



FM Diversion Project Biography

As of January 8, 2020

Permanent, Reliable Flood Protection

Executive Director Joel Paulsen, P.E.

Position

- The Executive Director position was created by the Diversion Board of Authority in 2017.

Biography

- Joel Paulsen was hired as the first Executive Director after a nation-wide search was conducted.
- Paulsen started on Sept. 3, 2019.
- He has almost 20 years of experience in engineering, civil works and traffic related projects.
- Previously, he was an engineer and Office Leader for Stantec Engineering. He has worked on projects from utility replacements, transportation improvements, levee systems, and community planning.
- Paulsen served on the Moorhead City Council and was appointed by Minnesota Gov. Mark Dayton to the Governors' Task Force in 2018. As a member of the Task Force, Paulsen was one of 16 local residents and experts asked to find solutions to achieve permanent flood protection for Fargo, Moorhead and the surrounding communities.
- Paulsen grew up in Moorhead, MN and received a Civil Engineering degree from North Dakota State University. He has a wife and four children.



Licenses, Certifications and Memberships

- Licensed Professional Engineer
- Certified FEMA Floodplain Manager
- Certified Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan Designer, University of Minnesota
- Minnesota Department of Transportation Certified Technician: Grading & Base
- National Society of Professional Engineers: Member in Minnesota
- Vice President of Engineers Without Borders: Red River Valley Professionals
- Marshall Memorial Fellow: German Marshall Fund (GMF) of the United States