

MINUTES OF MEETING  
DIVERSION AUTHORITY PUBLIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE  
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT  
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA  
FEBRUARY 12, 2014

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met on February 12, 2014, at 2:00 p.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; and Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner.

Also present were Rocky Schneider and Daron Selvig, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Services, Inc.; Lyndon Pease, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Cass County Joint Water Resource District Secretary-Treasurer; and those whose names appear on the attached roster.

There was not a quorum present.

**Right of Entry Committee report**

Lyndon Pease gave an update on access issues relating to the Metro Flood Diversion Project. There is property near the Maple River that may require additional cultural survey work. Access is also needed for some remaining cultural resources surveys on the in-town levees. He will continue to keep the Committee updated on the matter.

The Wild Rice Dam Fish Passage Mitigation Project was discussed. The installation of a fish passage structure on the dam is being considered or the complete removal of the dam. All necessary access for the Wild Rice Dam issue has been acquired from property owners and the survey work necessary for the dam will begin in the spring.

Mr. Pease said that additional cultural resources surveys will be required for the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Subdivision Ring Levee Project. The Corps of Engineers is currently installing ground monitoring equipment in that area. Access to 7 different properties in both Minnesota and North Dakota will be required for additional cultural resources surveys.

All of the owners of residential property that needs to be acquired for the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Ring Levee Project have been notified, and the appraisal process has begun. Most of the property owners are expressing interest in rebuilding in Oxbow. A meeting will be held with the Home Builders Association during the first week of March to discuss the upcoming demand for homes. Rocky Schneider said homeowners have also been given the option to relocate their current homes.

The Corps of Engineers will be requesting access to approximately 100 properties for various survey work in 2014.

### **Land acquisition update**

Mr. Schneider distributed maps showing farmland purchases and proposed farmland purchases for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. He reported that numerous offers have been received from property owners in crucial areas for the project who are interested in selling.

### **RRBC Conference**

Mr. Schneider said the Diversion Authority was represented during the Red River Basin Commission conference held January 14 through 16, 2014, in Fargo. He said the overall feedback received at the conference was positive.

### **Southern Alignment Alternatives Review**

Rodger Olson reviewed discussions from a past MNDak Upstream Coalition where an alternative to the Metro Flood Diversion Project was presented. The alternative was similar to one of the alternatives considered by the Diversion Authority, which was found to be much more costly and affected more structures.

### **Moorhead Council Briefing**

Mr. Schneider said outreach to Moorhead Council candidates regarding the Metro Flood Diversion Project is being set up. Current Moorhead Council members will be invited to participate as well.

### **Legislative Planning**

Legislative outreach and the importance of creating opportunities for new legislators to learn about the Metro Flood Diversion Project were discussed.

### **Federal authorization update**

Mr. Schneider said the Water Resources Reform and Development Act bill continues to work its way through the Conference Committee. Diversion Authority Board members will be heading to Washington D.C. the week of February 24th to promote the project.

### **E-Newsletter / FMDiversion.com update**

Daron Selvig said an e-newsletter is scheduled for distribution towards the end of the week. There will be articles on the Oxbow-Hickson-Bakke Subdivision Ring Levee, the alignment design flyover, comments regarding the alternate plan released by the Richland-Wilkin Joint Powers Authority, and an update on the Environmental Impact Statement discussion.

**Finance and Diversion Project Assessment Committee (DPAC) updates**

Mr. Schneider reported that the DPAC has been working on development of a special assessment district for the Metro Flood Diversion Project. The Finance Committee would like to see outreach to local communities to introduce the topic.

**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