Metro Flood Diversion Authority Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

2:00 PM – November 5, 2026
Fargo City Hall, Red River Room

A meeting of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority Planning Committee was held on November 5, 2026. The following members were present: Josh Boschee, Mayor, City of Fargo; Shelly Carlson, Mayor, City of Moorhead; Rick Steen, Manager, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Tony Grindberg, Cass County Commissioner; Eric Gjerdevig, Mayor, City of West Fargo and Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner.

Members(s) absent: no members were absent

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVE THE OCTOBER 2026 MINUTES

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Steen moved to approve the October 2026 minutes, and Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

3. APPROVE THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

MOTION PASSED

Mayor Carlson moved to amend the agenda to include the November 19th board meeting date as item 9., a., under Other Business and Mayor Gjerdevig seconded the motion. On a voice vote, the motion carried.

4. PROJECT DOCUMENTARY RFQ

Ms. Willson provided an update on the potential costs of producing the documentary. She reported that a full, five-hour documentary versus five, one and one-half hour segments, is an approximate savings of $20,000.

It was discussed again: what do we want to use the documentary for? Board and community education? National interest? Who is the audience? Ms. Willson reported that approximately $47,000 is left from the event sponsorships that can be put toward producing the documentary. Sponsorship from national and internal sponsors, event attendees, etc., was also discussed as an option.

After extensive dialogue, the committee asked that a draft RFQ be prepared to include both options, and the committee will discuss whom it will be sent to at the next meeting.

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Grindberg moved to prepare the RFQ to include both options and Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

5. CITY OF HORACE ASSESSMENT DISTRICT

Mr. Benson reported that he attended the City of Horace council meetings to address the Wall Avenue special assessments that they are placing on the MFDA. He reported that he asked them to take the $100,577 in assessments out of the $5,000,000 MOU that is between the MFDA and the City of Horace. The City of Horace

indicated that there was nothing definitive in the MOU that indicated that the funds should/could be used for special assessments.

Current assessments:

- Wall Avenue East - $22,407
- Wall Avenue West -$78,170

Future potential projects on arterial roads with ½ mile benefit areas:

- 81st Street (gravel road running N/S on the west side of the Horace Diversion)
- 64th Avenue S from Cass 17 to 81st Street

6. CYBERSECURITY & INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY AGENCY UPDATE

Mr. Benson reported that he met with the North Dakota CISA regional director to discuss a potential partnership. They will work with the MFDA on security inspection processes, development of 3-D facility models and assist in the tabletop exercises.

7. O&M STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT NEEDS

Mr. Benson presented a spreadsheet with the proposed FTEs indicating that 17 FTEs will be needed. MRA is reviewing job descriptions and salary ranges, and 5 staff are anticipated to be hired in the next 4-5 months.

Mr. Grindberg requested an organizational chart be completed for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Bakkegard touched on the equipment needs for 2027 & 2028 and indicated that the list is not all inclusive and is open for comment and/or change.

8. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT & MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

Mr. Fisher provided an update on the mitigation and monitoring requirements that are *mandated* by the state and federal permitting agencies.

Forest Mitigation

Planting Contracts

- 3 forest planting contracts to satisfy mitigation
    - 22 sites (121.3 ac planting; 245.4 preservation)
    - 10.4 ac to be completed by MFDA in 2027
- All contracts run through December 2028 and then will transition to MFDA monitoring and maintenance
- MFDA monitoring/management requirements:
    - Annual monitoring 2029-2031
    - Future Monitoring every 10 years or following major flooding
- Weed/Invasive species management requirements

  **MFDA will develop RFQ in fall/winter of 2028

Biotic (IBI)

- Per AMMP and Permitting requirements:
    - Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI) was utilized in 2012 and 2017 (pre-construction) to evaluate aquatic habitat conditions utilizing fish and aquatic invertebrate data
        - IBI samples are quantified between a 0 to 1 scale with 1 being excellent and 0 being very poor
            - Past sampling efforts produced IBI scores between 0.4-0.6 range
    - Future IBI efforts (post-construction):
        - Continuation of IBI studies in 2028 and 2030

          ***MFDA will develop RFQ next year

Biotics-Fish Passage Study

- Per AMMP and Permitting requirements:
    - Are resulting hydraulics in the aqueducts and channel features adequate to allow fish passage?
    - Do fish of all species and sizes enter the aqueducts?
    - Do most fish that enter the aqueducts exit the upper end of the aqueducts?
- Acoustic telemetry tagging with potential for PIT tagging efforts after 3 years of acoustic study
    - Acoustic telemetry tag study from 2027-2030
      ***MFDA will have RFQ ready next month

- **Connectivity**

- **Wetlands**

- **Cultural Resources**

Water Quality

- Per AMMP and Permitting requirements:
    - Water quality sampling for major ions, trace metals, nutrients, organic carbons (total and dissolved), bacteria pesticides and suspended sediment
    - Ten sampling/monitoring locations
        - 5 - Red River
        - 2 - Sheyenne River
        - 2 - Wild Rice River
        - 1 - Maple River
    - USGS contracted efforts
        - Pre-construction (2019-2022)
        - Construction (2022-2026)
        - Post-construction (2027-2030)
          ***MFDA has requested scope from USGS to continue efforts

Geomorphic Surveys

- Per AMMP and Permitting requirements:
    - Gather baseline to waterways, bank stability, erosion, and sedimentation within and outside of existing channels and floodplain
    - 3 studies pre-construction:
        - 2012
        - 2019
        - 2021
    - Future Studies:
        - Within 1 year of post-construction (2028)
        - Year 5
        - Year 10
        - After any project operation year
          **MFDA will be developing RFQ in next couple of months

9. OTHER BUSINESS

a. November board meeting. Ms. Lindblom will query members to ensure that a quorum is present.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on December 3, 2026.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM.