

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
NOVEMBER 23, 2011

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on November 23, 2011, at 8:30 a.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; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Council Member; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner and Gerald VanAmburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District. Absent was: Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner.

Also present were Terryl Williams, Katie Young and Megan Kranz-McGuire, Corps of Engineers (by telephone); Daron Selvig and Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc., Public Relations Team; Pat Zavoral, Fargo City Administrator; Sean Fredricks and Chris McShane, Ohnstad Twichell, P.C.; Lee Beauvais and Brad Dahl, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Arden Breimeier, City of Oxbow; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer; and members of the local media.

Minutes

It was moved by Mike Thorstad, seconded by Brad Wimmer and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2011, meeting.

Website

Daron Selvig said the website will be ready to show the Diversion Authority at its next meeting on December 8, 2011, and it will go online shortly after that.

Public Outreach

Rodger Olson said he, Darrell Vanyo, Daron Selvig and Keith Berndt met with the MnDak Upstream Coalition on November 14th in Christine. The directors asked them many questions. New issues included:

- An organic farmer expressed concerns about storage water taking their property out of organic production. This will need to be researched.
- Crop insurance issues are real and need to be addressed.
- Concerns were expressed about business displacement and how to replace the loss of customers.

There was good discussion at the meeting and those in attendance were appreciative of the information provided, however, it was clear people were frustrated some answers are not yet available. It was pointed out that the project will continue to evolve over the years as the design changes to reduce impacts, increase protection, etc. Mr. Olson said he appreciated remarks made by Mark Bittner at the meeting also.

Mr. Selvig said the MnDak Upstream Coalition was made aware that they are welcome to meet with the Public Outreach Committee at any time. Mr. Olson emphasized the importance of getting information out so everyone understands the project.

Pat Zavoral suggested placing an open letter to the public in *The Forum* on a quarterly basis with timely pertinent facts and using the website for the base for all information. Mr. Selvig reviewed an outline of a letter to print in *The Forum* for the committee's consideration. After several modifications were made, it was moved by Brad Wimmer and seconded by Kevin Campbell that the Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee endorse a letter to the public and that staff prepare the letter to be released to all media. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mike Thorstad suggested links be provided to any documents that are referred to in the letter. Mr. Campbell thought future letters should come from the Diversion Authority rather than the committee. The Corps of Engineers will review the letter before it is published.

The committee reviewed and made revisions to a draft letter in response to the City of Grandin regarding a letter and Resolution they submitted in opposition of the project. Information showing the project will lower river levels in that area will be included with the letter. Terryl Williams said she was fine with the content of the letter. The committee directed Carol Harbeke Lewis to make the necessary revisions and forward the letter on to Darrell Vanyo, Diversion Authority Chairman.

Right of Entry Committee report

The committee is working with the Corps of Engineers to refine a list of Rights of Entry that have expired or will expire soon. If access is still needed to those properties, they will need to go through the Right of Entry process again.

The Corps of Engineers has scheduled a meeting with property owners along the alignment between the Maple River and the outlet at the Red River at the Harwood Community Center on December 12, 2011, with an open house at 6:00 p.m. and a short presentation at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Olson encouraged all Public Outreach Committee members to attend if they are available. The Corps of Engineers has invited property owners to schedule individual meetings on December 13 and 14, 2011, if they would like to do so.

The schedule and location of meetings for properties in the staging area were discussed. The Corps suggested holding meetings in Kindred for North Dakota properties and in Wahpeton for Minnesota properties. The main reason for access in the staging area is for Hazardous Toxic Radioactive Waste (HTRW) testing. Windshield surveys will be made of residential parcels. Residential properties in Comstock, Bakke,

Hickson and Oxbow would not be receiving letters. A farmstead on a larger parcel of land would be included in the mailing. The Corps of Engineers would appreciate having Public Outreach Committee members at the meetings. Sean suggested engaging the Richland and Wilkin County Commissioners and the respective water boards as well.

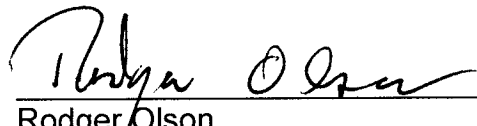
Mr. Olson asked committee members to think about the best way to approach upcoming public meetings, including who they would like to run the meetings and the people they would like available to answer the range of questions that are likely to be asked.

Gerald VanAmburg suggesting holding more small meetings. Ms. Williams pointed out that the upcoming meetings are not looking for public comment, but are targeted to landowners that are affected by the project and those from which Rights of Entry are needed.

Adjournment

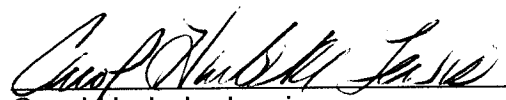
There being no further business to be considered by the committee, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:



Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:



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