

**DIVERSION AUTHORITY
PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE
FARGO CITY HALL – RIVER ROOM
FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2019**

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at Fargo City Hall. The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Manager; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; and Vern Bennett, Cass County Commissioner.

The following Committee members were absent: Rick Steen, Cass County Commission; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Jacob Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Manager; Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner; Joel Paulsen, Moorhead City Councilman, and Gerald Van Amburg, Buffalo Red River Watershed District Manager.

Others present were: Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner, and Matt Stamness, Assistant Cass County Engineer; Tammy Jo A. Taft, Eric Dodds, and Sadie Moen, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rodger Olson at 1:35 p.m.. Mr. Kevin Campbell motioned to approve the meeting minutes from April. Mr. Mike Thorstad seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

PROJECT TALKING POINTS

Mr. Dodds present a document with FM Diversion talking points. The goal is to keep the document updated monthly. There was discussion about including information from the document on the website and the need to have more detailed answers to certain questions on the site. Mr. Campbell encouraged the outreach team to ensure the website has in-depth answers to questions available.

LANDS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

a. The City of Christine

Mr. Dodds, Mr. Benson and Mr. Gregg Thielman of HMG and Dean Vetter of AE2S communicated with the City of Christine. The City of Christine requested to see the ring levee concept. Mr. Dodds noted the group will return to the City to present information in July. Mr. Benson noted he thought it was a good meeting with the City as well. There was discussion about doing outreach about how the project will operate. There was discussion about a possible LOMR, or impacts on development the City of Christine may experience from the project.

b. CLOMR Submission

CLOMR was submitted two weeks ago to FEMA. FEMA has acknowledged they have received it, and they have 90 days to complete their review. There was discussion about CLOMR outreach to towns both Minnesota and North Dakota.

WINNIPEG AREA FLOOD TOUR

Mrs. Taft talked about how a group went to Winnipeg to see how their diversion in operation. The tour went very well. Mr. Dodds talked about how residents in Manitoba south of their project have become accustomed to living with flood mitigation. Mr. Campbell asked how they protected the farmsteads. Mr. Dodds and Mr. Benson said that a handful of grain bins, houses, and machine sheds were elevated. There was discussion about how the province is governed differently, and how their project affected farms.

BUFFALO RED RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT (BRRWD)

Mr. Dodds said the BRRWD met on April 23, 2019, in Dilworth, MN. Both sides of the permit issue stated their case to their board. Mr. Dodds said they focused on the project and how it would be helpful. He explained that they were very factual and informative as well. The BRRWD met and decided they would need more time to talk the issue over. Mr. Dodds said they keep attending their meetings, and believe they are going well. The BRRWD has been discussing permit conditions, and requested an extension until the end of June.

UPCOMING USACE MEETING

Colonel Calkins is retiring and visiting this June. AE2S is creating a photobook of his time on the project as Commander of the USACE St. Paul District. There will be a new Colonel, and he will attend the next board meeting.

FM DIVERSION WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA ANALYTICS

Mrs. Taft presented the analytics report, including noting the number of newsletters sent in the past few months. The open rate was high, and had 50% more visitors to our website the last three months. Mrs. Taft also talked about how the number of sessions has gone down, but this could be due to new users. Mrs. Taft talked about posting on twitter with facts and that brought it more followers.

THREE QUESTION VIDEO

Mrs. Taft showed the three questions video by Sandi Piatz on the diversion YouTube page. Mr. Campbell asked if they could change the language to make it more about everywhere than just Fargo. Mrs. Taft said that change can be made.

THREE SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Mrs. Taft talked about how an ad campaign was executed to help raise awareness about the project where there is not a lot of news. It worked very well and was only \$50. Mr. Thorstad commented they should run some of those ads for upcoming projects.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Campbell provided an update for the joint entity being formed to acquire land in Minnesota. A draft document should be presented in early June for the entity, and possibly having the first meeting in July.

Mr. Dodds noted there are six to eight property owners in Minnesota that want to get started sooner than later. It is on a volunteer basis. He also noted work that is ongoing to get easements for environmental monitoring. Mr. Campbell asked for maps outlining footprints would be and where property is needed for environmental monitoring,

Mr. Olson asked to continue to make three to five-minute drone videos of the construction for the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.