

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
APRIL 8, 2015

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on April 8, 2015, 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; Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Elly Peterson, Fargo-Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Absent were Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner; and Melissa Sobolik, Fargo City Commissioner.

Also present were Terry Williams (by phone), Corps of Engineers; Rocky Schneider and Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S); Lyndon Pease, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Kevin Fischer, Fargo-Moorhead Area Association of Realtors; Carol Harbeke Lewis and Michelle Anderson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District staff.

Minutes

It was moved by Kevin Campbell, seconded by Mike Thorstad and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2015, meeting.

Right of Entry Committee report

Lyndon Pease gave an update to the Committee on Right of Entry. Letters with *Right of Entry Agreements* are being sent to landowners along the western alignment from the Maple River, south to the Diversion inlet structure south of Horace, for cultural resources surveys, HTRW surveys and geotechnical borings. Additional access is currently being obtained along Cass County Highways 16 and 17 design, just downstream of the Diversion inlet structure, for geotechnical borings and field surveys. Additional survey work will be done in the area later this year.

The Corps of Engineers will be obtaining Maple River discharge and water surface measurements the first week of May. They will continue to obtain discharge measurements throughout the summer.

A cultural resource survey was completed on South Pleasant Cemetery. Cultural surveys are still needed on 11 cemeteries, 6 in North Dakota and 5 in Minnesota. The cultural

surveys are noninvasive and are needed to determine whether the cemetery is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Cemeteries that do not have a cultural resource survey will not be included in the mitigation plan or the final report in June 2015. A historic report is done on the cemeteries that have a cultural resource survey.

Topographical surveys are being done for the In Town Levees Project on 2nd and 4th Street in the Mickelson and El Zagel areas in Fargo, North Dakota. Cultural surveys will also be done later this year in this area.

The northern channel landowner meeting was put on hold until after the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources completes the Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Letters will be sent out as soon as the EIS is complete.

North Dakota legislative update

Rocky Schneider gave the Committee a legislative update on SB 2020. Brief discussion was held on the funding for the Metro Flood Diversion Project, funding for other flood control projects through the legislature, and quick-take HB 1095.

Business Leaders Flood Taskforce update

Elly Peterson stated letters of support were sent to legislators for SB 2020 and the response was very positive. Another meeting will be held in two weeks. They are prepared to provide more support and coordinate another trip to the capitol, if needed.

Brief discussion was held on the FM Flood Risk Management District No. 1 packet of material sent with the ballot.

FEMA / Flood Insurance Remapping

FEMA recently reported they will be back in approximately five years to reassess the data and remap the Fargo-Moorhead area. FEMA estimated an additional 20,000 homes in Fargo, North Dakota, and approximately 800 homes in Moorhead, Minnesota, will be added to the FEMA floodplain. Discussion was held on the affordability of flood insurance and the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Finance District public meetings recap

Mr. Schneider gave a review of the FM Flood Risk Management District No. 1 assessment process and information the group on upcoming meeting events. Discussion was held on the Project Hearing held at the Fargodome, newspaper articles published in *The Forum*, and the intergovernmental agreements.

The Diversion Authority Finance Subcommittee held discussion at its meeting on the distribution of excess sales tax and reviewed terminology for the Intergovernmental Agreement for Special Assessment Bond.

OHB construction update meeting

A landowner meeting will be scheduled to discuss road closings and construction transportation moving through the area for the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Ring Levee Project.

E-Newsletter topics

The following *Diversion Dialogue E-Newsletter Topics* will be addressed in April 2015: 1) Outline of how the Metro Flood Diversion Project benefits the region, including Harwood, West Fargo, Fargo, and Moorhead; 2) Summary of various other flood needs that are served by Cass County’s sales tax, in addition to the Metro Flood Diversion Project; 3) Construction update.

Discussion was held on the email questions people submitted through the FMdiversion.com website.

FMDiversion.com analytics

Based on the analytics from last month, the informational meetings and the Metro Flood Diversion Project funding from the State were the most viewed articles. The website received more traffic in March than February with the addition of the assessment district information.

Other business

Terry Williams will provide a recently completed copy of a report from a cultural resource survey on a cemetery.

Adjournment

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

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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