

MINUTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE  
CITY COMMISSION ROOM, FARGO CITY HALL  
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

The Diversion Authority Agricultural Policy Subcommittee met on September 29, 2015, at 8:00 a.m. at Fargo City Hall, Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were Co-Chairs Rodger Olson and Mark Askegaard, Mark Brodshaug; Jon Evert, Mark Bittner, Keith Berndt, Subcommittee members; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer; Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; and those whose names appear on the attached roster.

Co-Chair Mark Askegaard called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Jon Evert, seconded by Mark Askegaard, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes from the October 3, 2014, and April 7, 2015, meetings, and the notes from the December 12, 2014, meeting.

**Approval of agenda order**

It was moved by Mark Brodshaug, seconded by Mark Askegaard, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda, as presented.

**Initial Assessment of the Agricultural Risk of Temporary Water Storage for FM Diversion**

Dean Bangsund, North Dakota State University Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics (NDSU), presented the *Initial Assessment of the Agricultural Risk of Temporary Water Storage for FM Diversion*. He explained that the study looks at the extra days added to flooding due to operation of the Diversion and the impacts in the storage area.

Mark Brodshaug asked about hydrographs showing peaks relative to volume. Mr. Bangsund said the range of duration in flood events is not available with this study, but could be important information for a future study.

Eric Dodds pointed out that the study shows approximately 30,000 acres of the total 44,000 acres in the storage area would experience delayed planting for 5 days or less. Mr. Bangsund noted that 0 days does not mean there would be no planting delay, just that there would be no planting delay relating to operation of the diversion project.

A majority of acreage that is flooded (with or without the Diversion) will require 16 to 30 days for effects of flooding to be gone. Relatively few acres will require 30 plus days for effects of flooding to be gone, regardless of the Diversion.

Annualized values of loss per acre ranged from \$.30 to \$1.20. Soybean planting would not likely be delayed, due to the later planting date. These values do not contain loss of Federal Crop Insurance, do not contain easement payment and must be estimated at individual storage area level, which exceeded the study scope. Keith Berndt asked if the model was set up to provide the information needed to make producers whole after an event. Mr. Bangsund said another model would need to be developed in order to provide that type of detailed information. Nancy Hodur pointed out that delays do not necessarily transfer to losses. Mr. Dodds said the annualized loss values presented are likely to change with additional information. Results are sensitive to the length of the dry down period. Mr. Brodshaug said early floods take longer than later floods, due to there being warmer temperatures later. Mr. Dodds asked if the model can handle additional data to provide information down to the level of 40 to 160 acres. Saleem Shaik said the model could handle it, but more detailed information would be needed. Ms. Hodur said they can refine the information, but there becomes a point where the gains diminish on additional specificity.

Co-Chair Olson said the information provided by the study gives us a good picture of where we need to go and issues that need to be addressed.

Mr. Dodds thanked representatives from the North Dakota State Water Commission (SWC) for attending. The legislature directed the SWC to contract with NDSU to extend the original study. He questioned whether there is flexibility to study areas along the river as opposed to areas further south that do not necessarily experience additional delays. Mr. Berndt said the legislature's concern and intention was to look outside the storage area identified as the "red box" and this study did that, going to the point of zero impact. Additional surveying would be needed to study the area further south. It was pointed out that adding an area with less impacts into the analysis would bring down the overall impacts. Paying for flowage easements versus purchasing property will need to be considered.

Co-Chair Olson said it is a complicated project. He thanked the NDSU representatives for their efforts on the study and asked them to give a summary of the presentation at the Diversion Authority meeting on October 8, 2015. He also thanked those that provided input for the study.

Mr. Bangsund said the information presented today will be available on [FMDiversion.com](http://FMDiversion.com).

### **Subcommittee membership**

Co-Chair Olson suggested the group think about adding someone with agricultural finance experience to the Subcommittee. Membership on the Subcommittee will be discussed further at the next meeting.

**Meeting schedule**

The Subcommittee discussed holding the next meeting in late November or early December.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business for the Subcommittee to consider, it was moved by Mark Askegaard, seconded by Mark Brodshaug and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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Rodger Olson  
Chairman

ATTEST:

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