

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 13, 2013

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on February 13, 2013, 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, Chairman; Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commissioner; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner and Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

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.; and Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer.

Minutes

It was moved by Brad Wimmer, seconded by Mike Thorstad and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2013, meeting.

Right of Entry Committee report

Lyndon Pease updated the Committee on access issues relating to the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project. The Cass County Joint Water Resource District will be asked to pursue access to three properties for Cultural I surveys where the alignment shifted slightly at Cass County Highway 10. Access has been obtained for all but two properties between Main Avenue and 5th Avenue North for downtown levees. Access to two Burlington Northern Santa Fe properties is needed.

Business Leaders Flood Taskforce

Rocky Schneider reported that the Chamber, in conjunction with the Greater Fargo Moorhead Economic Development Corporation, is establishing a Business Leaders Flood Taskforce. This group will consist of business leaders in the community who recognize the importance of permanent flood protection.

Ken Pawluk believes one of the obstacles is that the project is perceived as Fargo's project, when it is really a regional project. Mr. Wimmer agreed and said a large percentage of the workforce comes from outside the City of Fargo. These statistics need to be presented to the state legislature. Mr. Thorstad said information relating to business disruption due to flooding should also be stressed. Not having adequate flood

protection may also prevent businesses from building or expanding here. Kevin Campbell said the major metro area should be protected to 500-year levels. Gerald Van Amburg said it also needs to be stressed that the flood control needed cannot be achieved with retention alone. Property owners are not willing to give up their land for retention. Chairman Olson said under a 100-year flood, less than 4,500 acre-feet of water would need to be held until the water went down. Mr. Pawluk said in the 2009 flood, there would have been no impact in Richland and Wilkin Counties.

Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke ring levee - outreach

Mr. O'Hara said a meeting will be held tomorrow morning with Pleasant Township and Bakke representatives to discuss the alternatives being looked at for the proposed ring levee for their communities. Additional meetings with individual property owners will also be offered.

Mr. Campbell suggested looking to Manitoba to see how they handled similar situations with levees and access with regard to their diversion project. Eric Dodds said there have been several meetings with the Technical Team and they did not obtain flowage easements and they do not have crop insurance.

North Dakota legislature open house

The open house held during Water Day on February 12, 2013, at the North Dakota Legislature was attended by 35 legislators. Additional information was sent to all that were in attendance.

Mr. Wimmer left the meeting at this time.

Meeting with local Minnesota legislators

Mr. O'Hara reported on his meeting with local Minnesota legislators two weeks ago. Additional outreach to the agricultural community was requested. Development of a flyer specific to Minnesota was discussed.

E-Newsletter and FMDiversion.com update

Daron Selvig reviewed additions to the project website and topics of articles that will be included in the next E-newsletter that will be released after the Diversion Authority meeting.

Mr. Campbell said there is a need to get more information out to the public regarding the project and to address the retention argument that is out there. Arguments are being made without any scientific proof to back them up. Chairman Olson would like to see more information in local newspapers for those that do not go to the website. Mr. Schneider said they would work on developing a plan tomorrow. Development of a flyer on the project and another on retention was discussed.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered, it was moved by Kevin Campbell, seconded by Mike Thorstad and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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