

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
FARGO CITY HALL – RIVER ROOM
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19, 2018. The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Rick Steen, Cass County Commission; Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Jacob Gust (via phone), Cass County Joint Water Resource District; and Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer. The following Committee members were absent: John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Others present were: Matt Stamness, Cass County Engineers Office; Dave Kolpack, Associated Press; Tammy Jo Taft, Rocky Schneider, Eric Dodds, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 1:37 p.m. by Rodger Olson. Minutes from the previous meetings were reviewed. Mr. Olson moved the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Campbell and unanimously approved.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Mr. Rocky Schneider mentioned an editorial board hosted by the Forum discussing the project. There was also discussion regarding a potential permit decision by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in the near future. There was discussion about communications with Minnesota officials and upcoming changes in administration.

ELECTION RECAP AND BRIEFINGS

Mr. Schneider said there was legislative briefing hosted by Cass County that included information about the Project. He noted the Governor will be presenting his budget soon and there will be work to do to at the North Dakota Legislature while they are in session. He also noted the City of Moorhead discussed having one scope for lobbyists at the Minnesota state level of government. Mr. Campbell noted the Minnesota Legislature will be briefed on county-level issues and there are upcoming conferences in St. Paul that he and Mr. Weyland would attend. Ms. Elmer also noted the City of Moorhead's recent vote supporting the Project as a priority.

ND WATER CONFERENCE IN BISMARCK

The North Dakota Water Conference was in Bismarck at the same time the Governor's budget was presented. Board Vice Chair Mary Scherling of Cass County spoke at the Conference. There

was discussion about the flood insurance impact estimates Minot officials presented at the conference, and the percentages of local funding for flood projects in North Dakota.

LANDS OUTREACH PLANNING

Mr. Schneider noted that if a permit is issued by the DNR, outreach to landowners should start quickly. Mr. Benson noted there are different discussions on technical aspects of the project and how that impacts the upstream mitigation area. Mr. Schneider also noted the FEMA CLOMR will make things more clear as well. He noted that every property is unique. He added that some properties must be purchased outright and other, only a flowage easement must be purchased. Mr. Benson added that the U.S. Army Corps has some regulations that are more rigid than others. Mr. Schneider mentioned there will be an entity formed that will oversee property rights acquisition on the Minnesota side of the project.

PROJECT FUNDING PLAN

Mr. Schneider noted the presentation to the Board with the new funding plan summary. He noted the presentation and financial plan is based in 2018 dollars. There was discussion about the actual cost of flood insurance premiums. Mr. Campbell noted he thinks the estimated insurance premiums should be updated to show the actual impact of the project. There was discussion about the amount of money in the USACE's workplan.

NEW FORMAT OF FMDIVERSION.COM

Ms. Taft presented the draft of the new website. The new site was necessary due to upgrades to wordpress platforms and search capability, she noted. A Three Questions video with Jake Gust was shown.

MEETING CALENDAR

A draft of a calendar with upcoming meeting dates for 2019 was reviewed by the committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Gust asked about project costs and the budget. Mr. Schneider noted the dynamics between taxable value, school districts and land values.

Mr. Olson and the committee unanimously thanked Ms. Elmer for her service as this was her final meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:41 p.m.

