

MINUTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
AUGUST 13, 2014

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on August 13, 2014, 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 (by telephone); Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Absent were Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Melissa Sobolik, Fargo City Commissioner; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; and Craig Whitney, Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce.

Also present were Rocky Schneider and Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Lyndon Pease, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer; Justin Forde, Senator John Hoeven's Office; Paul Breen, City of Oxbow; and Don Nelson, property owner in the Comstock area.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Mike Thorstad, seconded by Ken Pawluk and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2014, meeting.

**Right of Entry Committee report**

Lyndon Pease updated the Committee on access issues and survey work needed for the Metro Flood Diversion Project and the In Town Levees Project. The access process has not yet started in Minnesota.

**Mitigation update**

There are 7 cemeteries in the staging area and 4 outside of the staging area. Visits were made to 10 of those cemeteries. Possible tools to mitigate impacts and feasible options will be brought forward to the Land Management Committee and the Diversion Authority for consideration.

The Agricultural Policy Subcommittee met August 12, 2014. There were not enough committee members present for a quorum, but there was unanimous consensus to recommend to the Land Management Committee and the Diversion Authority to proceed with the *Ag Risk Economic Evaluation for Temporary Water Retention Easement Values and Crop Insurance* Request for Proposals (RFP) process. The RFQ

would look at the value of crop insurance and the effect on flowage easement values with and without crop insurance.

The Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Ring Levee Project is underway. Rocky Schneider encouraged everyone to see the project.

### **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) - EIS update**

The Department of Natural Resources continues working on the *Environmental Impact Statement* relating to the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

### **Business Leaders Flood Taskforce Recap**

The Business Leaders Flood Taskforce has expressed the need for the Metro Flood Diversion Project to protect property and jobs.

### **North Dakota Water Topics Overview Committee**

The next North Dakota Water Topics Overview Committee is scheduled for October 1, 2014.

### **Maple River aqueduct structure model open house**

The Corps of Engineers thought the open house to view the physical model of the Maple River aqueduct structure went well. There may be another opportunity to view the model in a couple of months.

### **Jurisdictional meetings**

There is interest in holding candidate briefings to give everyone an opportunity to express their views on the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

A meeting will be scheduled with the City of West Fargo to discuss the proposed special assessment district for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Presenters will point out the project will be financed with sales tax revenue rather than special assessments.

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

Daron Selvig reviewed the articles in the next e-newsletter, which will be distributed by the end of next week. He also reported that FMDiversion.com readership has increased.

### **Flood risk reduction / development of retention projects**

Discussion was held regarding potential flood risk reduction / development of retention projects. Rodger Olson reviewed Pontiac Township Improvement District No. 73 and the Upper Maple River Dam Project. Mr. Pawluk said Cass County has allocated funding to these projects and continues to promote storage and retention in and outside the county. He hopes all counties promote retention. Mr. Olson said meetings have been held with property owners in all watersheds to make them aware of the availability of funding for retention projects. Mr. Pawluk said there is interest in constructing small projects to help minimize impacts in the staging area of the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be considered, 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