

MINUTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
JULY 10, 2013

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on July 10, 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; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Absent: Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner; and Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commissioner.

Also present were 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; Brittany C. Moen, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Administrative Assistant; Sharon Josephson, Congressman Collin Peterson's Office; Arden Breimeier, property owner in Oxbow; and Don Nelson, property owner in the Comstock area.

Rodger Olson called the meeting to order.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Kevin Campbell, seconded by Mike Thorstad and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2013, meeting.

**Right of Entry Committee report**

Lyndon Pease updated the Committee on access issues relating to the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project. URS has conducted cultural surveys north of the Sheyenne River, along the lower Rush River, on the project alignment, and along roadways.

Phase II cultural surveys are expected to be conducted on a reported burial site near the Sheyenne River towards the end of this week, or the beginning of next. Similar work will be completed this fall north of the Maple River.

**Recap of Corps Environmental Assessment (EA) meetings and comments**

Rocky Schneider updated the Committee on the past meetings for northern landowners on June 26, and the EA meeting on June 25. Mr. Schneider reported that both

meetings were successful, and a general positive feedback from attendees of the meetings was received. The Corps of Engineers supplied a large team at the EA meeting to better handle questions from those present.

Jacob Gust informed the Committee he received a call from a gentleman who owns property in the area of the new project alignment. The caller was disappointed with the recent meeting, and that he and his neighbors were not contacted sooner. Mr. Gust emphasized the importance of holding informational meetings so people have as much information on the project available to them as possible.

### **Draft upstream mitigation timeline**

Eric Dodds presented a draft upstream mitigation timeline that outlined impacts on the staging area. Brief outlines of proposed mitigation action efforts were depicted along the timeline.

Sharon Josephson said people are under the impression the projects will go forth with or without funding from the Federal Government or the support of the Corps of Engineers and have expressed concerns about it. Ms. Josephson also questioned if North Dakota dollars can be spent on the Minnesota side of the project. Mr. Campbell explained the Diversion Authority only spends dollars within a previously determined budget. Cost-share is outlined in a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that explains how much financial support is coming from North Dakota or Minnesota, respectively. Mr. Schneider pointed out the possibility that before the Comstock project takes off, both North Dakota and Minnesota dollars may be in; it is too soon to tell.

Mr. Campbell stressed that in the event the Fargo Moorhead Area Diversion Project does not reach completion, all dollars the Diversion Authority will put forth towards the project are being spent on positive measures for flood protection and mitigation efforts that will only benefit the community.

### **Business Leaders for Permanent Flood Protection Task Force**

Mr. Schneider reviewed a draft meeting agenda for the Business Leaders for Permanent Flood Protection Task Force meeting. The agenda covers a Federal update on authorization and flood insurance, an in-town protection update, an update on ag-mitigation and crop insurance development, among other items.

### **Discussion regarding upcoming public meeting – Comstock area landowners meeting**

Mr. Schneider stated he is working with Commissioner Jon Evert to begin organizing a public meeting for the people of Comstock, Minnesota, as well as landowners in the Comstock area to address questions about the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project and how it affects the Comstock area community. Mr. Campbell also said he has been in communication with the Mayor of Comstock, Tom Askegaard. Mr. Schneider believes the meeting should be designed how the community leaders in Comstock would see as most beneficial. It was discussed whether or not to have separate meetings for Comstock residents and landowners in the Comstock area.

**E-Newsletter / FM Diverison.com update**

Daron Selvig reviewed developing stories for the project website and topics of articles that will be included in the next E-newsletter that will be released after the Diversion Authority meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

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Rodger Olson  
Chairman

ATTEST:

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