

MINUTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
OCTOBER 26, 2011

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on October 26, 2011, at 8:30 a.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

The following Committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District, Chairman; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; and Brenda Elmer, Moorhead City Council Member. Members absent were: Brad Wimmer, Fargo City Commissioner, and Gerald VanAmburg, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District.

Also present were Brett Coleman and Terryl Williams, Corps of Engineers; Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc., Public Relations Team; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer; and members of the local media.

**Minutes**

It was moved by Kevin Campbell and seconded by Mike Thorstad to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2011, meeting.

**Communications Plan**

It was moved by Kevin Campbell and seconded by Brenda Elmer to approve the Communications Plan, as presented by Daron Selvig, and recommend approval of the same to the Diversion Authority. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

**Website**

Daron Selvig reviewed updates to the [FMDiversion.com](http://FMDiversion.com) website.

Brenda Elmer said she would like to see the figure as to what the cost would be should the flood fight be lost included in the information. Terryl Williams said that figure is \$10 billion. Kevin Campbell said it should also be stated that it would have an impact on 200,000 people. Rodger Olson said a large percentage of the population of North Dakota lives within the boundaries of the proposed project. Mr. Selvig will look into that to confirm the percentage figure. Impacts to the business community will also be noted, along with a link to the Greater Fargo/Moorhead Economic Development Corporation.

A “viewpoints” tab will contain quotes and letters from others. People will be allowed to leave comments, provided they leave their name and a valid email address. Ms. Elmer suggested asking for their city / county as well. Comments will not be answered individually, but will be placed on the website. Common questions/answers will be under “FAQ.” Mr. Thorstad suggested adding a link to Appendix U of the Final Feasibility and Environmental Impact Statement.

Ms. Elmer asked about project mitigation. Ms. Williams said the Corps of Engineers has guidelines on acquiring property. They will have information on mitigation, upstream impacts and environmental issues at the Diversion Authority meeting tomorrow. She said Appendix U addresses many questions relating to upstream impacts.

Mr. Selvig will continue working on the website and will occasionally send updates to Ms. Williams for her review. He hopes to have the website ready for the November Diversion Authority meeting.

### **Public Outreach**

Mr. Selvig will contact The Forum about having a link to the feature they have addressing questions from the public on the project. Letters to the Editor will also be monitored so that responses can be made to any new issues that come up.

Mr. Campbell said the recent media tour conducted by the Corps of Engineers went very well. He would like Mr. Selvig to continue doing that that type of thing.

Information on crop insurance issues needs to be provided to farmers. This information could also be included on the website.

### **Right of Entry Committee report**

Ms. Williams reported on the recent teleconference regarding right of entry. Survey work is needed in the staging area next spring. The area has been divided into four parts for local review. The Cass County Joint Water Resource District (CCJWRD) will be sending letters to property owners in mid to late November requesting access and following up with telephone calls. If access is refused, the property will go on the Court Ordered list.

The CCJWRD held a public meeting when Rights of Entry were requested on parcels off of the project alignment. Mr. Olson said the Water Resource District would be willing to schedule meetings again, if necessary. Ms. Williams thought that would be a good thing so it is easier for property owners to get answers to their questions.

Ms. Williams said letters will be sent out to Minnesota properties around the same time. All agreed that it would be beneficial to coordinate the information distributed at the meetings for both the North Dakota and Minnesota properties and that representatives


from both areas attend the meetings. Gerald VanAmburg and Bruce Albright will be invited to attend the meetings held for the North Dakota properties and Mr. Olson may attend meetings for Minnesota properties.

Mr. Olson suggested scheduling the meetings before the letters go out to avoid the need for another mailing. The Board may divide the area up and bring in groups from those areas at different times to make it more manageable over several days, if necessary. Ms. Williams said the Corps of Engineers would be available to help out. Mr. Olson said meetings will be held with townships over the winter.


**Adjournment**

There being no further business to be considered, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

  
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Rodger Olson  
Chairman

ATTEST:

  
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Carol Harbeke Lewis  
Cass County Joint Water Resource District  
Secretary-Treasurer