

**GREEN BROOK FLOOD CONTROL COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

LOCATION: Green Brook Municipal Building
Green Brook NJ

DATE: February 3, 2016

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	Ted Bassman . Scotch Plains
John Sweeney-Middlesex Boro	Ken Hermann . Green Brook Twp
Bill Crosby . North Plainfield	W Geoff Smith . Assemblyman Green office
Richard O'Connor-Engineer, GBFCC	Brian C Wahler- Mayor, Piscataway Twp
Robert Greco - USACE	Patrick McClellan - Engineer
Rob Zucker . Winning Strategies	Stephen Black . Watchung
Paul Woska . Middlesex Boro	Pedro Estevez . Plainfield PMUA
Leighton Williams . Plainfield	Linda Piffer . Borough of Middlesex

Chairman Murray called for a moment of prayer for Vice Chairman's wife, Patricia who recently passed away.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Murray reported correspondence received by the GBFCC for the months of November, December & January. The GBFCC maintains a correspondence file that is available for inspection as may be necessary and upon request.

MINUTES

The minutes of the 11/4/15 meeting were approved as corrected. A copy of the approved minutes is available on the GBFCC website.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr Crosby provided the monthly report and bills for November, December & January. Bills for the months of November, December & January were approved for payment. Treasurer's report and budget is available on-line and are also available for inspection upon request.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Mr Greco reported the following:

Bound Brook

Bound Brook Mayor Fazen is coordinating with the adjacent municipalities to obtain signoff LOMR forms for FEMA. The LOMR forms are expected to be submitted to FEMA by next week. FEMA will then process the LOMR application for Bound Brook. After review, FEMA will issue the draft LOMR and it will be sent to Bound Brook. At that time, Bound Brook will place a newspaper publication notifying the Public of the LOMR. A 2nd publication will be issued to indicate there will be a 90-day appeal period to review and issued comments. During the 90-day appeal period, Mayor Fazen would like to assign a date for a Public meeting. Within 2-3 weeks of the 90-day conclusion, the LOMR will then be in effect. Residents will then be able to apply for any insurance rate reduction.

Question . Since Bound Brook is being removed from the flood plain, will flood insurance still be required? Mr Greco indicated that it depends if there is a mortgage on the property. There may be a minimal coverage requirement by the mortgage company. At the Public meeting, FEMA will recommend requiring all residents to carry coverage but at a much lower rate.

Mr Greco noted the USACE would like to schedule a ribbon cutting (in spring) in Bound Brook to officially turn the project over to NJDEP and Somerset County. In order to do that, there are some properties in the footprint of the levees that are owned by the Federal government and need to be turned over to the state of NJ. USACE's real estate is currently working on the turnover. USACE expects to have a turnover date by the end of the month.

Mr Greco stated USACE headquarters is requesting AECOM to provide a cost update of the 1997 GRR by late April or early May. There are some design changes to be done. Due to the updated hydraulics and post Katrina standards, the levee needs to be one continuous levee without separation. USACE headquarters has requested to accelerate the cost update for the Green Brook project. The official report and cost will then be provided to the GBFCC in October 2016. USACE headquarters is interested to know the cost early due to the cap on the project.

Middlesex

Segment B1 (Sebrings Mill bridge/pump station) . is officially complete. Somerset County will be maintaining and operating the pump station and the levee around the floodwall.

Segment B2 (floodwall) . The Munoz property is proceeding forward toward condemnation. USACE's legal counsel needed to have a death certificate for Mr Munoz. It was discovered Mrs Munoz remarried and USACE is now requesting a signed statement from Mrs Munoz indicating that any heirs have no interest in the property. Mr Greco anticipates a contract to be awarded by June 2016.

Segment B3 (behind library) . Jacobs Engineering is revising plans to remove the pump station. The pump station will be demolished with the drainage structure remaining intact. The pump station will be re-constructed after Segment C is completed. The right-of-entry for construction has been received from the American Legion. The current schedule for award of Segment B3 is June 2016. USACE expects to advertise by March 2016.

Jefferson Ave Bridge (razing) . USACE construction division has provided an email photo of the bridge demolition. Mr Greco will send a copy of photo to GBFCC. The contractor expects to be finished by April or May 2016. They are also installing an emergency %green+ access for the school. Chairman Murray noted the %green+paver consists of stone QB base, plastic matting, aggregate & soil.

Segment H . USACE's real estate division has advised that the closing on the property of 225 Lincoln Ave is contingent upon the seller purchasing another home. There is a firm commitment with the seller and the USACE for the property.

South Lincoln Ave Bridge . The original proposal was indicated as an elevation. After discussions with the Mayor, it is agreed to install by-pass culverts underneath to allow additional flow around the bridge. USACE's hydraulic engineers have reviewed the flow models and determined there isn't a need to install the by-pass culverts. USACE's recommendation is to keep the bridge as is and take a floodwall straight across and attach it to the road with a closure structure and leave a wider area around the bridge. This will save funds for Segment C1. Vice Chairman Sweeney questioned if there are any problems with the preliminary drawings. Mr Greco indicated there are no current problems. USACE engineers provided a blown up drawings from the GRR to Mr Greco. Mr Greco will provide GBFCC the drawing when the floodwall is drawn on it.

Mr Zucker . Does the money that is saved affect the funding request? Mr Greco stated no. It will allow building of a greater Segment C1. The money saved now will be utilized in FY17. Chairman Murray noted that portion of the request for \$20 million will remain for 2018. It will allow for more to be accomplished on Segment C1.

Segment C1 (levee/partial floodwall) . USACE anticipates awarding the borings, survey and wetland delineation contract by March 4, 2016. They will then proceed with the plans and specs.

Mr Greco indicated the USACE needs to know the addresses and non-structurals on Green Brook Road that are to be included in Piscataway and Bridgewater. Chairman Murray indicated he will provide the information needed.

Chairman Murray . If post Katrina standards is showing that D & I have to connect, will that change the non-structurals that were already surveyed in Green Brook? Mr Greco will research and advise.

Upper Basin

Mr Greco indicated the draft PMP (project management plan) was sent to NJDEP on January 12, 2016 for review. USACE anticipates 1 (one) month for review. When it is released, USACE will then provide a copy to the GBFCC. USACE has a cost to conduct a study that is \$5 million which is above the \$3 million threshold being imposed on USACE by headquarters for feasibility studies. Mr Greco anticipates speaking with Alec Peterson to see if there will be any cutback. Mr Greco expects to have an update at the next PDT meeting.

Mr Bassman . In the 90's the only alternative for the upper basin was the Weldon quarry site, is that still being considered? Mr Greco indicated the Weldon site is a site that needs to be considered but it may be a costly operation to purchase the site. Mr Bassman noted that the PDT notes are somewhat cryptic as to the alternatives. Mr Greco stated that he will make sure the descriptions will be more explanatory and also to the GBFCC. Chairman Murray noted that USACE started with the report from the upper basin task force as a starting point and also added a placeholder for some other local idea that wasn't contemplated prior. Depending on what the NJDEP has to say, the placeholder may have to be removed.

REPORT FROM COUNTIES

None.

QUESTIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS

None.

GBFCC ENGINEER

None.

NJ DEP

No report.

WINNING STRATEGIES

Mr Zucker reported the following:

Since the last GBFCC meeting, the budget process has ended. A deal was reached to give \$80 billion over 2 (two) years starting in FY16. The final budget was approved by Congress which included \$7.5 million that was included in the USACE's work plan and in the House and Senate appropriations bills for Energy and Water purposes.

Winning Strategies have been working closely with offices of Senators Booker & Menendez to provide a letter to the office of management budget from the Senators to be in full support of the funds included in the FY17 budget and the USACE's work plan. The letter is in full support of the \$20 million for construction and \$300 thousand for investigation of the GRR.

On February 9, 2016, the Obama administration will release the budget. Mr Zucker expects to confirm the outcome which will hopefully include all of the requested funding. Based on the outcome, Chairman Murray and Vice Chairman Sweeney are expected to visit Washington DC to advocate the FY17 funding.

Mr Bassman added that the final budget does appear on the USACE website on the day of release.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

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:

2016

April 6 – North Plainfield Community Center

June 1 – Middlesex Boro Library

August 6 - American Legion Pavillion (behind Middlesex Library)

October 5 – Middlesex County or Scotch Plains (TBD)

December 7 - Plainfield

A motion was made and approved to adjourn.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:15 PM