

NOTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
OCTOBER 8, 2014

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on October 8 2014, at 2:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present: Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; Melissa Sobolik, Fargo City Commissioner; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Absent were Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner; and Craig Whitney, Fargo Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce.

Also present were Eric Dodds 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; Brenda Lovgren, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Administrative Assistant; and Sharon Josephson, Congressman Collin Peterson's Office.

**Right of Entry Committee report**

Lyndon Pease updated the Committee on the status of access needed for surveys regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Cultural resources surveys will be conducted within the staging area and geotechnical borings will be conducted on the spillway embankment and I-29. Letters have been mailed to six cemetery parcels requesting Right of Entry for cultural resources surveys. To date, one agreement has been signed and returned.

Design work is 95% complete from the outlet to Reach 5, just north of the Lower Rush River. Rocky Schneider said a meeting was held with property owners in the area. The Corps of Engineers is doing some design work on Reach 5.

No access is currently needed for the In Town Levees Project.

**Business Leaders Flood Taskforce update**

A meeting with the Chamber of Commerce was held on October 7, 2014. The Chamber is very interested in assisting with getting information out supporting the Metro Flood Diversion Project, especially with the upcoming legislative session.

### **ND Legislative update**

The North Dakota Legislative Budget Section met on September 24, 2014, and Diversion Authority Chairman, Darrell Vanyo, presented testimony regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project to the Committee. The issues outlined in the testimony included projects currently being worked on and how they are interconnected. The progress was broken down into three parallel tracts that included political, financial, and technical. All legislators receive copies of project newsletters. The list will be updated after the election.

### **Comstock meeting recap**

Comstock has internal drainage issues and has come close to flooding in the past. A meeting was held with officials and property owners in Comstock. A levee is needed at Comstock, but it is not widely accepted, due to general opposition to the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

### **Cemetery mitigation**

Rocky Schneider indicated that five cemeteries in Minnesota need to have Right of Entry access in order to begin the mitigation process.

### **Diversion Authority membership**

A letter was mailed to Perry Miller, Chairman, Richland-Wilkin Joint Powers Authority, and Dave Morken, Chairman, MNDAK Upstream Coalition, requesting they submit the name of a representative they would like to have participate on the Diversion Authority Board. There has been no response to the invitation.

### **Upstream storage efforts**

The Flood Diversion Authority mailed a letter to the Cass County Joint Water Resource District, Richland County Water Resource District, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District, Bois de Sioux Watershed District, and the Red River Retention Authority requesting help with implementing distributed water storage in the area. Sharon Josephson pointed out the Natural Resources Conservation Service has funding available for projects with grants to be awarded in mid-November.

### **E-Newsletter topics**

It was reported that sign-ups for the E-Newsletter are slowly increasing and was suggested that it be sent to legislative members.

Topics for the next E-Newsletter will include the *Testimony to the ND Budget Section*, which was submitted by Darrell Vanyo, action taken by the Diversion Authority at the October 9, 2014 meeting, and a construction update on the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Ring Levee Project and the In Town Levees Project.