

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on September 12, 2012, at 8:30 a.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; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner; and Jacob Gust, ad hoc Committee Member. Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commissioner; and Gerald VanAmburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District; were absent.

Also present were Tom Waters, CH2MHill; Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Lee Beauvais and Lyndon Pease, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Shannon Bauer, Corps of Engineers; and Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer.

Minutes

It was moved by Mike Thorstad, seconded by Jacob Gust and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2012, meeting.

Right of Entry Committee report

Lee Beauvais reported that biotic surveying is basically complete regarding part of the local transportation plan in Raymond and Berlin Townships. Access was needed in order to begin road design.

Easements have been requested on 9 parcels for the placement of piezometers.

A hearing will be held to determine access to one parcel along Cass County Highway 22 for road design.

Outline of public meetings on September 13, 2012

Tom Waters and Daron Selvig outlined the agendas for the meetings scheduled for September 13, 2012, regarding post-feasibility study efforts, findings and recommendations. The Corps of Engineers is holding a meeting today at 2:00 p.m. with area legislators to review the same information.

Rodger Olson asked what criteria was used to rank the alignment options. Mr. Waters said the criteria included risk, implementability, number of structures, environmental, number of acres, floodplain impacts and transportation

Retention investment strategy

The Diversion Authority adopted a retention investment strategy, which is a strategy to invest in retention projects that complement the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion. They will coordinate the matter with the Red River Retention Authority and Red River Basin Commission.

E-Newsletter / FMDiversion.com update / outreach meetings

Mr. Selvig said the next issue of the E-Newsletter will have an article on the information provided at the September 13, 2012, meetings. They are planning to video the public meeting that evening and put it on You Tube for viewing. They will also break up the presentations into shorter videos on specific issues. They hope to get the information out the next day or following week. The E-Newsletter will also have an article on the retention investment strategy and an update on various issues from the Corps of Engineers. The articles will also be on the website. The Corps of Engineers is planning appearances on television and radio, as well as meeting with newspaper officials. Mr. Waters said meetings will be held with communities requesting them.

Mr. Olson said the Cass County Joint Water Resource District requests there be more contact with the cities of Horace and West Fargo. Mr. Waters said it would be a good idea to attend their regular meetings. Mr. Thorstad said it would be helpful to have a presentation on where they are at with the project and how it affects the city. Residents are concerned about paying additional assessments and how the project will affect the flood protection currently in place. Mr. Gust said it is important to pass along information that this project will enhance the Sheyenne Diversion and that the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion Project would protect that area from the Red River.

Brenda Elmer said Moorhead residents are paying for city flood protection that has been put in place and they also have concerns about additional assessments. Mr. Gust said it needs to be articulated that without the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion, the dikes in Moorhead would not be high enough.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the committee, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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