

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 22, 2012

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on February 22, 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; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; and Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Commissioner. Absent were Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commissioner, and Gerald VanAamburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Also present were Tom Waters, CH2MHill; Eric Dodds and Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc., Brad Dahl, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Dan Jacobson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; and Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer.

Minutes

It was moved by Brenda Elmer, seconded by Mike Thorstad and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2012, meeting.

Public outreach

A recent meeting with Reed Township to discuss the Fargo-Moorhead Area Diversion went well. A meeting was held with the manager of the Coop Elevator in Wolverton and the manager of Kindred Harvest States Elevator where impacts to agriculture were discussed, as well as concerns about their trade areas and potential reductions in their businesses. Increased flows through Fargo-Moorhead may help prevent a summer flood event, which would help the ag community.

Meetings with upstream communities will continue. A meeting with Christine officials will be held tonight. A meeting with Oxbow is scheduled for March 27, 2012, and a meeting with Hickson, Bakke and Pleasant Township will be on March 29, 2012.

Tom Waters reported the meeting with Comstock was extremely productive. They were concerned how FEMA would treat the community with a ring dike when they are currently not in the floodplain. Mr. Waters said they explained that it would be a certified levee, so they would not have to buy flood insurance inside the dike. They are also concerned how the treatment plant would be affected and about access during flooding. They indicated they would like a public meeting in the future.

Mr. Thorstad asked about outreach to the City of Horace. They are on record in support of the western alignment, but are strongly opposed to the current alignment, which cuts through its city limits. Mr. Waters said he would call Mayor Shane Walock to set up a meeting.

Outreach meetings will also be held with downstream communities and property owners.

A meeting for township officials in several North Dakota and Minnesota townships has been scheduled at 6:00 p.m. on February 28, 2012, at the AE2S office in Fargo.

Inundation maps for 10, 50 and 100-year events were sent to Richland and Wilkin Counties. The information is available on the website. A meeting with the counties of Richland, Wilkin, Cass and Clay has been scheduled on March 19, 2012. Mr. Waters said various stations will be set up at the meeting rather than holding one joint session covering everything. Diversion Authority members will be involved with the stations.

Eric Dodds said the project is in the President's budget for \$5 million, which is less than the amount requested, but it is still a very significant amount. The Corps of Engineers has arranged a series of meetings in Washington, D.C. next week, which is an important step for future authorization of the project. Several local Minnesota officials are unable to attend the meetings, so another local representative from Minnesota is needed. Brenda Elmer pointed out that Nancy Otto represents the City of Moorhead on the Diversion Authority and should be notified.

Daron Selvig reported on recent updates to the website, including the inundation maps, a "flyover" design view of the project and the retention presentation by Chad Engels. He continues to fortify the library of technical documents. No questions have been submitted in the FAQ section in many weeks. Mr. Dodds said questions from community meetings will be formulated for the website.

A letter is being drafted to *The Forum* clarifying that the project will provide 100-year protection and that it would assist with protection in a 500-year event. A flood fight similar to what was needed in the spring of 2009 would still be needed for a 500-year event; therefore, that is why the Fargo-Moorhead area is still working on individual protection systems that would complement the project. Mr. Thorstad suggested using a chart to show what additional measures would be required at various flood levels. The letter will be revised for review by the committee.

Todd Sando, State Engineer, will be drafting a letter to *The Forum* with regard to extreme flood events, drawing a comparison between the floods in Minot and Bismarck.

Mr. Waters said the MnDak Upstream Coalition requested a meeting with the Corps of Engineers, which will be held today at 11:00 a.m. The group is also meeting with the Department of Natural Resources today.

Mr. Waters said the Minnesota Environmental Impact Statement is moving along. They will engage the Corps of Engineers and the Diversion Authority.

Mr. Dodds said the Valued Engineering Study was discussed at the meeting with the MnDak Upstream Coalition last week. He pointed out that the study will provide good information, but should be taken as concepts. Only one of the concepts will be studied further. Included in the proposals are changes to the alignment and the location of the inlet structure. The MnDak Upstream Coalition wants the project changed to eliminate the staging area.

Mr. Olson said he would like to meet with the Technical Committee to discuss the use of drain tile. Mr. Waters will assist with coordinating the meeting.

Right of Entry Committee report

Brad Dahl reported that a small number of Access Agreements were not returned and the Attorneys will proceed with the court process on those.

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