

MINUTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
APRIL 25, 2012

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on April 25, 2012, 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 Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner; and Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner. Gerald VanAmburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, was absent.

Also present were Mark Brodshaug, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Tom Waters, CH2MHill; Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc., Brad Dahl, Moore Engineering, Inc.; and Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Mike Thorstad, seconded by Brenda Elmer and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2012, meeting.

**Public outreach**

An e-newsletter will be distributed after each monthly Diversion Authority meeting. It will contain new information on the project, reports on recent meetings and what is new on [fmdiversion.com](http://fmdiversion.com). There will be links back to the on-line library for associated documents, as well as a large FAQ section on land acquisition. The Corps of Engineers will also contribute to the newsletter.

Ms. Elmer thinks the letter to the editor in *The Forum* from Rodger Olson and Kevin Campbell was effective regarding the Diversion providing 100-year protection and the ability to fight a 500-year flood with other protective measures

The committee will ask Lance Yohe, Red River Basin Commission, to meet with Minnesota entities to discuss the need to strive for 500-year protection and to point out that retention is needed in addition to the Diversion to accomplish that goal. He could also speak to the North Dakota and Minnesota legislatures on the meter. Ms. Elmer said Mr. Yohe is in the process of setting something up with the Minnesota legislature.

The need to provide the public with positive impacts and information from those benefitting from the project was discussed. Mr. Campbell said four major businesses in the area gave presentations supporting the project at the recent North Dakota Legislature's Water-Related Topics Overview Committee meeting. Mr. Campbell suggested placing short video

interviews on the website and to contact the North Dakota Economic Development Corporation to discuss the project.

**Agricultural Advisory Subcommittee**

A process has started to develop an Ag Advisory Subcommittee, which will include 2 Minnesota and 4 North Dakota representatives in the impacted area or just outside of it. The Subcommittee would address issues relating to transportation, insurance, delayed planting and farmsteads. Tom Waters said there have been some volunteers and they are looking at holding a couple meetings in June and one in July to gather information. The meetings will be scheduled around farming activities.

Mike Thorstad asked about haying property purchased for the project. Mr. Campbell said it may be possible that 25-30% of the acres needed for the project may be available for farming. Mr. Waters said the primary thing to engage is to get policies in place dealing with flowage easements and the price of flowage easements. Writing the operation and maintenance plan would start the plan for acquisition. Mr. Brodshaug suggested showing a presentation on North Ottawa and the Maple River Dam to property owners so they could see how those projects operate.

**Website update**

Daron Selvig said additions have been made to the Q & A document on the website.

**Right of Entry Committee report**

Brad Dahl reported that the court recently granted access to 14 properties. Another hearing is scheduled on May 22, 2012.

**Hardship policy**

A hardship policy is being developed. The importance of getting the information out on this was discussed.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be considered by the committee, 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