in the remapping project and is doing background work to determine if this is feasible. Their interest in remapping is the hope of providing more immediate flood insurance premium relief to property owners by possibly removing some of them from the current floodplain map.
  - Sam expressed concerns that if remapping is successful in removing properties from the floodplain/floodway, this will cause negative impacts to the levy project long-term; making those property owners who are removed from the floodplain map much less supportive of a levy district/levy construction. Although the remapping might solve an immediate problem, it will do nothing to protect those properties from a flood or solve the larger, longer-term/permanent issue.

**Committee discussion continued:**

- The project list discussed with USACE/EDA is not exhaustive but is an example of projects that can be completed in the time frame in which EDA believes they could still be funding available.
- The suggested PL84-99 project could be both the feasibility study/preliminary study and the construction (depending on extent and speed of construction). EDA considers planning a “finished” project if it was just the planning. (If the project is a planning project, there are some state planning grants that could be utilized to assist with match).
- The County is considering remapping as a separate project from the Section 205 and/or flood protection project, however, if they determine to move forward, they would approach the City to discuss and hopefully reach consensus.
- The slough project would be a “contained” project that could also include additional internal drainage improvements. This might be easy for EDA to fund as there would be no overlap or conflict with additional federal funding (as the slough and related internal drainage is not part of the 205 or any alternatives proposed).

**Next Steps:**

- Both the City and County elected officials will ultimately make decisions as to whether they will proceed with an EDA application, and, if so, for what. Sam and Austin will further discuss the options with City Council and Jason will continue to work with the other Commissioners. It is anticipated that in the very near future (perhaps after Council meets on February 25<sup>th</sup>), the City and County will need to meet jointly to discuss and finalize decisions moving forward.
- Becky and Julie are happy to help either/both entities moving forward as needed. Recommendations are that if an application is going to be submitted, it should be done within the next 3 months to ensure there is funding remaining/available. (It takes approximately 3 months to assemble a full application and get it submitted).
- Sam and/or Jason will contact Julie/Becky if another CCMC Steering Committee meeting is needed and/or if a determination to move forward with an application is made and assistance is requested.