

A regular meeting of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority Board of Authority was held on September 23, 2021. The following members were present: Shelly Carlson, Mayor, City of Moorhead; Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor, City of Fargo; Bernie Dardis, Mayor, City of West Fargo; Chad Peterson, Cass County Commissioner; Chuck Hendrickson, Moorhead City Council; Dave Piepkorn, Fargo City Commissioner; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner; Rick Steen, Cass County Commissioner and Larry Seljevold, Moorhead City Council.

Members absent: David Ebinger, Clay County Commissioner and Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 3:31 PM. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 26, 2021, MEETING

MOTION PASSED

Dr. Mahoney moved to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2021, meeting and Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

3. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

MOTION PASSED

Mrs. Scherling moved to approve the order of the agenda and Mr. Steen seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Strand moved to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Steen seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Paulsen provided the following September update:

P3 updates

- Financial close is scheduled for October
- Coordination with RRVA re: schedule, permitting, etc.
- Provided limited notice to proceed to allow coordination with other jurisdictional agencies (utilities, railroads, etc.) and to conduct survey work this fall

Planning

- Washington DC – Finalizing plans and updating project information for the upcoming trip to Washington DC the week of September 27
- Development of the 2022 cash budget • Director of Lands and Compliance interviews held on September 15

On-going coordination

- Meeting with USACE leadership in St. Paul • MDNR coordination regarding permit conditions
- Utility/Township/Municipality MOUs and Agreements
- Settlement agreement commitments

5. GENERAL COUNSEL UPDATE

a. Resolution Authorizing Financial Close

Mr. Shockley summarized the financial close resolution indicating that the resolution will give the executive director authority to sign affiliated documents. The closing date is scheduled for October 14, 2021.

MOTION PASSED

Mayor Dardis moved to approve the Resolution Authorizing Financial Close and Mr. Piepkorn seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

6. USACE PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Bakkegard provided the following USACE update in Ms. Williams absence:

1 Diversion Inlet Structure Construction

Structure includes 3-50 ft. wide Tainter gates. Work resumed in late-February.

Construction is 72% complete with a required completion date of 7 June 2023. Anticipated remaining schedule:

2020: Foundations/site work, control structure, dam walls.

2021: Complete dam walls, concrete piers, stilling basin and walls. Complete gate fabrication.

2022: Install bridge deck, gates, and operating machinery.

2023: Paint gates, seed.

2024: Turf established.

2 Wild Rice River Structure Construction

Structure includes 2-40 ft. wide Tainter gates. Work resumed in late-February.

Construction is 45% complete with a required completion date of 20 October 2023.

Anticipated schedule:

2020: Foundations/site work, control structure, dam embankment.

2021: Approach walls and apron, stilling basin and walls, preloads. Complete gate fabrication.

2022: Control building, dam embankment, gate installation.

2023: Complete excavation, dam embankment, seed.

2024: Turf established.

[3 I-29 Raise Construction](#)

Includes approximately 4 miles of interstate raise south of the Wild Rice River. Utilizes excess borrow material from the future site of the Red River Structure. Required completion date NLT 1 January 2024. *See page 2 for Fargo Forum article dated 9/20/21.*

[4 Southern Embankment – Reach SE-1 \(Western Tieback\) Construction](#)

Includes approximately 2 miles of dam embankment construction, starting southwest of the Diversion Inlet Structure location. Required completion date NLT 30 June 2023.

[5 Red River Structure Design](#)

Structure includes 3-50 ft. wide Tainter gates. The design of this critical-path feature was completed on schedule; final plans and specs were signed on 26 August 2021. Award of a construction contract is being planned for late March 2022.

[6 Southern Embankment – Reach SE-1B Design](#)

65% review scheduled to begin in October 2021.

[7 Southern Embankment – Reach SE-2A and 2B Design](#)

The final design review began 24 August 2021. Final plans and specifications are scheduled for November 2021. Reach SE-2B 35% design review is scheduled to begin late-Oct 2021.

[8 Drain 27 Wetland Mitigation Project Design](#)

The final plans and specs were signed on 30 July 2021. Award of a construction contract is anticipated in 2nd quarter FY2022.

[9 Drayton Dam Mitigation Project Design](#)

The final plans and specs are currently due 1 October 2021 with a construction contract award planned for February 2022.

Mr. Bakkegard also reported that the I-29 Raise will be switching traffic to a two-lane bypass this week. The Red River Structure design has been completed and the Drayton Dam design will be completed by October 1. Reach SE-2A will be completed by November 2021.

7. PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE

Ms. Darling reported that the committee did not meet this month and the primary focus right now is completing the crisis and communication plans.

8. LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Property Acquisition Status Report

Mrs. Scherling reported that the land committee did not meet and the pertinent information and maps are included in the packet.

Mr. Campbell reported that four appraisals were approved in August along with two differential housing payments. In September, four appraisals were approved and one differential housing payment. Two environmental easements were approved today.

9. FINANCE UPDATE

Mayor Dardis reported that the finance committee met and approved the following contracting actions:

- Task Order 05, Amendment 7 – Program Management Services – update period of performance to December 31, 2026, update scope to match changes to the P3 Project Agreement and Final Technical Requirements CH2M Hill/Jacobs \$30,236,800
- Master Services Agreement – Consulting Services – Communication Neon Loon \$0
- Change Order 07 – WP43G – Additional on-site fill required Industrial Builders \$77,840

Mayor Dardis also reported that the DRAFT 2022 budget was presented to the finance committee.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

MFDA Org Chart for Existing and Proposed Positions

Mr. Paulsen presented the proposed MFDA organizational chart and indicated that the proposed new positions are not included in the project budget, and that there was a savings by not including these positions. Mayor Dardis requested that an analysis and report of the savings along with the salary ranges be shared prior to the next meeting.

Policy Development Working Group

The policy development working group is being established as an outcome from the Board of Authority retreat. The purpose is to initiate board level policies and policies that relate to the executive director. It will also entail outlining roles and responsibilities and allow board members to get involved in policy making.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be October 28, 2021, at 3:30 PM.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION PASSED

Dr. Mahoney moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Piepkorn seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:16 PM.