

DIVERSION AUTHORITY  
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016  
1:00 P.M.

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on July 13, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson and Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; and Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council. Absent were: Elly Peterson, Fargo-Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; and Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer.

Also present were: Eric Dodds, Rocky Schneider and Tammy Jo Taft, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S); Lyndon Pease, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Aaron Weber, U.S. Senator Hoeven's Office; Diane Ista, MNDak Upstream Coalition; Karen O'Connor and Jer Pleimling, OSSI; and Michelle Anderson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District staff.

### **Minutes**

It was moved by Kevin Campbell, seconded by Jake Gust and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2016, meeting.

### **Right of Entry Committee report**

Lyndon Pease gave an update and provided information regarding the *Right of Entry* process for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Mr. Pease explained and pointed out on the map the location of soil borings needed for re-testing by the Corps of Engineers on three properties near Drain #14 and southwest of Interstate 94 in mid-July. Surveys are also needed on property along the western alignment and the southern embankment in the staging area in 2016 and 2017.

Eric Dodds and Lyndon Pease explained the Red River, Wild Rice, and diversion inlet control structures. Mr. Pease stated the diversion inlet control structure is a concrete and gated control structure and will only open in the event of a 10-year or greater flood event. The Wild Rice and Red River control structures will have a radial gate and remain open until a flood event. The connecting channel is designed 15 feet below the diversion channel.

Mr. Dodds updated the Committee on boundary surveys and pre-acquisition activities at the north end of the diversion channel, the timeline and schedule for each phase of land acquisition, the Diversion Authority Board and the Public-Private Partnership (P3) Split Delivery Plan regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Rocky Schneider presented the *Road to Completion* outlining the cooperation between the Corps of Engineers and the Diversion Authority to construct the Metro Flood Diversion Project using the P3 Split Delivery Plan.

The Public Outreach Committee discussed its role as a subcommittee of the Diversion Authority to provide communication and public outreach for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Discussion was held on previous public outreach meetings, potential for a public website providing limited information on property impacted by the Metro Flood Diversion Project and the development of a schedule and format for upcoming public outreach meetings.

Mr. Schneider explained the land acquisition process of assigning land agents to property owners to answer questions and provide project updates. Ken Pawluk suggested providing a project update to all property owners impacted by the Metro Flood Diversion Project, once the design is complete. Mr. Pawluk stated this type of communication has been deficient. Jake Gust stated the Committee needs a more definitive communications plan and public outreach should be addressed in a more dynamic manner.

The Committee directed Mr. Schneider and Mr. Dodds to put together a communication plan to bring back to the Committee and made a recommendation to the Cass County Joint Water Resource District to hold public meetings with township officials and members of the community for Phase I land acquisition regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

#### **Business Leaders Flood Taskforce update**

Rocky Schneider stated the Business Leaders Flood Taskforce meet next week with Timothy Mahoney, Fargo City Mayor, and Bruce Grubb, Fargo City Administrator, to discuss the City of Fargo sales tax extension to help fund the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

#### **ND Water Topics Overview Committee update**

Mr. Schneider stated Cass County Commissioner Mary Scherling and Fargo City Commissioner Mike Williams gave an update to the Water Topics Overview Committee regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Mr. Schneider stated legislators are making inquiries on the implementation process of quick-take and its intended use for appropriate projects.

The quarterly update on the Metro Flood Diversion Project was presented to the North Dakota State Water Commission and the Office of the State Engineer. Mr. Schneider stated the Diversion Authority received *Construction Permit No. 2489* from the Office of the State Engineer for the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

The North Dakota Water Resource Districts Association held the 2016 Annual Meeting and Executive Briefing for Water Managers on July 11 and July 12, 2016. Mr. Gust stated there was good support from all the Water Managers across North Dakota.

### **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources update**

On June 29, 2016, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources determined the final *Environmental Impact Statement* regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project is adequate. The Adequacy Determination was the final step in Minnesota's environmental review process for the project.

Mr. Schneider stated a meeting is scheduled later today with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to discuss permitting for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Keith Berndt, Cass County Administrator, John Glatzmeier, CH2M HILL Engineers, Inc., and Bob Zimmerman, Moorhead City Engineer, plan to attend the meeting.

### **FM Area Diversion Project logo**

Rocky Schneider presented the FM Area Diversion Project logo. The new logo will be used on media materials to identify and distinguish the project from communication or material from the Diversion Authority Board. The new logo was used on the brochures for the *Project Partnership Agreement* (PPA) Signing Ceremony.

Mr. Schneider stated the Richland County Commission will receive correspondence from the Diversion Authority inviting them to choose a representative for the Diversion Authority Board as outlined in the *Joint Powers Agreement*.

### **Community Outreach update**

The *Project Partnership Agreement* Signing Ceremony was held at the Fargo Moorhead Community Theater on July 11, 2016. Mr. Schneider stated the event was successful and U.S. Senators John Hoeven and Heidi Heitkamp spoke at the event. U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar called and congratulated Timothy Mahoney, Fargo City Mayor.

Brief discussion was held on a ground breaking ceremony when the Corps of Engineers starts construction on the diversion inlet structure.

Mr. Schneider gave a brief update on the North Dakota Water Education Foundation's Executive Briefing on the Metro Flood Diversion Project at the 2016 Annual Meeting and Executive Briefing for Water Managers. Terry Williams, Corps of Engineers, Gregg Thielman, Houston Engineering, Inc., Nathan Boerboom, City of Fargo Division Engineer-Metro Flood Diversion, Randy Richardson, CH2M HILL Engineers, Inc., and Rocky Schneider, AE2S, presented information and answered questions. A bus tour of the Metro Flood Diversion Project concluded the annual meeting.

Brief discussion was held on training and material for elected officials to communicate and answer questions regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Mr. Strand suggested the Public Outreach Committee participate in an informal working retreat to provide focus and direction for the Committee.

**E-Newsletter topics**

Tammy Jo Taft gave an update on the Diversion Dialogue eNewsletter Analytics. The eNewsletter is sent to approximately 1,000 people. Discussion was held on providing the electronic newsletter to township officials, mayors and city councils in rural Cass County.

**FMDiversion.com**

Mr. Schneider stated improvements will be made to the website to provide specific project updates, including potential service interruptions to properties due to construction.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be considered, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

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Rodger Olson  
Chairman

ATTEST:

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Carol Harbeke Lewis  
Cass County Joint Water Resource District  
Secretary-Treasurer