



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Risk Management: Section 205, Minnesota River at Granite Falls, Minnesota



Flood fight activities – 1997 flood along Minnesota Avenue, Granite Falls, Minnesota

Contact

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Location/Description

Granite Falls is in southwestern Minnesota in Yellow Medicine and Chippewa Counties in the upstream portion of the Minnesota River watershed. Flooding problems in the city are associated with both the main stem of the Minnesota River and a secondary channel that runs along the westerly and southerly edges of the city. Floods occur mostly in the spring from snowmelt runoff. The flood of record occurred in April 1997 when a peak stage of 23.9 feet on the Montevideo, Minnesota, gage was reached. Portions of the city are protected by existing non-Federal levees.

Status

A Federal Interest Report on possible solutions to the city's flood related problems was completed in March 1998. The report concluded that the 15th Avenue levee reach had the best potential for being an economically justified Federal project.

Status - continued

A feasibility cost share agreement was negotiated with the city and executed in April 1999. The study was cost-shared 50/50 between the city and the Federal Government. Further investigation of the 15th Avenue reach was performed during the feasibility study. The draft feasibility report indicated that nonstructural solutions, including buyouts and relocations, were the most cost effective method to reduce flood damages in Granite Falls. The study was put on hold because these nonstructural solutions did not meet the Federal benefit-cost ratio criteria.

In the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2007, the Secretary of the Army is authorized to implement the locally preferred plan in accordance with the draft feasibility report dated 2002, to the extent practicable. WRDA 2007 also increased the Federal limit for this project from \$7 million to \$8 million. In late fiscal year 2008, Federal funds were provided to restart this project. Corps Headquarters and the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) developed implementation guidance for the WRDA 2007 authorization. The St. Paul District is working with the city of Granite Falls to develop a project management plan for the remaining work and negotiate a memorandum of agreement to cover ongoing work performed by the city while the cost shared feasibility study is performed..

Authority

Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act, as amended and WRDA 2007.

Fiscal

The first \$100,000 of the feasibility study was conducted at full Federal expense. The remaining feasibility study costs are conducted using a 50/50 cost sharing formula. The design and implementation phase will be cost shared 65 percent Federal and 35 percent non-Federal, up to the \$8 million Federal limit.

Cost estimates will be revised as part of the feasibility study.