

BRAGG CREEK FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT UPDATE 1 – APRIL 2018

BACKGROUND

The 2013 southern Alberta floods were the most costly disaster in Canadian history. In the Bragg Creek area, the flooding caused widespread damage to municipal infrastructure, flood protection works, homes, property, and businesses along the Elbow River. The flooding had economic and social impacts in the community long after the waters receded and the physical damage was repaired.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The hamlet of Bragg Creek is subject to regular flooding, with significant events being recorded as early as 1915. In recognition of this long-standing risk, the Government of Alberta agreed to fund a flood mitigation project for the community.

MILESTONE ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

November, 2014: The Government of Alberta provides funding to Rocky View County to conduct preliminary studies, develop designs, and prepare estimates for the construction of flood mitigation structures.

December, 2015: Based on the studies and designs prepared by Rocky View County, the Government of Alberta commits to providing \$32.8 million to the Bragg Creek Flood Mitigation Project. The project is designed for a one-in-a-hundred-year flooding event.

June, 2016: Rocky View County posts a Request for Proposals for professional services and awarded the project to AMEC Foster Wheeler.

July 2016: AMEC Foster Wheeler commences gathering project information through land and river surveys and physical assessments. These include geotechnical, aquatic habitat, biophysical, and historical and archaeologic resource surveys, as well as structural assessments of the Balsam and Bracken Road bridges. The information created and gathered was used to support the hydraulic model and flood barrier designs.

Milestone Accomplishments To Date -- Continued

November 2016: One-on-one meetings were held with landowners who will be directly affected by the project. These meetings addressed project impacts and landowner concerns.

February and May 2017: Formal grant contribution agreements were signed with the Government of Alberta and the Federal Government for a total project budget of \$32.8 million.

March 2017: The County began acquiring the land necessary to implement the project. Approximately 30% of required lands have been obtained to date.

July 2017: The County applies for the necessary approvals (Water Act Application) from Alberta Environment and Parks.

NEXT STEPS

1. Public Notice Advertisement of Water Act Application
 - In keeping with regulations, the County publically advertised the Alberta Environment & Parks approved Water Act Application in the Rocky View Weekly on March 27, 2018.
 - Stakeholders will have an opportunity to submit a Statement of Concern within 30 days of the advertisement.
 - Rocky View County will address any stakeholder concerns to the satisfaction of Alberta Environment & Parks.
 - If and when Step 1 and Step 2 are complete, approval will be granted (expected in September 2018).
2. First Nation Consultation – Treaty 7 Nations
 - Alberta Environment & Parks requires a “Level One” consultation with First Nations.
 - Project Introductory Letters were mailed out in late March of 2018.
 - Rocky View County will consult First Nations. The County will address impacts to historical and traditional uses to the satisfaction of Alberta Environment & Parks.
 - If and when Step 1 and Step 2 are complete, approval will be granted (expected in September 2018).
3. Land Acquisition – Privately Owned Lands
 - Affected landowners have been provided with a detailed compensation package.
 - Discussions are on-going.
 - Expected completion is May 2018.

Next Steps -- Continued

4. Department of Fisheries & Oceans – Fisheries Act Authorization

- Due to proposed construction activities, the County will be required to provide offsetting measures to counterbalance unavoidable impact on fish habitat. This will include reviewing areas within the Elbow River watershed previously damaged during the 2013 floods.
- An offsetting plan will be prepared when a suitable area has been identified and approved by the Department of Fisheries & Oceans.
- Expected completion is September 2018.

5. Possible Expropriation

- If the expropriation of land is required, it would take approximately one year from the start of process. All subsequent steps listed below would be delayed accordingly.

6. Tendering Construction

- The tender engineering drawings are 80 percent complete. The design will be completed in parallel with the Water Act process, and the completion of land acquisition to address any final design changes.
- The County will post a Request for Prequalification for construction services in August 2018.
- Upon approval of the Water Act Application, a tender document will be sent to the prequalified contractors for bid submissions.
- Expected award of the tender is October 2018.

7. Construction Commencement

- Depending on timing of regulatory approvals and the acquisition of project lands, the County anticipates construction commencing as early as the late fall of 2018. Flood mitigation construction will also depend on winter conditions and therefore could extend into the spring of 2019.

MORE INFORMATION

Specific details, drawings, and reports are available by searching “Bragg Creek Flood Mitigation” at www.rockyview.ca.

QUESTIONS

Any questions or comments regarding this project can be directed to Rafeal Odie, Senior Project Manager, Capital Projects, at 403-520-7292 or rodie@rockyview.ca.