

Memo



To: Committee of the Whole
From: **Resiliency Team**
Date: 2021-12-13
Subject: DMAF Update Report December 2021

Purpose

To provide Mayor and Council with a monthly update on the status of the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund (DMAF) Program.

Background

1. Stakeholder and Rightsholder Engagement

Now that detailed design drawings are available for the downtown project, program staff have reached out to and started meeting with residents and business owners who will be most impacted. This includes the three properties along the Granby River just south of the Central Ave bridge, the three single family homes on the Kettle River upstream of the 2nd street bridge, the Strata Council at River Park Estates, and the owners of the Selkirk College building. Meetings and phone calls have been arranged to present the detailed design, answer any questions, and talk about next steps. When the Construction Manager for Work Package 1 (WP1) downtown is on board, program staff will include them in further engagement with these property owners early in the New Year. In addition, DMAF staff continue to connect with other residents and members of the public who have questions about the program.

Formal First Nations consultation and engagement continues as part of the permitting process for both WP1 and WP2 a&b (Work Package 2, segments a&b). In addition, program staff continue to seek informal opportunities to engage with First Nations. On November 10th the City announced an agreement with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) for the relocation of North Ruckle houses. This agreement followed many weeks of engagement and coordination with OIB staff to establish the details of the partnership.

Program staff along with our engineers continue to meet with management at both Rockwool and Interfor. During a meeting on Nov 18th, draft detailed design for the Rockwool dike, WP2 segment c, was presented. All sides continue to collaborate on an alignment that considers both operational needs and budget constraints. On December 2nd Associated Engineering's designers for WP2 were in Grand Forks and walked the alignments with Interfor and Rockwool management, accompanied by DMAF staff.

2. Program Financing and Budget

Program staff continue to work with Infrastructure Canada's (INFC's) new program analyst assigned to Grand Forks under the DMAF program. Claims 1 and 2 have been revised to remove expenses that require additional backup or explanation for INFC. This should allow INFC to approve portions of those claims while staff compile the documents necessary to support the balance.

Staff have not met with the province lately regarding the DMAF program contribution agreement. We have been in touch with Emergency Management BC (EMBC), however, to discuss outstanding work related to earlier Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) files.

Associated Engineering will be providing an updated cost estimate for WP1 shortly, which will reflect their detailed design. This will allow staff to update the program budget. More significant, however, will be construction estimates received as part of the Construction Management (CM) procurement process and the CM's subsequent engagement with sub-trades. Estimates from those contractors will provide the City with more accurate budget numbers. They will also provide an indication of how much the recent extreme weather and catastrophic flooding in BC has impacted regional construction costs.

3. Land Acquisition Program (LAP)

The City recently completed expropriation proceedings for 6902 1st Street in North Ruckle and now owns that property. Expropriation continues for two other properties. A recent fire at one of the properties has impacted the expropriation because the property needs to be re-appraised based on its current state and an estimate of demolition costs.

4. Flood Mitigation Program (FMP)

a. Permitting

The status of all permits required to build the downtown and North Ruckle dikes (segments a&b) are presented in Table 1, for federal permits, and Table 2, for provincial permits. The City requires ten permits in total for WP1 and eight for WP2 a&b. The majority of provincial permits are through the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD).

Table 1 - Status of Federal Permits

	Work Package 1	Work Package 2, a&b
Species at Risk Act (SARA)	Received	Received
Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Authorization	Expected early January	Expected early January

Table 2 - Status of Provincial Permits

	Work Package 1	Work Package 2, a&b
Archeological Impact Assessment (AIA) Report	Interim Submitted. No red flags.	Interim Submitted. No red flags.
Site Alteration Permit (SAP)	Received	N/A
Crown Land Tenure / License of Occupation (LOO)	Close, per consultant	FLNRORD dealing with internal queries
Water Sustainability Act (WSA), Change Approval for Instream Work	FLNRORD Reviewing	FLNRORD Reviewing
WSA Fish Collection Permit	FLNRORD Reviewing	FLNRORD Reviewing
Dike Maintenance Act (DMA) Application	Deputy Inspector of Dikes (DOID) Reviewing. No red flags.	Deputy Inspector of Dikes (DIOD) Reviewing. No red flags.
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Right of Way at Highway 3 Bridge	MoTI Engaged	N/A
License to Cut	Follows LOO. Letter drafted.	Follows LOO. Letter drafted.

Program Staff and Associated Engineering continue to work closely with the regulators that are reviewing our permit applications. The Regional Biologist with DFO visited the city on November 18th to tour the project areas. She is working closely with us and our consultants' biologists to check off requirements and anticipates issuing approval in early January.

While only a few permits have been received to date, our consultant has advised that there are currently no major red flags and that review of our applications is progressing.

b. Procurement

On November 10th the City issued a Request for Expressions of Interest (RFEI) on BC bid and the City's website for dike fill (aka aggregate) material supply and delivery. The intention was not to shortlist suppliers, but to better understand the current state of the market and to develop an optimal strategy for competitive procurement. The City received five complete responses to the RFEI, including interest from within Washington state. This suggests there is adequate supply to initiate a competitive procurement process and for the City to receive good value on dike fill material. Program staff intend to share the results of the RFEI with the WP1 and WP2 Construction Management contractors, once under contract, and work with them to initiate procurement.

On December 6th the City posted a Request for Proposals (RFP) opportunity for a Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) contract including civil construction services. The RFP closes December 23rd and program staff hope to complete evaluations, negotiations and award of contract in late December and the first week of January. An RFP for a CMAR for WP2 a&b is scheduled to be issued in mid-December and to close in January.

In addition to these larger public opportunities, program staff have issued a number of requests for quotations (RFQs) related to house demolitions in North Ruckle. These include demolition opportunities, abatement opportunities and combined demolition and abatement.

On November 26th, following detailed review of the options, the City issued a purchase order to Fontaine Aquanox for the supply of a 15m wide by 3m high a demountable flood wall. This is the system that will connect the 2nd street gap in the earth berm dikes through North Ruckle. The flood wall is designed and manufactured by IBS, based in Germany. Engineers with IBS are now coordinating with Associated Engineering to design the interface with the earth berm dikes. Purchasing the flood wall as an owner supplied item, rather than waiting for a Construction Manager to purchase it, was necessary to ensure it could be designed, manufactured, and shipped in time to meet the City's schedule.

c. Design

Detailed Design for WP1 is substantially complete. The exception are mechanical and electrical details at the Riverside and 4th Street stormwater pump stations. The pumps and associated infrastructure are being optimized to achieve the following:

- To convey a 1 in 2 year precipitation event by gravity alone, if river flows are low
- To convey up to a 1 in 10 year precipitation event by pumping, even if river flows are equivalent to a 1 in 200 year design flood event
- To allow for the future connection of ground water interception wells without requiring a complete redesign.

Work Package 2 detailed design is complete and detailed construction specifications are being compiled. Now that the demountable wall manufacturer has been selected, the design is being updated to ensure compatibility with that system.

From December 6th to 8th city staff hosted the North Ruckle Design Charrette – an intensive multi-disciplinary design event to develop the conceptual design of the restored floodplain. Opportunities for community engagement and participation included a walking tour on December 3rd, a round table workshop the evening of December 6th, and a community presentation and Q&A session the evening of Dec 8th. The resulting draft design and ideas coming out of the Charrette will be compiled and presented to Council.

d. Utility Coordination

Utility redesign, relocation, disconnection, abandonment, and general coordination remains a critical component of the Flood Mitigation Program. With the expropriation of 6902 1st Street complete, staff recently requested that Fortis gas and Fortis electric begin the removal of all infrastructure serving the North Ruckle neighborhood. This was possible because the two residents still in North Ruckle are served by City power and do not have natural gas service. We have begun meeting regularly with Fortis gas to coordinate the priority removal work in the dike alignment. This begins with them disconnecting service to houses we are demolishing and purging the service connection to the house. Regular coordination work continues with Telus, Shaw and the City's own utility department.

e. Construction

No significant Flood Mitigation Program construction has occurred to date in work packages 1 or 2 as it requires the completion of permitting, design, and procurement. Exact construction start dates will depend on the completion of those three phases as well as contractor mobilization.

Preparatory field work is taking place, primarily in North Ruckle. This includes site cleanup, utility disconnection, asbestos abatement work, and house demolition. A total of 11 houses in North Ruckle have been flagged for near-term demolition and have been held back from the latest Housing Reinvestment RFP. Program staff also intend to begin removing abandoned vehicles from North Ruckle this month.

f. Schedule

Schedules for WP 1 and 2 are presented in Figures 1 and 2 below. Adjustments have been made to reflect the latest updates in the design, permitting, and procurement processes. Provided these are complete, mobilization and construction can begin in January for both WPs 1 and 2, with a revised end date of April 30th, 2022 for both. The extreme weather and flooding that the province experienced in November has the potential to impact the FMP’s construction schedule. It could affect both the supply of materials, due to supply chain issues and increased demand, as well as the availability of contractors now tied up with emergency response and recovery work. The test of the schedule will come shortly in the form of responses to our two CMAR RFPs. Following the selection of a CMAR the City will negotiate with them to establish a detailed construction schedule. That process will provide clarity regarding our proposed completion dates in light of the recent disasters in the province.

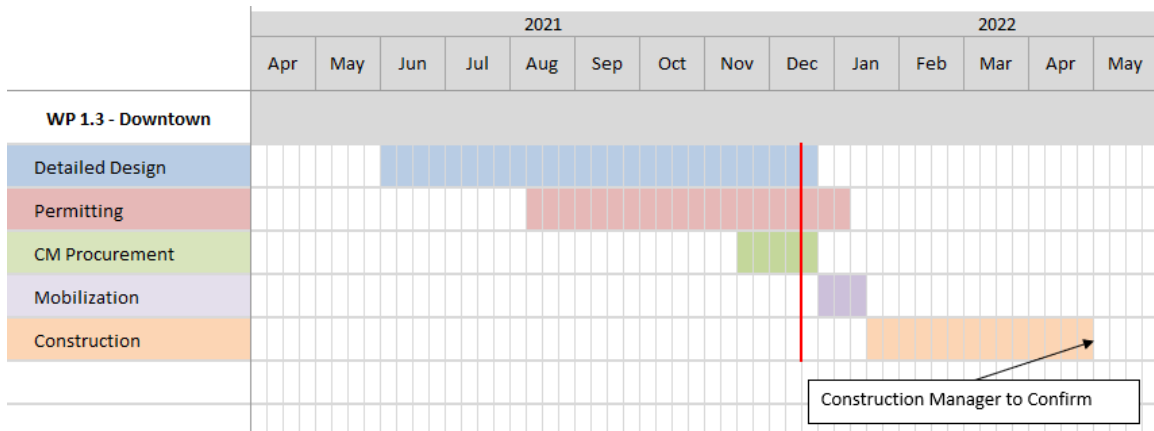


Figure 1 - Work Package 1 Simplified Schedule

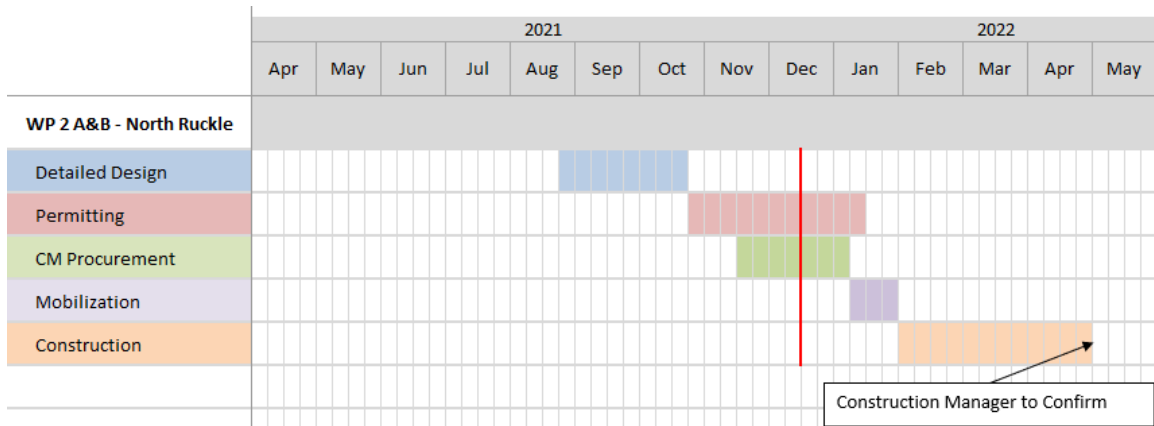


Figure 2 - Work Package 2 (a&b) Simplified Schedule

5. Housing Reinvestment Program (HRP)

In early November the City announced the completion of an agreement with the Osoyoos Indian Band (OIB) that includes the relocation of up to 10 houses in North Ruckle. In addition to providing much needed housing for Grand Forks, the partnership has the potential to generate revenue, through the resale of homes, that will be reinvested in the Flood Mitigation Program. The relocation of houses will also save the FMP on demolition costs and divert waste from the landfill.

In addition to the houses to be relocated by OIB, the City has posted a second round of the Housing Reinvestment Program RFP. This opportunity allows the public to bid on approximately 30 houses for sale in North Ruckle. Successful bidders will be responsible for relocating houses by April 1st, 2022. This second round of the public RFP process has been simplified to encourage participation. There is an initial two-week phase where the highest scoring proposal will be awarded the contract. Complete proposals, meeting the mandatory submission criteria, received after December 9th will be awarded on a first-come-first-served basis for each building. The minimum bid is \$200 for an outbuilding and \$1000 for a house and the open bidding process closes on January 31st, 2022.

Houses in the dike alignment have been withheld from the OIB agreement and the public RFP and will instead be demolished. This will prevent the process of selling and moving houses from impacting the dike construction schedule.

Attachments

1. 211213 – DMAF Update Presentation, December 2021