

# Press Release

Contact: Mayor Joe R. Whalen  
Phone: (406)234-7901

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
11 A.M. MST, February 26, 2010

## **MILES CITY REQUESTS FEDERAL APPROPRIATION FOR \$250K CORPS FLOOD ABATEMENT STUDY**

MILES CITY, MT., FEBRUARY 26, 2010: Following a productive meeting with congressional staff and a team from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers yesterday morning, I've directed City staff to prepare an appropriations request to Congress in the amount of \$250,000 in order to fund a comprehensive flood abatement study for the greater Miles City area. The granting of this appropriation would constitute an amendment to the Executive Budget submitted to Congress by President Obama. Both U.S. Senators and Congressman Rehberg will receive our request on March 1<sup>st</sup>. There are several steps required for Congress to approve our request and we likely won't know of our success until late fall. Nonetheless, it's important that we move forward now.

By this request, we're asking the Corps to use information developed through its most recent flood insurance study for Miles City, the Yellowstone River Corridor Study, and any and all best flood abatement practices known to the USACE to recommend a course of action to the City of Miles City that is designed to mitigate the threat of flooding to public safety, as well as personal and public property. Our appropriations request, in this case, will be specific to the greater Miles City area.

This study request is an important first step in the development of a project and maintaining the economic stability of Miles City through our map modernization process. Moreover, this latest meeting has advanced regional cooperation with respect to project funding, technical assistance, and educational efforts over flood abatement issues going forward.

The Corps recognizes Miles City as the community with the highest benefit/cost ratio within its Omaha District as support for a comprehensive flood abatement project. Miles City vigorously pursued similar study funding through the State of Montana in 2009 through HB 411 but was denied that funding in a narrow defeat by the state Senate after a do-pass recommendation from the state House of Representatives. As map modernization efforts march across the State of Montana, other

communities continue to look to Miles City for leadership in how to constructively engage the USACE and FEMA. Our appropriation request is a necessary piece of the platform by which that leadership may be provided.

-End-