

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY  
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
FARGO CITY COMMISSION ROOM  
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2018**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 25. The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council; Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District and Grant Weyland, Moorhead City Council. The following Committee members were absent: Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Rick Steen, Cass County Commission; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Others present were:

Tammy Jo Taft, Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting were read. Suggested edit to the minutes was made to add the meeting Brenda Elmer and Joel Paulsen had with Tim Pawlenty. There was discussion about the meetings with Minnesota candidates. Motion to approve the minutes from Jake Gust. Second from Mike Thorstad. Motion carried unanimously.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Eric Dodds noted the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to make progress on their environmental Review. He noted the draft may be out in August for review, comments and a possible public meeting in September. There was discussion about the governors, permitting agencies and what a delay would mean for costs. The upcoming North Dakota legislative session was also discussed.

#### ND WATER EDUCATION TOUR

The ND Water Education Foundation summer tour will be in Fargo on Aug. 1. The tour route will include flood risk management projects in the area and Southeast Cass. The tour is being coordinated by Rocky Schneider and Nathan Boerboom.

#### ND STATE WATER COMMISSION

Mr. Dodds said the State Water Commission produces Biennium State Water Development Plan. Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer, attended the meeting in Valley City focusing on this effort. In late September, the Water Commission is meeting in Fargo and have asked for a tour. There is a joint meeting on the 26<sup>th</sup> with the Water Commission staff and the Water Topics Overview Committee.

## PLAN B COMMUNICATION

There was discussion about Plan B and Wolverton Creek. Bob Zimmerman, City of Moorhead Engineer, and Greg Theilman, Engineer with HMG, attended a meeting of the Buffalo-Red Watershed District and discussed the issue.

## THREE QUESTIONS

The Three Questions video with Ken Vein was shown. Rodger Olson suggested some videos with information about farming impacts.

## WEBSITE

Tammy Jo Taft noted the website and social media data users were looking for project update information. The recent announcement about the Corps receiving \$35 million was discussed including the fact that the amount was the largest federal amount given at one time to date.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Brenda Elmer noted the meeting she and Joel Paulsen had with Tim Pawlenty was good meeting. Rocky Schneider has also been in contact with lobbying firm in Minnesota for the upcoming session.

Rodger Olson said the Cass County joint board met two weeks ago. A landowner came to the meeting to discuss weeds and vector control. The County responded and the area has been mowed. This information should be considered with upcoming planning efforts.

John Strand noted feedback he received from a family on the north side of Highway 20 who wanted more information on Project impacts.

A motion to adjourn was made by John Strand at 2:07. Brenda Elmer seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned.