

Planning Committee Agenda

Diversion Authority Planning Committee

April 9, 2026 @ 2:00 p.m. CST

This meeting will be in-person at the City of Fargo Red River Room (225 4th St N, Fargo, ND 58102).

1. Call to Order
 - a. Roll call of Members
2. Approve minutes – February 12, 2026
[Attachment 01.00] (Pg. 2)
3. Approve minutes – March 12, 2026
[Attachment 02.00] (Pg. 4)
4. Approve Order of Agenda
5. October Recognition Event Update
6. USACE Update
7. MN Legislative Update
8. Other Business
9. Next Meeting: May 14, 2026
10. Adjournment

MEDIA AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION INFORMATION

This meeting will be in-person at the City of Fargo Red River Room (225 4th St N, Fargo, ND 58102)

Metro Flood Diversion Authority Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

2:00 PM – February 12, 2026
Fargo City Hall, Red River Room

A meeting of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority Planning Committee was held on February 12, 2026. The following members were present: Shelly Carlson, Mayor, City of Moorhead; Rick Steen, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Dr. Tim Mahoney, Mayor, City of Fargo and Tony Grindberg, Cass County Commissioner.

Member(s) absent: Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner and Bernie Dardis, Mayor, City of West Fargo.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mahoney called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 2026 MINUTES

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Grindberg moved to approve the minutes from the January 8, 2026, meeting and Mayor Carlson seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

3. APPROVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

MOTION PASSED

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

4. WASHINGTON, D.C. TRIP

Mr. Benson provided an overview of the upcoming trip to Washington, D.C. The meeting schedule has not been finalized but tentatively, there will be discussions with officials and the USACE regarding the amendment to the PPA. The first draft of the PPA should be completed by March, with the MFDA potentially receiving the first payment in June 2026 and the second payment late Q1 or early Q2 2027.

There will also be discussions regarding the 408 permit and the need to see movement from the USACE as the project wraps up major construction.

5. O&M UPDATE

Mr. Benson reported that progress continues on the O&M plan. Delineation is still needed regarding hiring staff versus utilizing local government and consultants for various needs, i.e., snow, weed control, maintenance, etc. There will be a better understanding of flow, staffing and equipment needs in the next few months.

There is a pending trip to Manitoba for a floodway tour to gain insight into their O&M set-up and how it works with the different components of their diversion. More information will be provided upon finalization.

6. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Ms. Willson reported that there have been no significant changes to the plan since the diversion is still under construction. Additional updates will be made upon completion.

A recognition ceremony for those leaving the project is tentatively planned for October. An open house was discussed upon turnover in June for elected officials, community members and others that have been a part of the project. Ms. Willson is going to inquire with the FMWF Chamber to see if they would like to partner with the MFDA in planning and coordination.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Mahoney suggested a meeting with Fargo City Commissioners, Mr. Benson and himself to discuss Minnesota funding.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be March 12, 2026.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 PM.

Metro Flood Diversion Authority Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

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Fargo City Hall, Red River Room

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Member(s) absent: Shelly Carlson, Mayor, City of Moorhead; Rick Steen, Cass County Joint Water Resource District and Bernie Dardis, Mayor, City of West Fargo.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Mahoney called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Roll call was taken; a quorum was not present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 2026 MINUTES

The February 2026 meeting minutes were not approved.

3. APPROVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The order of the agenda was not approved.

4. O&M UPDATE

Mr. Nicholson provided an update on the visit to the Winnipeg diversion. He reported that the structure was constructed in 1965, and they currently employ 53 staff members who are cross-trained and utilized across all areas of the project. Their diversion operates every two to three years.

They have encountered challenges with maintaining vegetation and supporting the farming community by managing the land. It was noted that hunting is not encouraged in the channel, but it is not totally banned. Snowmobiling is allowed by permit only. Crop damage claims are sent directly to their EMO office for determination and/or appeal.

5. GOVERNANCE POLICY ANNUAL REVIEW

Mr. Shockley provided an overview of the following governance policies, their purpose and intent. These policies are monitored by the Planning Committee and reviewed by the Board of Authority annually, per the annual work plan. There was brief dialogue around each policy, and no changes will be implemented.

Governance Policies

- 1. Commitments
- 2. Board Culture
- 3. Board Functions & Responsibilities

Executive Director/Board Relationship Policies

- 1. Single Point of Contact
- 2. Single Unit Control

Operational Expectations Policies

1. Executive Director – Head of Administrative Branch of the MFDA
2. Emergency Succession
3. Treatment of Community Members

6. OTHER BUSINESS

There is a *tentative* plan to host a ceremony on May 5 or May 7 acknowledging the signing of the MFDA PPA amendment. Additional information is forthcoming.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 9, 2026.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.