

CACHE LA POUUDRE RIVER AT GREELEY, CO
GI FEASIBILITY STUDY
Summary of Main Meeting 8 September 2006

I. OVERVIEW

A meeting was held at the Greeley City Hall to discuss study progress and to exchange information. Citizens and other agencies interested in the ecosystem of the Cache la Poudre River were also invited.

II. MEETING ATTENDANCE

PERSON	REPRESENTING	PHONE
Curtis Miller	Corps – Hydraulic Engineering	402-221-7739
Katie Reed	Corps – Ecosystem / Biology	402-221-4604
Joel Hamasath	City of Greeley – Comm. Dev.	970-350-9269
Mark Nelson	Corps – Plan Formulation	402-221-3109
Brad Janes	Yarra Cos, Inc.	303-591-1694
Dennis Gaare	Corps – Geotechnical Eng.	402-221-4553
Jeff McClenathan	Corps – Hydraulics	402-221-4578
Betty Peake	Corps – Recreation / Economics	402-221-4474
Vicki French	Corps – Real Estate	402-221-4206
James Carter	Greeley Fence Co.	970-301-0585
Bert Leautaud	Greeley – Stormwater	970-336-4072
Sarah Boyd	Greeley – Parks	970-336-4180
Karen Scopel	Greeley – Natural Resources	970-350-9783
John Eade	135 8 th Street	970-371-0418
Chuck Esterly	Greeley – Public Works	970-350-9795
Steve Bagley	Greeley – Public Works	970-350-9792
Sarah Boyd	Greeley – Parks	970-336-4180
Peter Plage	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	303-236-4750
Howard Lang	21 st Century Investments	970-346-8400
Dave Wells	Greeley – Public Works, Engr.	970-350-9796
David Bauer	Weld County Public Works	970-304-6496
Kara Reeves	Corps – Economics	402-221-4639
Renie Shoulin	CAO	
Rick Brady	CAO	

III. SUMMARY

The meeting began with general introductions and a study overview by Dave Wells. The Corps then presented a status report by technical discipline. The discussion broadened to topics initiated by the audience, including members of the Advisory Council and the Public. At the conclusion of that discussion the meeting shifted to an informal discussion of flood characteristics using maps and projected photos.

A. Corps Status Report

A Status Report was presented by the PM and others. The report focused on actual work accomplished rather than budgets or schedules. A handout detailing study progress was handed out at the meeting. Topics covered included Hydrology, Hydraulics Geotechnical Engineering, Flood Plain Issues, Economics, Ecosystem Restoration, Recreation and Plan Formulation. Additional handouts were provided on the Preliminary Annual Damages & Zero Damage Stages (Economics & Hydraulics) and Recreation.

B. General Discussion including Advisory Council & Public Comments.

A general discussion followed the status report. Some noteworthy comments included:

1. Support for doing something with the old sugar factory reservoir was voiced by several individuals.
2. Greeley has some state funds for a recreational trail from Greeley down to the South Platte River. The effort would need to be initiated in 2007 and completed by the end of 2008.
3. Greeley has mapping (1' contour) is available all of the way to the South Platte.
4. The Great Western Sugar Factory is for sale. There has been no processing for the past 2 to 3 years. Water and Sewer Dept. has budgeted to buy part of the property where the lime pile is. The purchase is likely in 2007.

C. Open Discussion around Maps and Projected Flood Photographs

1. Residents indicated that flooding in Greeley during the recent larger floods is impacted by the railroad embankment bisecting it, the Highway 85 Bypass, the lime pile and the sewage treatment plant.
2. Debris catching on the railroad bridge pilings is an item of concern. Even though the bridge is rated to pass a 100-year flood, there is concern that a debris jam there could cause significant backwater & flooding beyond the design open water levels.
3. There are many buildings that have been built on ground raised above the 100-year elevation. Some are identified on the flood boundary map.
4. Some high water marks from the 1999 flood remain inside buildings near downtown Greeley.
5. Greeley has State funds that could be spent in 2007 & 2008 for a planning study of a trail alignment down to the South Platte River from Island Grove Park.

IV. SUMMARY OF ISSUES BY GI STUDY SUBTOPIC

A. Flood Damage Reduction Issues

1. Eaton Draw is an area of concern. The channel is undersized for several hundred yards above its confluence with the Cache la Poudre. Tributaries are not currently in the study scope.
2. There is an old breached sugar factory reservoir near the mouth of Eaton Draw. It is currently populated with a stand of Russian Olives.
3. Four areas of interest are being considered as the plan formulation effort begins.
 - a. Reach from ~Ash Ave upstream through the Highway 85 Bypass is a constricted area, due to the reduced conveyance past the of Sewage Treatment Plant and by the lime slag pile.
 - b. Protecting the high economic damage area (Hwy 85 bypass to 11th Ave) from flooding will be a key component in determining a feasible project with Federal interest.
 - c. Gravel pits immediately upstream of Island Grove Park create a very narrow channel.
 - d. Gravel pits around 35th Ave. This area is also very constricted.
4. The UPRR embankment and bridge (many piers in the water) may accumulate debris during floods. It was discussed that during the 1999 flood, interior drainage collected and passed through a culvert under the railroad.

B. Ecosystem Restoration Issues

1. An overflow channel & bridge at Highway 85 would be a possible way of providing a continuous riparian corridor along the Cache la Poudre. An overflow channel and bridge would likely provide flood damage reduction and recreation benefits as well.

C. Recreation Issues

1. The possibility of a Recreation Grant from the State should be considered if there is a good possibility that a recreation trail could be built from the South Platte through Greeley. Greeley has State funds that could be spent in 2007 & 2008 for a planning study of a trail alignment down to the South Platte River from Island Grove Park. The City would like to coordinate this action with the GI Study.
2. A bypass channel at Highway 85 could serve the recreational trail as well, though it is likely that a narrow trail could be located under the existing Highway 85 Bridge. The narrow corridor between the sewage treatment facilities is not good for either a recreation trail, or for a riparian corridor.

D. Other Topics

1. The Great Western Sugar Factory is for sale. There has been no sugar processing for 2 – 3 years. This plant has a water diversion structure and water rights.
2. Water and Sewer Department has money to buy part of the property where the lime pile is. The pile could be removed and the Sewage Treatment Plant could expand there. Likely purchase in 2007.
3. There is 1 foot topographic mapping in the Cache la Poudre River flood plain from Island Grove Park to the South Platte River.
4. The Highway 85 Bypass was built in about 1965.