

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
FERCHO ROOM, FARGO CITY LIBRARY
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee did not have a quorum at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 27. An official meeting was not convened but four members of the committee were present and discussed the following topics.

The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District, Rick Steen, Cass County Commissioner, Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner, Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District.

The following Committee members were absent: Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner.

Others present were: Rocky Schneider, Tammy Jo Taft, Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Tu-Uyen Tran, InForum; Jason Ehlert, Building Trades President

FEDERAL FUNDING

- Mr. Schneider noted it was announced that there would be \$35 million in USACE workplan for Fiscal 2018 work. He explained the process of how allocations move through the government and become line items in a budget. He noted the work that is legally allowed include supplemental environmental assessment and design. There was discussion about when Corps would be required to use the money and about federal funding and plan B. The group discussed outreach and timing of outreach to various communities, including elected officials, in relation to Plan B. There was discussion about educating communities about flow through town and what that actually means.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW TIMELINE

- A general timeline of the ongoing reviews of Plan B was given to the group. There was discussion about commenting periods, public meetings and the Minnesota DNR permitting process. The Minnesota DNR's next milestone is their draft EIS. Commissioner Thorstad noted his feeling that all parties seem to be involved and working together during this current process.
- The group discussed having a regular project update posted to the website to keep the public informed.

NORTH DAKOTA WATER EDUCATION TOUR

- The tour has been done for three to four years and is coming to Fargo/Moorhead on Aug. 1. Members were encouraged to sign up.

NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATURE

- Commissioner Chad Peterson and Rocky Schneider presented an update to the State Water Topics Overview Committee two week prior and the presentation went well. Engineer Jason Benson attended as well.
- The State Water Commission will be meeting in Fargo in September and doing a tour on Sept. 25. They will have a meeting on Sept. 26.
- There was discussion about legacy funds and state infrastructure projects.

MINNESOTA GUBERNATORIAL MEETINGS

- The Minnesota primary is in August. Mayor Williams met with candidate Murphy and there have been meetings with Pawlenty. Brenda Elmer and Joel Paulsen met with candidate Pawlenty.

TOWNSHIP COMMUNICATIONS

- Letters were sent to various townships related to the project and roughly a dozen comments have been received from those letters. Mr. Schneider said the comments have been fruitful and encouraged discussion with new individuals. There have been comments from some individuals who are willing sellers and would like to see the project move forward quickly.

THREE QUESTIONS VIDEOS

- Showed Dick Sundberg, council member in Harwood.
- Ken Vein and Mayor Bernie Dardis coming up soon.

ANALYTICS

- The website analytics gathering method was interrupted during May. The backup analytics tracking software performed well.
- The most watched video was a short 3-minute presentation previously given to the Board with an update on the project status.
- Forum communications video and special insert about the flood risk facing the community.