

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY  
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
FARGO CITY COMMISSION ROOM –CITY HALL  
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2018**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 24, 2018. The following Committee members were present: Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Rick Steen, Cass County Commission; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District. The following Committee members were absent: Rodger Olson (via phone), Cass County Joint Water Resource District, John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council; Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Others present were: Robert Wilson, Cass County Administrator; Tammy Jo Taft, Rocky Schneider, Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Kevin Campbell. The group said minutes from the previous meeting would be reviewed during the November meeting.

#### **THREE QUESTIONS VIDEO**

The group watched a Three Questions video featuring the mayor of West Fargo, Bernie Dardis.

#### **2018 ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TIMELINES**

Jason Benson noted the Minnesota DNR is still reviewing their EIS. He noted there were some calls with the DNR. Kevin Campbell mentioned a meeting with Minnesota lawmakers about Plan B.

#### **NORTH DAKOTA STATE WATER CONFERENCE**

Rocky Schneider said the Diversion Authority would be presenting at 1:45 p.m. December 5, in Bismarck during the North Dakota Water Conference. There will also be a presentation on Dec. 7, at the State Water Commission. Committee members were encouraged to attend the conference.

#### **LANDS OUTREACH PLANNING**

Eric Dodds noted there has been preparation for determining how to reach out to property owners if a permit is granted for the project. He requested feedback and suggestions from the committee for this process. Kevin Campbell noted that reaching out about the process is important and “can’t be done soon enough.” Discussion ensued. Eric Dodds noted that property rights for more than 200 parcels have already been acquired for the project. The committee discussed how every property owner and property is unique and determining the right time to contact landowners is ongoing.

#### NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS

Rocky Schneider said there was a briefing for North Dakota legislators and more than a dozen attended. Many wanted to know what impacts the project would have in their district. Rick Steen said there were good questions at the briefing.

#### FEDERAL WRRDA

Earlier in the month Sen. John Hoeven was present to explain what was in the federal Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA), Schneider said. The act included a change that allows the project to build on lots previously purchased with FEMA funds.

#### MAJOR GENERAL SPELLMON VISIT

Earlier in the month Major General Scott A. Spellmon, Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attended a Diversion Board meeting earlier in October. His visit was timely, as there are federal budget discussions happening. There was discussion about financing methods and planning.

The committee discussed moving the next meeting date from Nov. 15 to Nov. 29. That would be the same week as the next Board Meeting.

#### FMDIVERSION.COM WEBSITE ANALYTICS

It was a quiet month on the website and social media platforms.

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.