

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
FERCHO ROOM, FARGO CITY LIBRARY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2018**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on May 15, 2018, at 1:30 p.m. in the Fercho Room, Fargo City Library, Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present:

Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; and Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council Member.

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

Others present were: Rocky Schneider, Tammy Jo Taft, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Lynne Spaeth, Clay County Planning & Zoning; Grant Weiland, Clay County Commissioner

Kevin Campbell called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

On motion by Brenda Elmers, seconded by Mike Thorstad, and unanimously carried, the Committee approved the April 25, 2018 minutes as presented.

MDNR COMMUNICATIONS

A. Tour Recap

Rocky Schneider reported that DNR was in town last Wednesday. A few locals had a full-day tour that was well received. The next step is for the DNR to publish milestone dates which is anticipated to be out in the next week or two. A public meeting would be scheduled in early July.

The scoping document content was addressed as well as supplemental discussion to combine Moorhead and Fargo meetings.

B. Agency Meeting

The agency meeting took place last week. Every state and federal agency from Moorhead and Fargo met to talk about specific issues, i.e, environmental and cultural. The goal is to have every agency present for possible questions. With all the mitigation issues in this project, staying proactive is crucial.

ND WATER EDUCATION TOUR AUG. 1

Schneider informed the Committee that the North Dakota Water Education Tour is set for the afternoon of August 1st. He encouraged people to sign up if interested. In Minnesota, each watershed arranges their own tour.

The decision on the new permit should optimistically occur around November 2018.

FOLLOW UP TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

Schneider updated the committee on the communication with Pleasant, Stanley and Holy Cross townships. The draft correspondence was sent to Mayor Williams and Commissioner Scherling for final approval. Thereafter, it will be sent out to property owners.

Communication should continue with follow-ups and upcoming items. A suggestion was made to send an update letter every two months to entities and township officials.

CANDIDATE PROJECT BRIEFINGS

Presentations have been scheduled with several Fargo Commission candidates. The candidates will not require the long history version, but more of a recap and misconception clarification with a question and answer session. Schneider added that to date, they have been able to modify the presentations. They will continue outreach to community leaders and candidates (both incoming and outgoing).

FMDiversion.com UPDATE AND ANALYTICS

Tammy Jo Taft provided the April 2018 Report.

No Newsletter was released this month as there was nothing significant to report. The Website numbers decreased last month. When educational material is posted, the traffic increases.

The YouTube numbers from February to April are similar to previous months.

The "Three Questions" video featuring Dick Sundberg of Harwood, is still being reviewed and will be posted upon Sundburg's approval. Next month's video will feature Ken Vien.

Twitter exhibited active engagement when the Senators and Governor were here. This month's usage has decreased.

The website is being reworked to differentiate post-task force verses pre-task force.

The interactive map alignment is close to being publicly released. The clickable map displays the townships. When selected, each township will provide a zoomed-in map of that township. The maps page is the second most visited page subsequent to the home page.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tomorrow the Water Commission meeting will be held in Fargo, where subcommittees will be formed to contend with funding. The diversion is listed for possible funding. The CORPS work plan, releasing the final number, is planned to be released by May 22, 2018. Discussion was held regarding final numbers, interest and funding.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Lynne Spaeth
Clay County Planning & Zoning