



US Army Corps
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St. Paul District

Crosscurrents

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• Revolutionize Effectiveness: Satisfy the Customer

'Down to one plan, one project' at Grand Forks

Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs Office

"We are down to one plan, one project," said Lisa Hedin, project manager. By a combined vote of 20 to one, on Feb. 26 members of the city councils from Grand Forks, N.D., and East Grand Forks, Minn., approved a levees-only flood control plan developed by the St. Paul District.

The levees-only plan was one of two alternative flood damage reduction plans developed after a flood of record devastated the two communities last spring.

Flood waters on the Red River crested at a record 54.21 feet on April 22, 1997.

"We will work with residents to keep them informed and make the process as easy as possible," said Mayor Pat Owens of Grand Forks.

Work could begin next fall. "We hope to start a small portion of the project in the fall of 1999," said Mike Leshner, Engineering and Planning Division. "The start date depends partly on the pending

cultural and historical assessment of a former railroad bridge which is now a pedestrian bridge."

A team from the district outlined the alternatives contained in recent flood reduction studies at meetings for elected officials and residents of the neighboring communities on Feb. 17-19 in Grand Forks.

"One public meeting was

moderated by Mayor of East Grand Forks and another was moderated by Mayor of Grand Forks," said Hedin. The project findings are designed to provide permanent long-term flood protection for the neighboring communities on the Red River of the North.

Elected officials from the two

"One plan," cont. on page 4

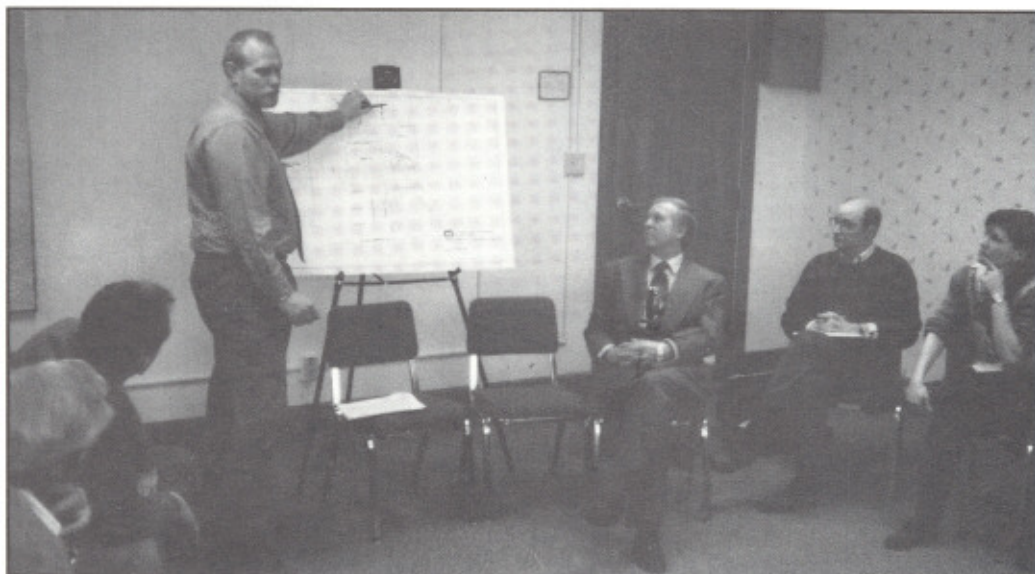
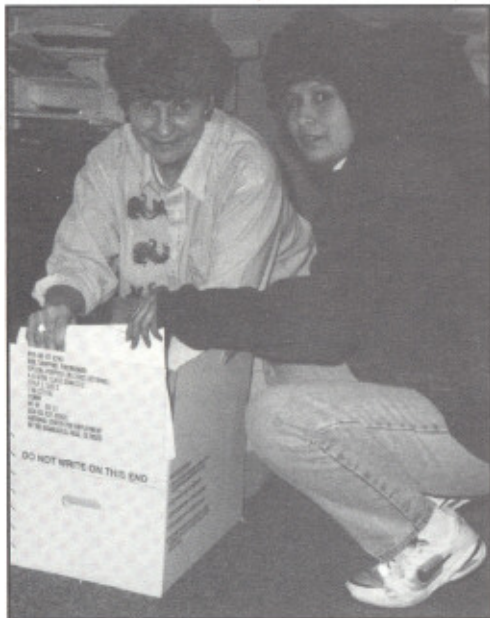


Photo by Ken Gardner

Standing at left is Mike Leshner, a hydraulic engineer in Engineering and Planning Division. He expanded upon the findings of flood reduction studies at a public information meeting in Grand Forks Feb. 18. Project Manager Lisa Hedin is at the far right. Next to her is team member Rick Carlson, an economist with the district. Leshner was discussing the northerly alignment of a levee. The alignment may be adjusted, provided it passes a cost-to-benefit ratio.

• Revolutionize Effectiveness: Build Team
**Personnel records boxed up,
 sent to regional personnel center**



Lupe Santos (right), St. Paul District Human Resources (HR), and Bobbie Olds, North Central Regional Personnel Center in Rock Island, Il., box up master personnel records to ship to Rock Island.

• Revolutionize Effectiveness: Build Team
**Five inducted in Order of
 Engineer ceremony**



Photos by Peter Versteegen

Five engineers from the St. Paul District were inducted into the Order of the Engineer on Feb. 18. Also inducted was Cathy French, University of Minnesota engineering professor and National Engineers Week keynote speaker. Left to right are Edith Pang, Matt Bray, Chris Behling and Bob Dempsey. Not shown are Shelly Hoff and French.

• Invest in People: Reshape Culture
Slips, trips and falls

by Ron Scott, Safety Office

One of our employees fell at a spillway earlier this year. This fall resulted in a lost-time accident.

The accident was no isolated statistic. Nationally, about 13,000 people each year die from falls — the second most frequent cause of accidental death in the country after motor vehicle accidents.

Falls are among the leading causes of work-related injuries, and accounted nationally for more than 500 job-related deaths recently.

The main causes of falls are:

- Unsafe ladders or stairs;
- Obstructions in walkways or on stairs;
- Slippery or uneven surfaces;
- Moving too fast;
- Poor lighting;
- Physical fatigue or emotional distraction.

Fortunately, most falls, trips and slips can be

prevented or made less severe. The trick is to pay attention to what you're doing, where you're going, and what you encounter along the way.

Reducing the risk of slips, trips and falls on stairs requires attention to maintenance as well as individual safety habits. Treads should have a non-slip surface, with abrasive covering on the front edge. Railings should be in place and firmly anchored. Lighting should be adequate for people to see where they are going.

In addition, you should follow these steps to safety:

- Keep stairs clear at all times;
- Always use the railing;
- Don't carry anything that blocks your vision;
- Keep one hand free to support yourself or break a fall;
- Watch where you're going!

Slips, trips and falls are especially common and troublesome because they can occur at any time and during any activity. That's why prevention must remain a high priority.

• Invest in People: Reshape Culture
Bright, busy and bound to succeed

Story and photo by Jessica L. Shallow, student in Public Affairs

Did you ever stop to think about how much you can do in a lifetime, let alone a day? It's amazing how active some people can stay. Kelli Beard's schedule alone is reason enough to declare an eight-day calendar week. Although, you would never be able to tell this through observing her calm composure.



Kelli Beard

Some of you might have seen Beard working in the EEO office under the temporary student employment program, where she has been working for the last year, or know her from when she worked as a student in Human Resources.

Beard is a 22 year-old senior at St. Catherine's College, where she is triple majoring in political science, communications, and women's studies and currently enrolled in five classes. Academic excellence has earned her membership in the Honors Program at St. Catherine and as a member of Lambda Pi Eta, an honor society for communications majors.

Along with her triple major, she manages to find the time to stay active in school, work, and the community. Currently, she is the president of the student body at St. Catherine's. Because of this position, she has also been

appointed to the Board of Trustees for the college. Beard has also been actively involved in planning social justice events within her college's Campus Ministry.

Beard also finds time to volunteer her services at the Women of Nations, a shelter in St. Paul for women and children of color.

In between school and her extracurricular activities, Beard works about 18 hours a week in the EEO office. Some of her duties are to provide

administrative support, to help with timekeeping and complaint tracking, and to maintain and update the EEO video library. Beard finds that this opportunity is a building block for her future.

"This job is a really good opportunity to learn about public service and working in EEO and is a good way to help pay for my education," says Beard.

Beard is planning to pursue a career in public service and hopes to become an elected representative someday. She has recently applied to law schools all over the country and is awaiting their replies.

When Beard is not busy with her studies, volunteering, extracurricular activities, or working, she spends time with her family. She also enjoys downhill skiing.

• Invest in People
New provider services EAP

by Jessica Shallow student in Public Affairs

"I've been told that it's really helpful and professional by people who told me that they went there," said Mary Street, personnel management specialist in Human Resources (HR).

Street was referring to the district's on-going employee assistance program (EAP).

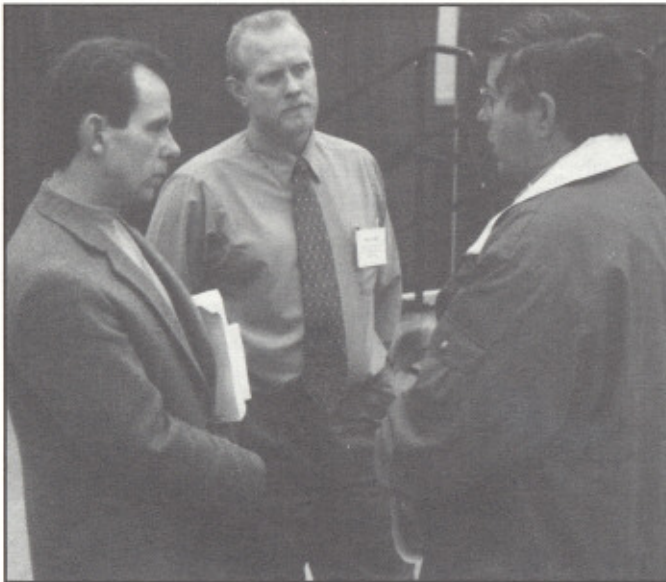
Effective February 1, the district's new EAP provider is Total Employee Assistance Management (T.E.A.M.), Inc.

EAP offers confidential assistance to all district employees and their families at no cost for short-term counseling and assessment.

If you or a family member have some issues for which you would like a "personal coach," or are afraid of the cost or are worried that someone else will find out about your problems — not to worry. EAP offers up to three free visits per issue and is strictly confidential.

Even though an occasional individual may express an opinion about their experience with the EAP provider, "we never receive individual information back from the EAP — just general usage reports that help us monitor the contract. We just get total service hours for the quarter," said Street.

A counselor or additional information is available at T.E.A.M., Inc., 24 hours-a-day, 365 days-a-year at (612)642-0182 or 1-800-634-7710.



Photos by Ken Gardner

Left to right, Ed McNally and Mike Lesher, both in Engineering and Planning, discuss a potential modification of English Coulee with a resident of Grand Forks County.



Branden Bartholomew (left), surveyor for the City of Grand Forks, reviews topographic data with Lisa Hedin, project manager.

"One plan," cont. from page 1

cities and county representatives met informally on Feb. 24 to choose among the alternatives presented in the study. Officials formed a consensus around a levees-only plan which provides protection at the level of a 210-year flood — equivalent to the Flood of '97. The price tag (fully funded) is \$300.6 million, half of which is paid by the federal government.

Also, engineers advising the cities have recommended the levees-only plan.

The two cities had previously authorized the district to proceed with the design of a levee and floodwall system that would surround the cities and protect them from flood waters and also to assess the feasibility of a combined diversion and levee.

Approval by the local sponsors in February was necessary to meet the schedule for authorization in the Water Resources Development

Act of 1998. If included in the act, construction of the levees-only alternative could start in 1999 and take four to five years.

A series of presentations throughout February was a summary of more than eight months of studies and meetings with officials of the two communities.

"These findings represented completion of a very detailed and orderly process during which we looked at multiple alternatives over an eight-month period," said Hedin. "These included a full-levee project, full-diversion projects on both sides of the river and combination levee and diversion projects on both sides of the river."

Two plans eventually emerged — a levees-only project that would protect against a flood similar to the 1997 flood and a combination levee and west-side diversion,

popularly called a split-flow western diversion. This choice offered a diversion and somewhat smaller levees — not significantly different than levees only.

The study demonstrated that the levees-only plan was less expensive and much more feasible. The National Economic Development Plan (NED) mandated that the benefit-to-cost ratio (BCR) be at least 1.0 to qualify for federal funding — qualifying just the levees-only plan at 1.13.

The combination levee-diversion alternative would have a fully funded construction cost of about \$932.2 million. The estimated BCR for this alternative .40.

"My thanks to Lisa Hedin and the Engineering and Planning folks who have done a great job in helping the cities with their decision," said Lt. Col. William Bryefogle, district commander.

• Revolutionize Effectiveness: Satisfy the Customer

Devils Lake levee becomes critical priority

by Peter Verstegen
Public Affairs specialist

"Devils Lake is now at historic high levels," said Bill Spychalla, "and it is projected to go even higher this year. The St. Paul District is working feverishly to respond to this flood threat."

Spychalla is the project manager for two major initiatives at Devils Lake.

"The levee for the City of Devils Lake and the outlet are the two major initiatives we have going at Devils Lake," said Spychalla. "The most critical of the two is the levee for the city due to the imminent threat of flooding posed by the rising level of the lake."

"The levee raise at the City of Devils Lake is being conducted in four increments," said Spychalla. "The first increment raised the original levee by five feet, increasing the level of protection from a lake elevation of 1440 to 1445. Including freeboard, the top

of levee is at 1450. This increment is essentially complete. The second increment — now underway — will extend the levee's line of protection at the 1445 protection level to areas not previously protected."

A third levee raise is in the final design stage and will protect from a lake elevation of 1447. The top elevation is 1452, counting freeboard. Construction is planned to begin in May 1998. If needed, a fourth levee raise would increase the level of protection to elevation 1450, with freeboard bringing the top of levee to elevation 1457.

During the last five years flooding has threatened private and public property, infrastructure, transportation routes and created adverse economic and social impacts. The impacts have resulted in more than \$200 million in federal expenditures. Federal, state and local agencies and others have been working to address the many water-related problems in the basin.

A key component of an overall

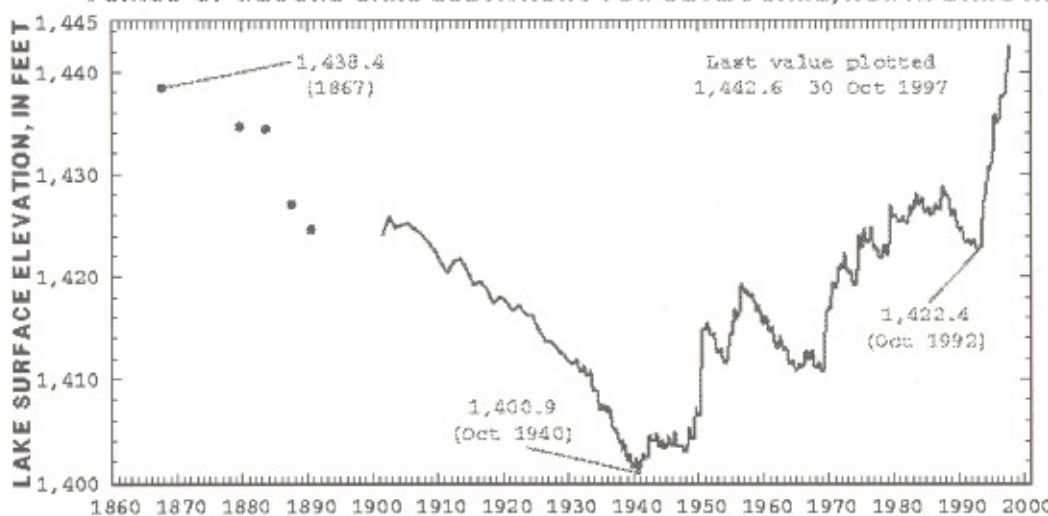
plan to address the flood-related damages is an outlet from Devils Lake to the Sheyenne River.

Two laws passed and signed in 1997 direct the district's work on Devils Lake.

"On June 12, 1997, Public Law 105-18 provided funds and directed the Corps to design and conduct the environmental impact studies for the outlet," said Spychalla.

"Then on Oct. 13, 1997, Public Law 105-62 provided the funds to initiate construction of the outlet subject to documentation that the outlet is technically sound, economically justified, environmentally acceptable, complies with NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), and complies with the Boundary Waters Treaty Act of 1909." The focus of the district's effort is on the design, environmental studies and a Report to Congress that documents the ability of the outlet to meet the required provisions of the law.

PERIOD-OF-RECORD LAKE ELEVATIONS FOR DEVILS LAKE, NORTH DAKOTA



Source: U.S. Geological Survey, subject to revision

At left is a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) hydrograph of Devils Lake from 1860 to October 1997. The USGS web site at <http://www.dnbnmk.cr.usgs.gov/public/dvlake/dvlake.html> offers additional information. See also the Devils Lake link on district's home page at <http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil>.

Bits and Pieces

Schmidt named lockmaster at Hastings

This March, Dan Schmidt will be going to work as the new lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 2 in Hastings, Minn. He started as a laborer in 1978 and became a lock and dam operator in 1980. Schmidt has been the head operator at Lock and Dam No. 3 for past 12 years.

He likes to hunt and fish. He and his wife and two-year old son are life-long residents of Red Wing. His appointment is effective March 15.

Furniture surplus

In an effort to standardize all chairs within the district, Logistics Management (LM) has declared worn-out chairs as surplus and removed them. "We have also exceeded several desks, tables, plotters and printers, personal

computers with monitors, bookcases, shelving, light tables and file cabinets," said LM Chief Dave DePoint. Altogether, eight 25-foot truckloads of surplus went to the State of Minnesota.

The surplus furniture is in part a result of the district's consolidation of office space.

The district now occupies nearly four floors at the Army Corps of Engineers Centre. When the consolidation is complete, offices will occupy about two and one-half floors.

Significant firsts by the St. Paul District

1970s - 1980s

The district completed the first major non-structural flood control project in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It was at Prairie du Chien, Wis. The project involved relocating more than 100 families and approximately 12 businesses from low-lying St. Feriole Island.

St. Paul Project one of Seven Wonders

At an awards banquet Feb. 20, the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE) named the St. Paul Flood Control Project one of its Seven Wonders of Engineering in Minnesota.

"The district received a walnut plaque which will be mounted on the sixth floor along with our other engineering design awards," said Russ Snyder, Engineering and Planning Division (PE).

PE Chief Bob Post accepted the award for the district. Rick Femrite, Paul Madison and Tim Paulus, all in PE, also attended the banquet. Snyder prepared a display highlighting the St. Paul Project for the banquet. The display is available for viewing just outside the Executive Office on the 8th floor of the Army Corps of Engineers Centre.

The Rochester project won the a similar award two years ago.



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Ken Tschida, former upper area lockmaster, passed away on Jan 31. The wake was held in St. Paul on February 5, 1998 and the funeral on February 6.

He joined the St. Paul District in March 1980 after 20 years with the Army. He worked in a variety of positions in the district office until October 1991, when he became lockmaster at Lock and Dam No. 2 in Hastings, Minn. He had been Upper Area Lockmaster since Dec. 1995.