

**GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

LOCATION: Green Brook Municipal Building
Green Brook

DATE: July 1, 2015

MEETING CONVENED: 7:30PM

NOTE:

Adequate notice of this meeting was provided informing the public of time and place according to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law (Chapter 231, P.L. 1975).

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ray Murray . Green Brook	Alice Tempel . South Plainfield
John Sweeney-Middlesex Boro	Ken Herrmann . Green Brook Committee
Frank McArdle . North Plainfield	Paul Woska . Borough of Middlesex
Richard O'Connor-Engineer, GBFCC	Mark Hardenburg . Twp of Piscataway
Robert Greco . USACE	Sue Graf . Dunellen Resident
Joe Skupien . Somerset County	John Graf . Dunellen Resident
Theodore Bassman . Scotch Plains	

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Murray reported no receipt of any correspondence received by the GBFCC for the months of May & June. The GBFCC maintains a correspondence file that is available for inspection as may be necessary and upon request.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 5/6/15 meeting were approved as corrected. A copy of the approved minutes is available on the GBFCC website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Murray provided the monthly report and bills for May & June. Bills for the months of May & June were approved for payment. Copies are available for inspection upon request.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

In Mr Zucker's (Winning Strategies) absence, Chairman Murray read an email with updated comments regarding funding and various developments in the Senate & House of Representatives.

Chairman Murray noted his trip with Mr Crosby to meet with Senator Booker & Congresswoman Coleman's offices in Washington DC. Both legislators expressed interest in the Green Brook projects and an area tour is being coordinated with Mr Zucker.

Chairman Murray added that the new Colonel of the USACE's New York District will be invited on the tour.

Mr Skupien suggested areas that are currently unprotected should be included in the tour.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Mr Greco reported the following:

He stated Colonel David Caldwell has been appointed as the Commander of the USACE's New York District. Mr Greco will coordinate with Col. Caldwell, GBFCC and the Senator's office for a group tour of the Green Brook projects.

Cost update . USACE awarded a Cost & H&H update on May 6, 2015 to AECOM. Mr Greco is waiting for their work schedule and will advise the GBFCC when it becomes available. This project will update the 1997 GRR that includes costs, H&H modeling and some of the design to post Katrina standards. The anticipated schedule should be complete in one (1) year. A draft version of the cost update is expected by March/April 2016.

FY16 Presidential Budget . The House of Representatives has approved \$7.5 million for the Green Brook sub basin and the bill is now in the Senate for approval.

Bound Brook

CLOMR/LOMR . USACE has scheduled a meeting on July 14, 2015 with FEMA, NJDEP & Bound Brook to discuss the CLOMR/LOMR process. Subsequent to that meeting, Mr Greco will update the schedule for obtaining the LOMR for Bound Brook. A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2015 in Bound Brook.

Chairman Murray noted the definitions of CLOMR & LOMR as:

CLOMR . conditional version of letter of map revision

LOMR . letter of map revision

which is the document that must be adopted to change flood elevations.

Segment T (levee) . This levee has been raised and repaired. Project is substantially complete. Punchlist items are being addressed.

Downtown low spot-storm sewer . Project was completed in April 2015. Somerset County will complete the top course & striping in early June 2015.

Segment R2 (levee tieoff) . Project was substantially completed on June 12, 2015. The contractor was addressing punchlist items. USACE is coordinating with Somerset County as to how to store the logs and bringing them to the stop log structures in an efficient manner. USACE is waiting for review of the final as-builts which will then be submitted to FEMA, NJDEP, Somerset County & Bound Brook as required by the LOMR

Mr Hardenburg questioned when an actual map revision will take place & when insurance rates will drop. Mr Greco indicated it would be early 2016 (1st or 2nd quarter). Mr Skupien noted there would be a more exact date after the FEMA meeting.

Middlesex

Segment B1 (Sebrings Mill) . Project is complete. There are still some notches in the levee itself

Segment B2 (floodwall) . USACE expects to advertise in May 2016 with an award by July 2016. Due to real estate issues, they are unable to award in 2015. There are 2 properties being condemned and a 3rd property headed in the same direction. There is still 1 homeowner who has not responded with a decision. USACE met with NJDEP in March 2015 regarding LURP. NJDEP is reviewing the plans for permitting.

Segment B3 (behind library) . Originally, the project was to be tied into Route 28 that included a closure structure. Due to the possibility of induced flooding on the opposite side of Route 28, this cannot be done. After modeling by Jacobs Engineering, it was found there would be induced flooding by 0.06 feet of flooding on the opposite side of Route 28 on the opposite bank. After meetings with NJDEP & Jacobs Engineering, it was decided to eliminate the closure structure for B3. When the levee segment is built, it will essentially be an island. If there is any flooding during this timeframe, water will flank around it because there will be no protection. It is projected that Segment B will not be complete for approximately 10 years due to funding, design work & the way the USACE will have to work around different areas.

Question . Since flooding is on the other bank (not library side), should work be done on the opposite side and work their way up? Mr Greco indicated it would have to start upstream by the railroad. Chairman Murray added the USACE would begin by Lincoln Ave (on both sides of stream) and come back towards the library. Mr Greco stated the USACE will be meeting with AECOM, NJDEP & Jacobs Engineering to discuss the best way to approach the sequencing of the segments. Mr Greco added that as the USACE works their way down, they cannot induce flooding on Segment H.

Question . The stream on 7th St (Middlesex Boro) on the east side is almost level with the road. Mr Greco noted the USACE will look into the inquiry. Chairman Murray added that what is being built for Segment B# will not do anything either way.

Mr Greco indicated that the USACE needs to purchase additional mitigation sites to complete Segment B. Due to the difficulty of purchasing sites, the USACE will be purchasing 2 mitigation credits (= 2 acres) by July 31, 2015. Additional properties have been offered for sale to USACE for use as mitigation sites. These will be evaluated.

Segment B1 . Project is substantially complete. Punchlist items are expected to be completed by end of June. As far as the grass cutting, Tom Slowinski (NJDEP) advised that Middlesex County would be able to begin cutting until late August/early September.

Segment B2 (floodwall) . USACE is unable to award a contract due to the non-acceptance of the real estate offers on properties. The USACE will have to go thru a condemnation process which requires the right to enter the property and acquire an easement. Contract award is not expected until 2016.

Segment B3 . USACE is scheduled to award by the end of September 2015. They have solicited the interest of small business contractors & have received letters in return of same contractors. The USACE has issued advance notice & in 2 weeks it will be in the Fed Biz OPS. Release of the plans & specs will be in mid August. The only item to delay the schedule is obtaining LURP permits. He noted that LURP initially had comments that required USACE input. A meeting is to be held next week to address the comments. Award is anticipated before October 2015. Chairman Murray added that USACE can advertise prior to LURP approval. Mr Greco noted they are putting the plans out prior to the completion of the agency technical review & independent peer review. Any comments from the review team will be put in as amendments.

Segment B4 . This segment has a 1500 linear foot floodwall that will connect with Route 28 & Segment B2 (Starlit Drive). The USACE has to coordinate with NJDEP & Jacobs Engineering. The USACE is unsure if they can install a portion of floodwall or leave it until they come down on the opposite bank due to possible induced flooding & interior drainage issues. There is a possibility that Segment B will not be completed for 10 years.

Jefferson Ave Bridge (razing) . USACE anticipates awarding of a contract by the end of August 2015. They will be providing a draft package to a small ADA contractor by next week. USACE anticipates a proposal from the contractor by August 12, 2015 and award by August 26, 2015.

Segment H . USACE's real estate division is obtaining rights of entries as borings (Lincoln Ave area) are required. The home adjacent to Lincoln Ave bridge is slated to be purchased by USACE.

Upper Basin

USACE's headquarters mandated that a GRR (general re-evaluation report) is required. The GRR will indicate what impacts there will be on both the upper & portions of the lower basin. USACE is currently doing a schedule to develop the project management plans which should be completed by July 16, 2015.

QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None.

QUESTIONS FROM SOMERSET COUNTY

None.

QUESTIONS FROM MIDDLESEX COUNTY

None.

GBFCC ENGINEER

None.

NJ DEP

No report.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Hardenburg (Piscataway) . When is the next guesstimate for completion of the next project and how far in the future before insurance rates would be lowered? Mr Greco indicated the next project slated to be completed is Middlesex Boro. Timeframe for completion could be more than 10 years. Chairman Murray added that it will take 10 years to for Segments C & H to be done & connected back to Green Brook & Segment B (based on current funding). At that time, the FEMA/LOMR/CLOMR process has to be done for the next segment. Mr McArdle added that a reduction in insurance rates for Bound Brook won't be seen until 2017 because FEMA sets their rates in October for the following year.

Mr Graff (Dunellen) . After the Jefferson Ave bridge is removed, will there be a foot path to get over for emergencies, etc. Chairman Murray stated there will be no path. Since the funding is available, the plan is for a floodwall on the Dunellen side and a levee on the Green Brook side. Barriers must then be installed before any bridge is built. No interim bridge is planned.

Mr Graff (Dunellen) . When is the bridge razing expected to commence? Mr Greco noted that they anticipate the contractor to commence demolition sometime in October 2015.

Chairman Murray thanked Green Brook Municipal Building for the use of their facility and their continued support of the GBFCC.

Listed are the GBFCC meeting dates:

2015

August 1 – American Legion Gazebo (behind Middlesex Library)

September 2 – Middlesex County Planning

November 4 - Plainfield

A motion was made and approved to adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:14 PM