

# Metro Flood Diversion Authority Board of Authority Meeting Minutes

**3:30 P.M. – June 22, 2023**

**City of Fargo Commission Chambers**

A regular meeting of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority Board of Authority was held on June 22, 2023. The following members were present: Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor, City of Fargo; Bernie Dardis, Mayor, City of West Fargo; Shelly Carlson, Mayor, City of Moorhead; Chad Peterson, Cass County Commissioner; Dave Piepkorn, Fargo City Commissioner; David Ebinger, Clay County Commissioner; John Strand, Fargo City Commissioner; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner and Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner.

Member(s) absent: Chuck Hendrickson, Moorhead City Council; Tony Grindberg, Cass County Commissioner; Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District and Larry Seljevold, Moorhead City Council.

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mahoney called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

**2. APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 2023 MEETING**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Mr. Campbell moved to approve the minutes from the May 2023 meeting and Mayor Dardis seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.**

**3. APPROVE ORDER OF AGENDA**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Mayor Carlson moved to approve the order of the agenda and Mr. Ebinger seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION PASSED**

**Mr. Peterson moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Mr. Ebinger seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.**

**4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Paulsen provided the following updates:

**Happenings**

- Team meeting with RRVA and reviewing plans
- Working with USACE on future designs
- Meeting with utility owners and local governments on MOUs
- Met with FEMA to provide best management practices that can be used at the national level for flood risk management
- FEMA Mitigation Course attendees toured project

- Met with City of Denver regarding best management practices for a P3 project in coordination with USACE

**5. GENERAL COUNSEL UPDATE**

Mayor Mahoney reported that Mr. Paulsen’s performance evaluation was completed, and he and other board members will dialogue to determine the amount of his increase.

**6. CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATES**

**a. USACE Project Update**

Ms. Williams provided the following USACE update:

**1 Diversion Inlet Structure (DIS) – Construction**

Structure includes 3-50 ft. wide Tainter gates. Construction is 94% complete. Construction completion date of 7 June 2023 being delayed into July due to PT bar fix modification. Installation of the 3 gates complete. Bridge beams/deck being installed. Schedule for remaining primary features:

2023: Install bridge and mechanical platform deck, operating machinery, seeding.

2024: Turf established.

**2 Wild Rice River Structure (WRRS) – Construction**

Structure includes 2-40 ft. wide Tainter gates. Construction is 86% complete and remains on schedule.

The construction completion date is 3 December 2023. Preparations being made to construct earthen dam across old Wild Rice River channel. Installation of mechanical platform/vehicle service bridge ongoing. Remaining schedule:

2023: Control building, install gate operating machinery, dam embankment, seeding.

2024: Turf established.

**3 I-29 Raise – Construction**

Includes approximately 4 miles of interstate raise between County Roads 16 and 18. Construction is 74% complete. Constructing bridge deck, aprons and abutment walls. Paving of the mainline raise to be complete Summer 2023.

**4 Southern Embankment – Reach SE-1 (Western Tieback) - Construction**

Construction was completed 10 November 2022. Partial turnover to the Diversion Authority for Operations and Maintenance occurred on 29 December 2022. O&M Manual being completed.

**5 Red River Structure (RRS) - Construction**

Structure includes 3-50 ft. wide Tainter gates. Construction is 20% complete. Construction completion date is 19 March 2026. Placement of foundation and stilling basin stabilization slabs ongoing. FMM Project’s largest mass concrete placement occurred on 9 June at over 2600 cy.

**6 Drain 27 Wetland Mitigation Project - Construction**

Construction was completed 2 December 2022. Native plantings 5-year service contract was awarded 17 May 2023, with a completion date of 1 December 2027.

**7 Drayton Dam Mitigation Project Design - Construction**

Construction is 54% complete. Contractor notched existing dam to drawdown work area. Removal of the existing dam planned will restart 19 June 2023. Construction completion is 30 September 2023.

**8 Southern Embankment – Reach SE-2A - Construction**

Construction is 27% complete. Contractor is back on site and is remobilizing equipment. Scheduled completion date is 30 September 2024.

**9 Southern Embankment Design – All remaining reaches are being designed.**

SE-1B: BCOES review Aug 2023 ..... Contract award: February 2024

SE-2B: BCOES review complete 9 June 2023 ..... Contract award: April 2024

SE-3: 65% review starts Aug 2023 ..... Contract award: January 2025

SE-4: 65% review starts Aug 2023 ..... Contract award: April 2024

SE-5: 65% review starts late-July 2023 ..... Contract award: January 2025

OHB Reach 43B: 95% review starts July 2023 ..... Contract award: February 2024

## **b. SWDCAI Project Update**

Mr. Bakkegard provided an update of the construction map that shows current work in progress, 30 and 60 day projected progress:

### **Design Submittal & Review Progress:**

- Nearing 1,400 review cycles
- 87 approved designs
  - 61 utility
  - 26 other

### **Construction Look Ahead:**

- **Channel Excavation**
  - Reach 3-5
  - Cultural Monitoring
- **Bridges/Crossings**
  - CR-81 – Bypass
  - CR-32 – Settlement
  - I-29 – Bypass
  - CR-22, 20, 10 – Upcoming
- **Drain Inlets**
  - Drain 30
  - Outlet & Drain 29
- **Maple River Aqueduct**
- **Utilities**
  - Between CR22 & 52nd Ave. S

## **c. Drone Footage**

A drone video highlighting the progress that has been achieved since May was viewed.

## **7. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

Ms. Willson provided the following Communications update:

### **Videos:**

- Faces of the Diversion: Mayors (leadership) released in May

### **Social Media:**

- Strong performance first half of this year
- LinkedIn reposts up 35%, comments up 29.4%
- Facebook reach over past 90 days up 168.7%

### **Upcoming Media:**

- Aqueducts story in The Forum
- Joel on Talk of the Town, WDAY-AM, July 12

## **8. LAND MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

### **a. Property Acquisition Status Report**

Ms. Smith provided the following property acquisition status report:

- 87.3% completion in the Construction Footprint
- 39.5% completion in the UMA Footprint
- 70.2% of the parcels in the Southern Embankment have been acquired
- 39.5% of the parcels in the Upstream Mitigation Area have been acquired
- 72.6% of the Environmental Easements have been signed
- 93.2% of the parcels in the Stormwater Diversion Channel have been acquired
- 97.4% of the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke levee
- 100% MFDA constructed in-town levees and the Drayton Dam mitigation is completed

**Key Activities**

- Continue negotiating settlement agreements for existing eminent domain actions
- In the last month, successfully closed 23 parcels / 11 landowners
- Batch #8 next steps letters and eminent domain filing authorization requested from CCJWRD for 3 property owners
- Focused on coordinating completion of appraisals for remaining property needs in UMA and Southern Embankment
- Prepared the first plat of project land for the SWDCAI (for lands in Wisner Township)
- Initiated home removal/demo work under WP38A (5 properties (4 in ND, 1 in MN))

**9. FINANCE UPDATE****Finance Report**

Mayor Dardis reported that the bills payable as of June 14, 2023, total \$2,940,522 and the current net position is \$185,014,599. Mayor Dardis also reported that the Salem Cemetery and BNSF agreements were approved.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to report.

**11. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be July 27, 2023.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.