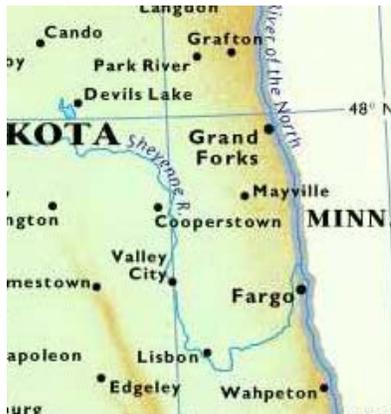




**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Flood Risk Management: Feasibility Study, Valley City, North Dakota Sheyenne River



Valley City, North Dakota

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Location/Description

Valley City, the county seat of Barnes County, is located in east-central North Dakota, approximately 60 miles west of Fargo, North Dakota. The Sheyenne River, a major tributary of the Red River of the North, flows through the city, and much of Valley City is located within the 100-year floodplain. Home to Valley City State University and with a total population of 6,286, the city is a regional social and economic hub.

The water resource related problems in Valley City are high levels of flood damages from the Sheyenne River to urban areas and flood related risks to public health and safety. Recent major floods occurred in 1996, 1997, 2009 and 2011. The record floods are the 2009 and the 2011 flood events with stages of 20.67 feet and 20.65 feet, respectively. These record floods were on the range of the 120-year flood event. Without emergency levees and other barriers in place, many critical and highly damageable facilities would have been inundated including Valley City State University, Mercy Hospital, City Hall, the Post Office, and the fire station.

Background

Valley City is located downstream of Baldhill Dam and Lake Ashtabula and downstream of the potential overflow area from Devils Lake through Tolna Coulee. A hydrologic analysis conducted in 2004 is considered to be the best hydrologic data available for the study area; however, this analysis does not include the impact of the floods of record in 2009 and 2011. The proximity of Valley City to these other influences, combined with outdated 2004 hydrologic models, leads to substantial uncertainty in the future without-project conditions. Updated hydrologic data are required to optimize flood risk management measures and to identify the most effective and efficient project alternative.

Status

The Section 905(b) report, which determined that there is a Federal interest in pursuing a cost shared flood risk management feasibility study, was approved on January 13, 2012. A Project Management Plan for the ensuing feasibility study was developed, and a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement was signed on April 10, 2012. A public meeting to introduce the local population to the study efforts was held on July 10, 2012. The hydrologic models are being updated to include the flood events of 2009 and 2011. Updated economic data are being gathered. An alternatives analysis will be provided to Valley City in December 2012, so that the city may secure funding from the State of North Dakota for further project development.

Authority

This study is authorized by a resolution of the Senate Committee on Public Works, September 30, 1974.

Fiscal

Total feasibility study costs are estimated to be \$1.5 million. Feasibility costs are to be shared 50/50 between the Federal Government and non-Federal sponsor.