

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
FARGO COMMISSION CHAMBERS, FARGO CITY HALL
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on March 21, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fargo Commission Chambers, 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; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Rick Steen, Cass County Commissioner; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; and, Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council Member.

The following Committee member was absent:

Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Others present were: Rocky Schneider, Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner; Lynne Spaeth, Clay County Planning & Zoning.

Rodger Olson called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

On motion by John Strand, seconded by Jake Gust, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the February minutes as presented.

PLAN B

CALENDAR OUTREACH TO AREA JURISDICTIONS:

Rocky Schneider provided a calendar of the March public presentations regarding the FM Diversion Project and "Plan B". Schneider, Jason Benson and others have completed several presentations, but there are numerous remaining. They may have to split up the work load for the presentations currently scheduled through late April. The presentations will allow the public to see what is happening and allow them the opportunity to ask questions.

SAMPLE PRESENTATION:

Copies of the FM Diversion Project Update PowerPoint presentation were provided. The presentation will inform the public of the area of flood protection, how the project has

changed, and the new Permit application process. Schneider stated the presentations have been positive.

The committee discussed concerns related to the western tie-back changes, location of the embankment, Drain 27 and the freeboard issue.

The NW Channel Alignment Alternative was reviewed. The committee conferred the option to have the Diversion cut between West Fargo and Harwood and concluded that too much land would be out of the floodplain, and it would create a wider channel which would require redesign. The cost for the Alternative is very costly.

LOCAL MAPS: INTERACTIVE WEBMAP:

Schneider provided copies of the Interactive Map displayed on the website evidencing Project Plan B alignment. The map denotes the Plan B-100-year Floodplain comparison, impacted areas and the land acquisition phase status. Minor adjustments and/or changes will be made as the map is refined.

FMDiversion.com UPDATE AND ANALYTICS

Rocky Schneider reported there was approximately 400x the traffic over the last 6 months.

He attributes the tools on the website for helping answer questions. There are more tools provided now than the first time around. It was decided to send all the information available to everyone at the exact same time i.e. public, media, elected officials, impacted and/or benefitted people. This has been well received and appreciated.

All the links will be organized pre-task force and post-task force and the texts will be updated in the next week.

ND LEGISLATIVE REPORT ING

Rocky Schneider informed the committee that the diversion is on the April 12th State Water Commission Agenda in North Dakota, officially requesting the \$66.5 million.

There was discussion regarding concerns of the impacts from Richland-Wilkin County Diversion. Approximately 1,000 acres in Cass County and 600 acres in Clay County are impacted. More discussion is merited regarding mitigation and impacted acreage.

OTHER BUSINESS

City and legislative elections are approaching. Each city will be provided a diversion briefing either as part of the city update meeting or separate meeting with the candidates.

More information needs to be given to the Business task force, as they want to know how they can be supportive.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Brenda Elmer, and seconded by John Strand, the meeting adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Lynne D. Spaeth
Clay County Planning & Zoning