



**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
Land Management Committee
City Commission Room
Fargo City Hall
Thursday, October 9, 2014
2:00 p.m.**

1. Agenda review
2. Approve September 11, 2014 minutes
3. CCJWRD Land Management Summary
4. DA Owned Property Management Update
5. Agricultural Risk Economic Evaluation Study Update
6. Right of Entry Status & Cultural Resources Easement Acquisition Update
7. Other business
8. Next meeting Thursday, November 13, 2014

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
Land Management Committee
City Commission Room
Fargo City Hall
Friday, September 12, 2014
2:00 p.m.**

Committee Members Present: Moorhead City Council Member Heidi Durand, Clay County Commission Representative Jon Evert, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Representative Gerald Van Amburg, Moorhead City Administrator Michael Redlinger, Fargo Director of Engineering Mark Bittner.

Others Present: Fargo City Commissioner Tim Mahoney; Eric Dodds - AE2S; Terry Williams and Brett Coleman - US Army Corps of Engineers; Mark Brodshaug - Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Lyndon Pease - Moore Engineering; Rocky Schneider - AE2S.

The meeting was called to order by Jon Evert.

Agenda Review

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

Approve August 14, 2014 Minutes

Mark Bittner moved the minutes from the August 14, 2014 meeting be approved. Mark Brodshaug seconded the motion. All the members voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

CCJWRD Land Management Summary

Mark Brodshaug said appraisals have been received back from the Corps on eight residential properties, one agricultural property, an Oxbow Country Club property and a Fargo Public Schools property. He said negotiations have begun with homeowners in Oxbow during the past week and hopefully some movement can be made so residents can begin building homes this fall. Lots of other appraisal work underway, he said, and reviews are going to the Corps and coming back on a somewhat regular schedule. There was an informational meeting with the residents of Park East Apartments recently, he said, and he suggested keeping the residents up to date to stave off concerns, rumors and bad information they may receive. Negotiations have begun with the Oxbow Country Club, he said, and he has heard that there may be some progress, with a possible resolution, in the near future. He said the quick take process has begun on a farm field near Oxbow where a construction project needs to start in about two weeks. He said he recently received a call from an individual he spoke to last winter when opportunistic acquisitions were being conducted of farmland so there is still some interest from individuals who want to arrange farmland sales in the footprint of the diversion project.

Ag Risk Economic Evaluation Proposals and Recommendations

Eric Dodds said there has been a letter drafted to Darrell Vanyo, but feels that it would be good to have discussion from this group. He said an RFQ was issued for the crop insurance study with the intention of hiring a consultant that would help examine whether or not providing supplemental crop insurance would add value to

Ag land after a flowage easement has been applied. He said four responses were received, two of which were interested but were not able to take the assignment on at this time, so there were two proposals that were evaluated. One, he said, was from SRF, a consulting firm who would be partnering with the University of Wisconsin and the other was from the Agri Business Department at NDSU. The Selection Committee met earlier this week, he said, and the recommendation is to enter into a contract negotiation with NDSU. He said they are looking forward to working with NDSU and are optimistic that they will be able to get some preliminary results in by the end of this year.

Mark Brodshaug moved to endorse the letter to Darrell Vanyo requesting the Diversion Authority proceed with contract negotiations with the Agribusiness and Applied Economics Department at NDSU for the Agricultural Risk Economic Evaluation study. Mike Redlinger seconded the motion. All the members voted aye and the motion was declared carried.

Right-of-Entry Status and Cultural Resources Easement Acquisition Update

Lyndon Pease said access will be needed for surveying of right-of-way on the north end of the diversion channel which will extend from the outlet upstream to the north of the lower Rush River. Letters, he said, will be sent out to owners of between 70 and 80 parcels of land in that area requesting access with a goal of being done with the surveys by the end of this year. He said secondly along the diversion is the Maple River, and the USGS is going to be working with the Corps to do some sediment sampling near where the Maple River outlet structure will be located. Along the diversion channel moving towards the staging area along the southern alignment is the Wild Rice River control structure, he said. There is a property in the location where I-29 and the Wild Rice River control structure are going to be located, he said, and the Corps will be doing some topographic surveying within the river channel itself to get more definition as to what that river bed looks like. In April of this year letters were sent out to about 80 different landowners within the staging areas and well over half have come back signed, he said; however, the process has started with District Court to gain access to the properties that owners are not willing to sign the rights of entry. He said full access should be gained on the ND side within the next month. He said letters requesting access to cemeteries will be sent out soon; however, there has been some difficulty finding out who the actual land owners are, which has required a bit more research.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.