

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on September 9, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District (by phone); Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commission; Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; Elly Peterson, Fargo-Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Absent was Melissa Sobolik, Fargo City Commissioner.

Also present were Rocky Schneider and Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S); Lyndon Pease, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Jessica Lee and Aaron Weber, Senator Hoeven's Office; Bryce Johnson, Home Builders Association of Fargo-Moorhead; Diane Ista, Red River Retention Committee; and Michelle Anderson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District staff.

Chairman Olson asked Kevin Campbell to lead the meeting.

Minutes

It was moved by Mike Thorstad, seconded by Brenda Elmer and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2015, meeting.

Right of Entry Committee report

Lyndon Pease gave an update on right of entry. Soil borings have resumed along the diversion channel from Cass County Highway 20 to the diversion inlet structure. The Maple River aqueduct and diversion channel flow measurements and stage discharge measurements will be completed by the end of September. Soil borings and Cultural Resource Phase I surveys will be done this fall and winter in the staging area along the embankment and the I-29 road raise.

Brief discussion was held on the land acquisition process and appraisals needed for future construction of the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Business Leaders Flood Taskforce update

Elly Peterson gave an update on the Business Leaders Flood Taskforce committee. Several committee members attended the Diversion Authority meeting held on

September 2, 2015, to visit with Lt. General Thomas Bostick, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers.

Business leaders plan to review the draft Minnesota Department of Natural Resources *Environmental Impact Statement* (EIS) and submit comments. They are committed to lending support for the Metro Flood Diversion Project and will continue to educate and provide information when it becomes available.

Water Topics Overview Committee update

Rocky Schneider presented a handout of the testimony given to the Water Topics Overview Committee on August 12, 2015, by Darrell Vanyo, Chairman of the Diversion Authority, and Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor of the City of Fargo.

The Water Topics Overview Committee was very interested in the Metro Flood Diversion Project moving forward and the results of the North Dakota State University Agricultural Risk Study and the financial impact analysis of staging water upstream. The MNDak Upstream Coalition also gave testimony and would like to see resolution of issues and concerns.

Community outreach update

Rocky Schneider gave an update on the recent public outreach meetings with the Fargo City Commission, the Moorhead City Council, and the Red River Basin Commission. Mr. Schneider provided city commissioners, council members, and the commission with an update on the Metro Flood Diversion Project and information on the Public Private Partnership (PPP).

Under the PPP plan being considered, the Diversion Authority would contract with a private company to build the channel portion of the Metro Flood Diversion Project and the Corps of Engineers would construct the southern embankment. The plan considered could save a significant amount of money, cut the federal share of the project in half, and reduce the time needed to complete construction.

Gerald Van Amburg joined the meeting.

Eric Dodds and Mr. Schneider will be presenting to the Minnesota Association of Floodplain Managers on November 19, 2015. Mr. Schneider will give more detail and present a draft agenda as soon as the information is available. Kevin Campbell requested Mr. Schneider also schedule and prepare a presentation for the Clay County Commission on the PPP.

Discussion was held on the proposed flood protection alternatives and the decision process which lead to the recommended (Federal) Locally Preferred Plan for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Several Committee Members suggested Mr. Schneider put together a detailed handout and include in his presentation the proposed flood protection alternatives and explain the reason the proposed flood protection alternatives did not fulfill or meet the requirements contained in the current Locally Preferred Plan.

Lt. General Thomas Bostick, United States Army Corp of Engineers - visit

Discussion was held on Lt. General Bostick's visit at the Diversion Authority meeting on September 2, 2015. The Corps of Engineers is very positive about the Metro Flood Diversion Project. An article is available on FMDiversion.com.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources - EIS

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will release the draft EIS on Monday, September 14, 2015. A public hearing will be held in Moorhead, Minnesota, on October 14, 2015, with the open comment period to close on October 28, 2015.

Local cemetery mitigation update

Brief discussion was held on the draft *Cemetery Mitigation Plan* and forming a subcommittee to discuss mitigation, options, and public outreach. Legislative delegates are interested in cemetery mitigation updates. Discussion and planning will continue.

E-Newsletter topics

Daron Selvig reported the next Diversion Dialogue E-Newsletter topics will include an expanded article on Lt. General Bostick's visit and Metro Flood Diversion Project updates.

Rocky Schneider stated changes and technical updates to FMDiversion.com will be completed by the end of September. The website will contain information on the *Notice of Intent* and the Private Public Partnership (PPP).

FMDiversion.com analytics

August FMDiversion.com analytics reveal interest in Lt. General Bostick's visit and the Corps of Engineer's involvement at the Diversion Authority meeting held on September 2, 2015.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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