

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
RIVER ROOM, FARGO CITY HALL
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2018**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on January 17, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in the River Room, Fargo City Hall, Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; and, Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District (Via telecom).

The following Committee members were absent: John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Rick Steen, Cass County Commissioner; and Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Others present were: Rocky Schneider and Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner; Dan Jacobson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Lynne Spaeth, Clay County Planning & Zoning.

Rodger Olson called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

On motion by Brenda Elmer, seconded by Kevin Campbell, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the November 15, 2017 and December 20, 2017 minutes as presented.

GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE STATUS

Rocky Schneider notified the Committee that the Governor's Task Force Report is due to be released this week. The report is in final review in the Governor's office, where each Governor is adding individual statements. The report is comparable to the minutes at the Task Force meetings and contains individual comments. Each member of the Task Force submitted 1,000 words to be added to the report.

The lawsuit was discussed and it was noted that it is the Governors' desire to resolve the issue.

FUTURE OUTREACH MILESTONES

Rocky Schneider reported on outreach components that will take place in 2018.

The Committee discussed realistic timelines, updating information and the impacts of the affected areas. Schneider gave an update on the Minnesota permitting process. The CLOMR revision, outreach and timeline were discussed. Schneider stated that the USACE is contemplating a supplemental Environmental Assessment due to much discussion and changes. This may involve public meetings.

FMDiversion.com UPDATE AND ANALYTICS

Rocky Schneider provided the December 2017 E-Newsletter, Website and Public Comments report. The Committee discussed how information reaches the public and how to provide information prior to questions. The less outreach that is done, the less participation there is online. A couple of Task Force members were asked to participate in a three-question video and both Governors have been asked to take part as well.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Rocky Schneider reported that once the Governor's Report is released, they will be ramping up efforts.

Kevin Campbell suggested the Committee meet more often than once a month. Rodger Olson stated a strategy will be needed after the report. Rocky Schneider will send out the Report to the Committee as soon as it is available.

RRBC CONFERENCE

Rocky Schneider reminded the Committee of the Red River Basin Commission conference next week in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The tour of the Red River control structure will be on Tuesday and is open to all.

OTHER BUSINESS

On motion by Kevin Campbell, seconded by Mike Thorstad, and unanimously carried, the Committee agreed to reinstate Rodger Olson to serve as the 2018 Committee Chair.

Rocky Schneider apprised that Governor Dayton released the budget and there was local funding included. The North Dakota budget is due to come out soon. Senator Hoeven is currently working on a federal financing program.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion by Kevin Campbell, and seconded by Brenda Elmer, the meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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