

DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
FARGO RIVER ROOM, FARGO CITY HALL
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on June 21, 2017, at 1:30 p.m. at the Fargo City River Room, Fargo City Hall, Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson and Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Melissa Fabian, Moorhead City Council; and Robert Wilson, Cass County Administrator. Absent were: Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Elly Peterson, Fargo Moorhead Business Leaders Flood Task Force; and Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer.

Also present were: Eric Dodds, Rocky Schneider and Tammy Jo Taft, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; and those whose names appear on the attached roster.

Minutes

It was moved by Kevin Campbell, seconded by Mike Thorstad and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2017, meeting.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – federal funding update

Rocky Schneider provided an update on the \$20 million included in the Corps of Engineers' *2017 Work Plan*, which will be released at the same time the President's budget is released. Consultants continue to collaborate with the North Dakota congressional delegation to educate the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C., on scoring for the budget evaluations.

Kevin Campbell updated the Committee on the special Diversion Authority meeting held on May 30, 2017, with special guests Major General Donald (Ed) Jackson Jr., Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, and Mr. Let Mon Lee, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Legislation. Discussion was held on the federal budget and Corps of Engineers' *2017 Work Plan*.

FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and Plan for Outreach to Impacted Properties

Rocky Schneider updated the Committee on the FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR), which should be complete by the end of July 2017. The Diversion Authority plans to provide additional outreach to property owners located in the upstream

mitigation area, Phase III of the diversion channel, under the footprint of the southern embankment and associated infrastructure, and property needed for the Comstock ring levee. Mr. Schneider stated the *Plan for Outreach to Impacted Properties* will begin in mid-July in Minnesota and North Dakota. Kevin Campbell requested consultants provide monthly updates to county and city officials.

Website and Social Media Analytics

Rocky Schneider stated traffic to the website increased significantly the day and day after the publication of the assessment list. Many visitors are watching the YouTube videos, including the 3 Questions videos. Pictures and videos detailing the construction of the Metro Flood Diversion Project have been sent through social media.

Discussion was held on construction of a home currently being built in the footprint of the diversion channel. Eric Dodds will meet with the property owner next week. Kevin Campbell stated Clay County Commissioners have had discussions regarding the present situation and are investigating potential overlay districts on the Minnesota side. Rodger Olson asked if Cass County has the same ability. Robert Wilson said from his understanding the ability of Cass County is very limited.

Video Series - "Three Questions"

Mr. Schneider and Ms. Taft presented "3 Questions," a video featuring Cass County Commissioner Mary Scherling regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. The video can be viewed on the FMDiversion.com website. The Committee offered suggestions and comments on the video.

Crisis Communications Planning

A draft of the Crisis Communications Policy will be presented to the Outreach Advisory Group. The draft policy will evaluate cost and potential crisis situations based on probability and provide draft plans for potential crisis situations.

Metro Flood Diversion Project - assessment district outreach

Rocky Schneider updated the Committee on the FM Flood Risk Management District No. 1 assessment hearing held on June 6, 2017. Mr. Schneider stated approximately 150 people attended the assessment hearing. The Cass County Joint Water Resource District (CCJWRD) has discussed contacting members of the Diversion Project Assessment Committee to help review and discuss property owner comments / objections.

Construction Outreach Update

Rocky Schneider, Chris Gross, Moore Engineering, Inc., representatives from the Cass County Highway Department, and City of Oxbow Mayor Jim Nyhof will update the Oxbow City Council on construction activities and the Cass County Highway 81 closure and detour regarding the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Ring Levee Project on June 21, 2017. The residents of Oxbow, Hickson and the Bakke Subdivision will be invited to the meeting. Maps and a letter of explanation were sent to impacted residents. A meeting will be held with Pleasant Township officials the following week.

Community Outreach update

Rocky Schneider stated Nathan Boerboom, City of Fargo Diversion Engineer – Metro Flood Diversion, is the lead tour guide for the Fargo-Moorhead Flood Facilities Tour held on June 28, 2017. Committee members interested in attending the Summer Waters Tour need to register with the North Dakota Water Foundation.

A sign will be placed near I-29 to inform the public on the future construction of the Wild Rice Control Structure regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Business Leaders Flood Taskforce update

Legislators and city officials answered questions regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project at the Fargo-Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce Eggs and Issues event.

Minnesota update

Discussion was held on the recent publication of letters submitted by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney regarding working group technical staff meetings to work out permitting issues on the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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