

Memo



To: Committee of the Whole
From: **Boundary Flood Recovery**
Date: 2019-06-10
Subject: Boundary Flood Recovery transition to flood mitigation and long-term recovery

Summary

Recovery management provided a memo and presentation for discussion with the Leadership Team on the planned transition from Recovery to long term mitigation programs on April 17, 2019. Discussion at the Leadership Team and subsequent discussion with representatives of RDKB Board, Management Team and City Council has confirmed this approach. Team Leads have presented key outcomes, findings and recommendations, and Recovery Management will be preparing a follow-up recommendations report in summer 2019.

Background

Over the last two months recovery management has met with all the personnel and agencies in the recovery team to discuss work plans through the end of funding, identify ongoing recovery needs and elements of their work that intersect with long-term disaster mitigation.

There are three distinct lines of work involving various members of the recovery team: response, recovery and mitigation. These broad 'arcs' of flood hazard management, while clearly intertwined, require different staff capacity, funding arrangements, and governance.

There are multiple ongoing response issues related to extreme erosion, threats to homes, and flood response planning and preparedness. Recovery work is continuing, though it is changing in scope over the next two months as contracts and funding become complete for the team lead positions and attainable recovery initiatives are completed. Mitigation work was initiated with planning and funding applications in summer 2018 and is expected to rise in intensity rapidly over the coming months as funding is confirmed.

In mitigation, specific projects for disaster risk reduction and economic recovery will be under the direction of lead agencies, specifically City of Grand Forks and RDKB, with delivery support from partner and stakeholder organizations depending on the mandate. As the local government emergency program shifts from recovery to mitigation, Boundary Flood Recovery recommends maintaining a collaborative structure to support lead groups in their work and ensure support and consistency across regional issues.

The roles of our key positions will shift in the coming months:

1. Manager positions
 - a. Funding is confirmed through summer 2020 for Manager and Deputy Manager
 - b. Continue in recovery coordination and support role to lead agencies on mitigation, hazard reduction initiatives (DMAF, floodplain mapping, evacuation route planning)
2. Support Staff
 - a. Administration: Continuing part time support role through summer.
 - b. Finance. Has provided essential role of EMBC submissions, EAF tracking and reporting, and finance support. Significant support continues to be required to assist with contracts, EAF review and tracking, and financial reporting to support the recovery managers.
 - c. Planning. Currently funding to extend through summer. Providing GIS, data management, situation reporting, and documentation of Lightship and GIS activities and training of emergency management staff.
3. Team Leads
 - a. Economic. Delivered economic impact assessment, recommendations report, and successful grant applications.
 - i. Documented outstanding unmet needs related to Disaster Financial Assistance, Insurance and impacts on agriculture and small business.
 - ii. With contract complete by end of June, Team Lead will transition back to other roles with Community Futures Boundary and recommendations to rest with local governments and economic development organizations.
 - b. Environmental. Successful leading of complex in-stream projects and debris management and outreach for landowner applicants for section 11's. Currently wrapping up contract with project-based extensions.
 - i. Currently completing Section 11 project support, debris management sites, and McRae Creek project wrap-up.
 - ii. Strong local capacity has been developed in planning and permitting for erosion protection and in-stream works which could be an asset in proposed projects in mitigation.
 - iii. Explore potential role of Boundary Integrated Watershed Service in providing ongoing stakeholder relations and education for long-term flood recovery and floodplain management.
 - c. Housing. Number of challenging lessons learned due to lack of senior government frameworks for housing recovery. Outstanding needs to be identified through planning for housing needs assessment funding.
 - i. The funding for this team lead position has been extended for completion of three housing initiatives:

1. Supporting Mennonite Disaster Services coming to community for 8-10 major repairs or rebuilds through building season with community and volunteer support.
 2. Housing Now Program – Proposal for Canadian Red Cross-funded program to support navigation and technical support for housing options for flood and mitigation affected residents. Program proposal development complete and currently with Red Cross for funding approval.
 3. Non-profit housing capacity building project. Proposal in final refinement with RDKB for submission to Canadian Red Cross to match Urban Matters donation.
 - ii. Recommendation that under mitigation phase, housing transitions to CGF Planning and Development with support from Recovery Manager. Additional planning and capacity building support will be required and sought through granting agencies, economic development funds and other sources.
 - d. Wellness. Providing critical role for support of individual families and businesses through assessments, advocacy and individual recovery plans. There are significant issues present in the flood affected group that need the continued support of case managers.
 - i. Team Lead and Case Management positions will be fully expended by September 1st. Funding has been requested for continued support into 2020. This will support wellness needs associated with flood mitigation proposals
 - e. Evacuation Order Property Case Management – significant effort continues on these files. They are legally, ethically and logistically challenging. While some of the files are being resolved, others continuing and are dependent on DMAF funding outcomes.
 - i. Status of funding for demolition is pending
 - ii. Recommendation to ensure support available to RDKB EM through decisions and funding of options for at-risk properties
 - f. Critical Infrastructure. Transition is already underway to permanent mitigation projects with submission of NDMP and DMAF applications. When funded, mitigation works will be undertaken as part of capital projects program in the City, in collaboration with RDKB on rural area projects. Pending funding, project management support will enable lightening of management burden on City staff and recovery management.
4. Governance

- a. BFRE Transition from leadership and coordination role to collaborative support and advocacy role by fall 2019. Leadership Team to discuss governance options to formalize ongoing support.
 - b. Each Team Lead provided a Recovery Recommendations Report as a memo and presentation to the BFR Leadership Group in May. Topics:
 - i. What has been accomplished under flood recovery?
 - ii. Who is carrying forward resulting actions / outcomes?
 - iii. What has not been accomplished?
 - iv. What are outstanding needs, and recommendations for fulfilling them?
 - v. Who might be the lead agencies and stakeholders to carry forward outstanding needs and recommendations?
 - c. BFR Management will prepare a response and summary, highlighting issues requiring decisions, advocacy, or action by RDKB Board / City and local government Councils or external organizations. This report will excerpt or append Team Lead reports to create a concise and action-oriented Recovery Plan to inform ongoing priorities.
 - d. Office lease is up by end of September, 2019. Recommend not renewing as team requiring the space is much smaller. Office space is available at CGF public works and remaining team can use meeting space at City, CFB, BFS, or RDKB as needed.
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