

Manitoba

Floodway Expansion Authority



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Release

June 7, 2004

For Immediate Release

FLOODWAY AUTHORITY OUTLINES DRAINAGE AND LAND ACQUISITION COMPONENTS FOR EXPANSION PROJECT

Winnipeg, Manitoba – The Manitoba Floodway Expansion Authority (MFEA) today outlined the drainage and land acquisition components for the Red River Floodway Expansion Project.

“Throughout our public consultation meetings, residents and agricultural producers have been raising concerns about the impact the floodway expansion project will have on drainage along the floodway,” said Ernie Gilroy, CEO of MFEA. “Today, we are pleased to report that as a result of the public input and our most recent engineering studies, the floodway expansion project will improve drainage along the floodway.”

Drainage Improvements:

Gilroy said that as a result of the floodway expansion project, drainage capacity will be maintained or increased for all rural drainage structures on the floodway and associated drainage channels within the floodway right of way. Specific improvements will include:

- Replacement of the Centreline Drain drop structure;
- Replacement of the North Bibeau Drain drop structure;
- Repairing the Cooks Creek Diversion drop structure;
- Replacement of the Springfield Road Drain drop structures;
- Replacement of the Skholny Drain drop structure;
- Replacement of the Ashfield Drain drop structure;
- Replacement of the Kildare trunk-Transcona sewer outlet drop structure; and
- Improvements to the Country Villa Estates drain drop structure;

Earlier today, MFEA staff met with representatives from the Cooks Creek Conservation District to discuss the drainage improvements and the proposed design. “I am pleased with the consultative process that MFEA has undertaken to keep us informed of this project,” said George Sokal, Chairman of the Cooks Creek Conservation District. “We look forward to working with the Authority to improve drainage on the floodway property for the future benefit of our district and all of the stakeholders.”

Gilroy also announced that plans are underway for the development of two other initiatives designed to improve drainage in and around the floodway including:

- Construction of a new gate chamber on the Seine River overflow pipes to allow the pipes to be closed to prevent backwater flooding from the Floodway to Grande Pointe; and
- Construction of a new gated culvert through the West Dike southwest of La Barriere Park to improve drainage in the region to the La Salle River.

Land Acquisition

In addition, Gilroy provided recent information on the land acquisition components associated with the floodway expansion project. He noted that initial design estimates suggested that 1,000 additional acres (405 hectares) of land would be required to complete channel widening. That estimate has been reduced to a maximum of 500 acres (202 hectares).

MFEA anticipates acquiring additional lands in association with the expansion of the west dike south of Winnipeg. The amount of land required will be determined once the design of the structure is finalized. MFEA will continue to work closely with municipal governments, local residents and agricultural producers on this matter.

In addition to today's announcement, MFEA recently announced that in response to concerns raised by the public and to protect groundwater supplies, it had scaled back plans to deepen the floodway channel from up to six feet to no more than two feet.

"Concerns regarding groundwater, drainage and land acquisition have been raised at all of our municipal and public consultation meetings," said Gilroy. "We are listening to these and other concerns and I am pleased to say we have identified effective ways to address them. As the project design is refined and as the public consultation proceeds, the Authority will continue to update the public on details of this historic project."

MFEA's second round of public consultation was recently concluded in May. It featured meetings with municipal governments, stakeholder roundtables and six public meetings attended by more than 500 residents. A third round of public consultation has recently been initiated by the project's independent environmental consultant. Stakeholder sessions and municipal council meetings began on May 11 and will run through to June 23, 2004. Another round of public open houses has also been scheduled:

- June 8 - Dugald Community Centre (4pm – 9pm)
- June 16 - Selkirk Legion (4pm – 9pm)
- June 23 – Winnipeg Fort Rouge Leisure Centre (4pm – 9pm)

For more information on the floodway expansion project, please visit (www.floodwayauthority.mb.ca) or contact MFEA toll free at 1-866-356-6355.

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