

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
RIVER ROOM, FARGO CITY HALL
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on February 21, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in the River Room, Fargo City Hall, Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present:

Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Rick Steen, Cass County Commissioner; Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District (via Telecom); John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; and, Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council Member.

The following Committee members were absent: Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Others present were: Eric Dodds and Tammy Jo Taft, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Lynne Spaeth, Clay County Planning & Zoning; Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner; Cody Morsching, Congressman Cramer's Office; and, Jason Howard.

Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

On motion by Jason Benson, seconded by Mike Thorstad, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the January 17, 2018 minutes as presented.

OUTREACH TO AREA JURISDICTIONS

Eric Dodds presented a map of the FM Diversion Outreach to Affected Jurisdictions, identifying Minnesota and North Dakota cities and townships. These areas are either impacted by the project, areas we have talked to in the past, or areas with questions. The Governor's Report will be shared. However additional information is anticipated. Dodds added that the general idea is to be put on the agendas with different organizations sometime in mid-April. Prioritization would be targeted on township meetings as their annual meetings are held in March. Moreover, a special meeting may need to be called for some townships.

Dodds also provided a calendar for scheduling presentations to elected leaders of the affected jurisdictions impacted by the project changes.

The timeline for submitting the new permit application was discussed.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Tammy Jo Taft provided the January Social Media Engagement Report. The Newsletter subscription list is proving to be a strong tool. February Twitter statistics remain the same as January. Taft reported it would be beneficial for the public to know who was on the task force. She provided a handout with pictures and a quote from each task force member.

FMDiversion.com UPDATE AND ANALYTICS

Tammy Jo Taft provided the January 2018 Newsletter, Website and Public Comments Report. The Newsletter focused on the final Governor's Report and Mayor Williams becoming the new chair. An Inventory was conducted and results showed the Website is the first source of information for the public. Therefore, it is imperative the Website is current and correct. A prioritized list of website pages, videos and documents that need updating and/or new versions was provided, as well as proposed timelines for said updates.

FLOWAGE EASEMENT – PHASE 1 KICK OFF

Eric Dodds reported that the Diversion Authority has retained Crown Appraisals to commence valuations of flowing easements. At present, Phase 1 has been authorized which entails data gathering, model building tasks. Phase 2 will produce the actual valuations.

The kickoff meeting for Phase 1 is scheduled for February 22nd. Ag members of the Governor's Task Force have been invited to view a presentation of Phase 1. It is anticipated there will be questions regarding compensation to impacted people.

There has been discussion about creating a brief newsletter or article notifying the commencement of Phase 1. The Committee also discussed the economy, margins, North Dakota law, and market for farmland.

ND LEGISLATIVE REPORTING

Commissioner Peterson and Mayor Mahoney are in Bismarck today presenting to the North Dakota Water Topics Overview Committee. Mayor Mahoney is sharing a status of the Governor's Task Force, resolving the lawsuit and permit application.

FEDERAL BUDGET AND INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

Eric Dodds reported that President Trump has released his infrastructure plan and proposed budget. The Diversion project was not included in that budget.

The President's Infrastructure plan is very positive and incentivizing for our project. Dodds added there are a couple of categories in the plan wherein we would score well.

The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act ("WIFIA") legislation was passed a couple of years ago. This authorized both the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and the Corps of Engineers ("Corps") to implement a program. The EPA has a program in place and have handed out the first round of funding, but the Corps have not advanced

a model yet. Representatives have been working with Governor Hoeven's office. They have introduced legislature to both the Senate and House that encourages the Corps to lean on the EPA for adopting this program.

The Committee discussed the importance of WIFIA, the project funding and massive savings.

The policy group continues to meet regularly. The Technical teams meets this Friday, wherein their intention is to share the modeling result and two options.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Lynne Spaeth
Clay County Planning & Zoning