

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
AUGUST 7, 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: Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commissioner; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Jim Brownlee, City of West Fargo Administrator; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Absent: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; and Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner.

Also present were Tom O'Hara, CH2MHill; 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; Don Nelson, property owner in the Comstock area; and Diane Ista, Red River Retention Committee.

Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order.

Minutes

It was moved by Brad Wimmer, seconded by Kevin Campbell and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2013, meeting.

Right of Entry Committee report

Lyndon Pease updated the Committee on access issues relating to the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project. Phase II cultural surveys have been completed near the Sheyenne River where there were reports of a possible burial site at that location, but no evidence of a burial site was produced after the surveys. Phase I cultural surveys are expected to be completed this fall north of the Maple River.

Letters and access agreements to be signed by landowners affected by the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project in the Oxbow, Hickson, and Bakke areas have been sent out. Of the agreements returned thus far, affected landowners have been receptive and cooperative.

Environmental Assessment

Rocky Schneider reported that the Corps of Engineers are set to release the completed Environmental Assessment sometime in the upcoming few weeks. He reviewed some comments received and said the cities of Grand Forks and East Grand Forks have some remaining questions on the project that will need to be addressed.

Comstock residents meeting and Minnesota upstream residents meeting

Eric Dodds and Mr. Schneider went over items that will be discussed at the upcoming Comstock residents meeting on August 15th and the Minnesota upstream residents meeting on August 20th. Mr. Dodds said the ring levee concept will be presented at the meeting in Comstock. Mr. Schneider said the Minnesota upstream residents meeting will emphasize mitigation options.

Informational briefing for Moorhead candidates

The committee discussed meeting with Moorhead candidates to update them on the Fargo Moorhead Area Diversion Project.

Water Topics Interim Committee meeting

Mr. Schneider said the prioritization of the State Water Commission budget and the role the state plays in funding large flood protection projects are items on the agenda for the Water Topics Interim Committee meeting September 5th.

Business Leaders Flood Taskforce

The Business Leaders Flood Taskforce plans to have quarterly meetings with North Dakota and Minnesota Legislators to discuss the Fargo Moorhead Area Diversion Project. The next meeting has been tentatively set for September 10th.

E-Newsletter / FMDiversion.com update

Daron Selvig reviewed articles for the project website and topics that will be included in the next E-newsletter to be released August 13th.

Additional outreach meetings

Mr. Schneider reported that they have met with a couple of West Fargo City Commissioners, and plan to attend a Rotary meeting tomorrow.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered, it was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Brenda Elmer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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