



Memo to: Board of Directors
From: Chuck Etwert
Subject: Program Status Report for March, 2014
Date: March 14, 2014

The process of property acquisition continues to move along. As stated the last few months, several owners involving relatively small transactions have engaged attorneys and communication has gotten more difficult. We are still needing easement or property acquisition in BP #3 (9 owners for 15 parcels), BP #5 (1 owner for 1 parcel) and BP #6 (3 owners for 5 parcels). With all three of these packages already having been awarded, it is imperative that we reach agreements with these property owners as soon as possible before our contractors start requesting change orders due to delay of site access. There may be an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss one or two situations.

On Friday, March 7th, I signed the Project Partnership Agreement, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the East St. Louis Design Deficiency Correction Project, as authorized by the Board at the December 18th meeting. Also, at that meeting Colonel Hall indicated that the Corps was going to continue its' evaluation of the use of Project Labor Agreements and hoped to set up meetings in the near future.

We have received the Corps' FY14 Workplan and FY15 Budget numbers. They are as follows:

Melvin Price Locks and Dam:

FY14 Workplan = \$3,400,000

FY15 Budget = \$3,800,000

With these funds and \$1,200,000 carried over from FY13 (\$8,400,000 in total) it is the Corps intent to have the design complete in FY15 with construction in FY16. Project is 100% federally funded.

Wood River Levee:

FY14 Workplan = \$5,389,000 (**\$3,689,000** for deficiency corrections; **\$1,700,000** for reconstruction)

FY15 Budget = \$8,650,000

East St. Louis:

FY14 Workplan = **\$4,109,000**

FY15 Budget = \$9,810,000

Now that the Corps has its FY14 funding finalized they are requesting cost share funds, (to match the dollar figures bolded above) which will be discussed later in the meeting.

The Prairie Du Pont Levee and Sanitary District and the Fish Lake Drainage and Levee District both received letters from the Corps of Engineers indicating that uncontrolled underseepage issues were seriously impairing the functioning of their flood reduction systems and therefore, an overall system rating of “unacceptable” was warranted.

Chris Safford of AMEC and I met with representatives of the Prairie Du Pont to obtain the Corps’ report and determine if our projects would enable an improved rating of “minimally acceptable”, and if not, what would be required to meet this type of system rating upgrade. AMEC is still reviewing the Corps report. We haven’t been able to make contact with the Fish Lake Drainage and Levee District to discuss the same approach, but Prairie Du Pont also gave us a copy of Corps’ report for Fish Lake, which AMEC is also reviewing.

We will also be having Husch Blackwell meet with both entities to discuss revenue alternatives for increased funding, maintenance funding for improvements being installed, and the possible combining of the Districts.

AMEC continues converting the Wood River cutoff walls plans to AMEC specifications with a goal of completing the task early to mid-April, thus getting the plans back to the Corps for the 408 review as soon as possible.

A contract has been executed with Columbia Capital to serve as the Council’s Financial Adviser for the next two years. They will be reviewing and assembling financial information during the next few months. A financial plan update will not be issued until bids on our last two Bid Packages are received.

Lastly, with the weather finally taking a turn for the better, there has been a lot of activities by all of our contractors. With this increased activity comes the potential for change orders, which I will be discussing later in the meeting.

A copy of AMEC’s monthly progress report for march has been provided to each of you.