

DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2016

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on December 14, 2016, at 1:00 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; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; and Elly Peterson, Fargo-Moorhead West Fargo Chamber of Commerce. Absent were: John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; and Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Also present were: Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner; Eric Dodds and Tammy Jo Taft, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc. (AE2S); John Paul Klein, West Fargo resident; and Michelle Anderson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District staff.

Minutes

It was moved by Kevin Campbell, seconded by Mike Thorstad and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2016, meeting.

Metro Flood Diversion Project - election recap

Eric Dodds provided a brief summary of the election results and vote to extend the current flood sales tax in the City of Fargo and Cass County to help fund the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Brenda Elmer suggested consultants provide information and updates to Minnesota legislative leaders.

Business Leaders Flood Taskforce update

Elly Peterson stated the Business Leaders Flood Taskforce will continue to speak to organizations and educate business leaders on the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Chairman Olson expressed his appreciation to Ms. Peterson and the Business Leaders Flood Taskforce for the excellent public outreach efforts and education provided on the extension of the current flood sales tax to help fund the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Expo update

Eric Dodds stated the Metro Flood Diversion Project presentation was very well received by attendees of the North Dakota Water Convention and Irrigation Expo. Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney spoke of the 2016 milestones accomplished for the project and what to expect moving forward. Jason Benson presented impacts from previous flood events and

the need for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Randy Richardson, CH2M HILL Engineers, Inc. presented information regarding the Public-Private Partnership (P3) procurement process. Eric Dodds and Jason Benson gave updates to the State Water Commission and thanked Governor Jack Dalrymple for his support of the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

North Dakota update

Mike Thorstad and Eric Dodds updated the Committee on a meeting held with legislators in West Fargo on December 13, 2016. Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney and West Fargo Mayor Rich Mattern presented on various topics, including the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

The Diversion Authority will be holding an Open House on December 19, 2016, at the Holiday Inn to educate recently elected city, county and legislative officials.

Minnesota update

Eric Dodds stated a meeting was held with Moorhead Mayor Del Rae Williams and Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton after the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) denied the *Dam Safety and Work in Public Waters Permit* for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Mr. Dodds stated the *F-M Flood Protection & Upstream Mitigation Working Group* was formed to strengthen communications and collaboration through discussion with Minnesota, North Dakota, the Diversion Authority, the Corps of Engineers and the Minnesota DNR. The first meeting will be held in January.

On December 6, 2016, the Corps of Engineers awarded a contract for the diversion inlet structure to Ames Construction, Inc., from Burnsville, Minnesota, regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. Discussion was held on the construction schedule, impacts to Cass County Highways 16 and 17 and future meetings with the Corps of Engineers to discuss project details.

Rocky Schneider and Del Rae Williams have scheduled a tentative meeting on January 12, 2017, to update the Moorhead City Council. The Committee gave invitation suggestions to consultants.

Metro Flood Diversion Project – one page informational handouts

Eric Dodds presented and reviewed several one page informational handouts on the diversion inlet structure, the Drayton Dam Mitigation Project, project milestones, improvements, construction, mitigation, financing and 2017 budget regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project. The Committee stated the documents are very helpful and recommended they be distributed to newly elected officials. The informational handouts will be placed with the standing floor signs and updated quarterly.

Community Outreach update

Eric Dodds stated a special Diversion Authority informational meeting will be held in January for all the member entities.

The Committee determined the meeting schedule and location for the 2017 Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee meetings will remain the same.

Brief discussion was held on federal appropriations, the Corps of Engineer's budget, future funding requests and local job development regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

E-Newsletter topics

Tammy Jo Taft gave an update to the Committee on the *Diversion Dialogue eNewsletter Analytics* for November 2016. The most popular article in the newsletter detailed projects in Cass County partially funded by with the money from the Cass County flood sales tax.

FMDiversion.com

Tammy Jo Taft stated traffic to the website has increased over the last six months. Eric Dodds stated the most popular YouTube videos are *Financing the FM Area Diversion Project* and the Metro Flood Diversion flyover video.

Brenda Elmer suggested members of the Committee utilize social media and link to the FMDiversion.com website to help educate the public 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