

**Metro Flood Diversion Authority
Board of Authority
Meeting Minutes
3:30 PM – February 24, 2022**



A regular meeting of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority Board of Authority was held on February 24, 2022. The following members were present: Bernie Dardis, Mayor, City of West Fargo; Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor, City of Fargo; Shelly Carlson, Mayor, City of Moorhead; Chuck Hendrickson, Moorhead City Council; Dave Piepkorn, Fargo City Commissioner; David Ebinger, Clay County Commissioner; Rick Steen, Cass County Commissioner; Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District and Larry Seljevold, Moorhead City Council.

Members absent: Chad Peterson, Cass County Commissioner; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner and Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carlson called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM JANUARY 2022

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Olson moved to approve the minutes from the January 2022 meeting and Mr. Ebinger seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

3. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA

MOTION PASSED

Mayor Dardis moved to approve the order of the agenda as presented and Mr. Piepkorn seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION PASSED

Dr. Mahoney moved to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Ebinger seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Paulsen provided the following current events update:

Media Highlights

- Governor's State of the State Address
- Grand Farms Grant Announcement

Major Project Accomplishments

- Flowage Easement Appraisals
- Additional Risk Workshops

- Approval of the Cemetery Protection Plan

P3 Coordination

- Continued Coordination with RRVA
- Partnering workshop with RRVA on February 22, 2022
- NTP1 – Week of February 21, 2022

USACE Coordination

- Meeting held with USACE on February 15, 2022

5. GENERAL COUNSEL UPDATE

a. Legacy Bond Proceeds Update

Mr. Shockley reported that the legislative bond program with the State of North Dakota has authorized the NDPFA to issue the first set of bonds.

Mr. Shockley also reported that a summary of bills vs. individual bills, can now be submitted to the trustee for release of funds. This will eliminate the administrative burden of submitting and waiting for individual payments to be received.

6. USACE SAFETY BRIEFING AND PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Williams provided an overview of the safety requirements, protocols and procedures that are implemented by the USACE for their staff and on their projects:

1 Diversion Inlet Structure (DIS) - Construction

Structure includes 3-50 ft. wide Tainter gates. Construction is 79% complete and on schedule. Required completion date is 7 June 2023. Schedule for primary features:
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 (WRRS) - Construction

Structure includes 2-40 ft. wide Tainter gates. Construction is 49% complete and on schedule. The required completion date is 20 October 2023. Schedule for primary features:

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 between County Roads 16 and 18. Construction is 37% complete and on schedule. The 4-lane bypass was opened on 27 October 2021. The mainline raise will be complete Summer 2023. Required completion date NLT 1 January 2024.

4 Southern Embankment – Reach SE-1 (Western Tieback) - Construction

Includes approximately 2 miles of dam embankment construction, southwest of the Diversion Inlet Structure location. Construction is approximately 72% complete and ahead of schedule. Required completion date NLT 30 June 2023.

5 Red River Structure (RRS) - Procurement

Structure includes 3-50 ft. wide Tainter gates. The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on 12 October. Proposals were due 14 December and evaluations are ongoing. Contract Award: NLT than 31 March 2022 Contract Completion: April 2026

6 Drain 27 Wetland Mitigation Project - Procurement

Bids Due: 1 March 22. Contract Award: 31 March 2022.

7 Drayton Dam Mitigation Project Design - Procurement

Pending issuance of permit by the NDDWR, current plan:

Solicitation for bids: 15 February 22 (delayed) Contract Award: 29 April 22

8 Southern Embankment – Reach SE-2A - Procurement

Solicitation for bids: 30 March 22 Contract Award: 31 May 22

9 Southern Embankment Design – Reaches SE-1B, 2B, 4 and 5

SE-1B: 95% review starts 9 March 2022 SE-2B: 35% review starts March 2022

SE-4: Detailed design began mid-February 2022 SE-5: Conceptual design continues

10 Additional 2022 Activities

Support P3 design/construction of the diversion channel. Forest and cultural mitigations. Complete pre-project geomorphology surveys. Emergency Action Planning. Water Control Manual.

7. PUBLIC OUTREACH UPDATE

Mr. Paulsen provided an update on the public outreach 2022 current events and media highlights:

- **ND Transportation Conference Presentation – March 1-2**
- **IJGlobal Awards – March 13**
- **NDSU Class Presentations**
 - **Contracts & Specs – March 21**
 - **Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering – March 25**
- **WTOC Update – March 22**
- **P3 Water Summit Presentation – April 7-8**

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Forum:** Editorial –IJA Funding
- **The Forum:** Article on land acquisition and compensation
- **Governor Burgum's State of the State:** MFDA mention
- **Grand Farm Grant Announcement:** MFDA mention
- **News & Views** with Joel Heitkamp –Lands Program
- **Down the Road** with Joel Heitkamp –Lands Program (2 shows)
- **What's On Your Mind?** with Scott Hennen –IJA Funding

8. LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATES

a. Property Acquisition Report & b. Flowage Easement Update

Mr. Dodds reported that over 750 parcels have been acquired to date. Flowage easement letters will go out to approximately 500 property owners next week. The design for Reach 2B is restarting in April and Reach 4 will begin this summer.

c. Land Exchange Recommendation Letter

Mr. Dodds provided an overview of the Blilie land exchange. The exchange is a counteroffer to their counteroffer and has been approved by the MCCJPA after weighing many variables. Approval of this exchange will eliminate three pending LRED actions.

MOTION PASSED

Dr. Mahoney moved to approve the Blilie land exchange and Mr. Ebinger seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the recommendation passed.

9. FINANCE UPDATE

Mayor Dardis reported that our net position is \$101,139,233. There was discussion surrounding the flowage easement appraisal process and the potential effect it may have on the 2022 budget.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

11. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will March 24, 2022.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Piepkorn moved to adjourn, and Mr. Seljevoll seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 4:23 PM.