

MINUTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
MARCH 13, 2013

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on March 13, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District, Chairman; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Absent were Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commissioner and Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Also present were Tom O'Hara, CH2MHill; Eric Dodds, Daron Selvig and Rocky Schneider, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Lyndon Pease, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer and Diane Ista, Red River Retention Committee.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Brenda Elmer, seconded by Kevin Campbell and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2013, meeting.

**Right of Entry Committee report**

Lyndon Pease updated the Committee on access issues relating to the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project. Cultural surveys will be conducted this spring before planting.

The Corps of Engineers will be conducting raptor surveys from boats on public right of way. They do not anticipate the need to access any private property for the work.

**Legislative outreach update**

The 2-week/2-month/2-year strategic communications plan was reviewed. The focus is now on testimony before the North Dakota Legislature. Providing factual information to the public is also a priority.

Rocky Schneider outlined HB 1020, which addresses funding for the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project and is also the funding bill for the State Water Commission. The bill has overwhelming support, but contains amendments, supported by the House

Majority Leader, Al Carlson, that restricts the use of funds collected through the city and county sales tax for the project. The full Committee heard testimony last Friday and a 3-person Subcommittee was formed. The Subcommittee will hold a hearing next Tuesday, which will be attended by a local delegation. Mike Thorstad said legislators present at a forum last Saturday indicated the amendments were worded poorly and that they would be working on the matter. Rodger Olson said as he talks to legislators, they are hungry for information on the project, but it is disappointing they have not sought the information needed by attending public meetings and that they may be voting on the matter without a full understanding of the project. Tom O'Hara said questions were captured from the testimony and the answers have been compiled for distribution to any legislators requesting more information.

Mr. Campbell updated the Committee on the funding commitment from Minnesota. The City of Moorhead and Clay County officials are scheduled to meet with the state legislature on the matter. All of the congressional delegates have signed a letter supporting the project. Representative Collin Peterson believes authorization of the project will not be a problem. Senator Amy Klobuchar sits on the Committee for the Water Resources Development Act bill.

#### **Hickson-Bakke-staging area resident landowner meeting plan**

Individual meetings are planned with residents / property owners in Hickson, Bakke Subdivision and the staging area. The purpose is to provide information, gather more feedback about the proposed ring levee and whether they would like to relocate inside the Oxbow levee.

#### **Harwood / Argusville area outreach**

At the request of Senator Ronald Sorvaag, a public meeting will be held this spring in Argusville to provide information and answer questions regarding the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project.

Brenda Elmer left the meeting at this time

#### **E-Newsletter and FMDiversion.com update**

Information on potential impacts with the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion in operation will be posted on the website. The E-newsletter will provide an update on the project, responses to false information, a summary of items being discussed by the Agricultural Policy Subcommittee and an update from the Corps of Engineers.

#### **Meeting schedule**

The next meeting will be held on April 24, 2012, at 2:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be considered, it was moved by Mike Thorstad, seconded by Ken Pawluk and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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Rodger Olson  
Chairman

ATTEST:

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Carol Harbeke Lewis  
Cass County Joint Water Resource District  
Secretary-Treasurer