

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
NOVEMBER 7, 2012

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on November 7, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District, Chairman; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commissioner; Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner; and was absent.

Also present were Tom O'Hara, CH2MHill; Eric Dodds and Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Gregg Thielman, Houston-Moore Group, LLC; Lyndon Pease, Moore Engineering, Inc.; and Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer.

Minutes

It was moved by Mike Thorstad, seconded by Gerald VanAmburg and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2012, meeting.

Right of Entry Committee report

Lyndon Pease reported that Phase I and II surveys are going on now.

Easements for the installation of piezometers are outstanding on two of the nine sites, but they have verbal agreements from those property owners. Payment will be made to those property owners after the piezometers have been installed.

There may be a need to do additional borings in the Reach 1 area towards the outlet and Rush River. It is hoped additional easements are not needed. The current easements are valid until December 2013.

The Corps of Engineers has decided no further biotic surveys are needed at this time.

The most critical work going on right now is for transportation improvements in the northwestern part of project. A minimum maintenance road will be upgraded to a gravel road and bridge improvements will also be made.

There have been some concerns expressed about drainage in the Argusville area. The Cass County Joint Water Resource District could hold meetings with property owners to discuss drainage matters. Jacob Gust said the project will help local drainage immensely. Houston-Moore Group has sufficient design work completed to help answer those questions.

Preparation for public meeting in Horace

The Committee discussed preparations made for the public meeting on November 14, 2012, at the Horace Senior Citizen Center. An open house will begin at 6:30 p.m. and there will be a presentation on the project at 7:00 p.m.

Staging area animation presentation

A staging area animation presentation was viewed. The additional duration at a 100-year event would 5.5 days.

Mr. Van Amburg asked about the capability of watching a square mile area using the animation. Gregg Thielman said they could turn it into an interactive map. The main issue would be where to host the site. Eric Dodds said they are working on a web GIS feature to assist property owners and realtors about project impacts.

Jacob Gust said it would be nice to superimpose dikes around communities to the south to see they would significantly raise the outside water. Mr. Thielman said the models indicate it would be less than an inch.

Everyone agreed the presentation is a good tool for public meetings. Daron Selvig said they could put together a video for the You Tube channel where people can view the presentation.

Mr. Van Amburg asked if there is a map showing water depth without the project at a 100-year and 500-year event. Mr. Selvig said they hope to have that with the newsletter going out on Monday.

Staff changes

Mr. Dodds informed the Board of several staff changes regarding the project. Tom O'Hara will now be heading up the Project Management team. Tom Waters will remain engaged on the team, but will go from full-time to part-time. Jon Diebel will also be moving into a part-time position on the project.

Outreach and Communications Plan

The Committee will finalize the draft *Outreach and Communications Plan* and submit it to the Diversion Authority. The document will continue to be updated as the project moves forward.

E-Newsletter

Mr. Selvig reviewed topics of articles that will be included in the next E-newsletter that will be released Monday.

FMDiversion.com update

Mr. Selvig said comments continue to be collected and posted, along with responses, on FMDiversion.com. Mr. Thorstad asked that a map showing the reaches of the project be posted on the website.

Public outreach plans for upstream communities

The Project Development Team had a good meeting earlier this week with officials from the City of Oxbow, Hickson and Bakke Subdivision. The City of Oxbow submitted a list of conditions they want met. Mr. O'Hara said the communities will have time to review the information and the impacts so they can make an educated decision. He will have a report on the general structure and concept sometime between now and July 2013.

Meeting schedule

The Committee decided to hold future meetings at 2:00 p.m. on the Wednesdays before Diversion Authority meetings.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered, it was moved by Mike Thorstad, seconded by Kevin Campbell and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Cass County Joint Water Resource District
Secretary-Treasurer