

**Metro Flood Diversion Authority
Land Management Committee
Meeting Minutes
3 PM - March 24, 2021**



A virtual meeting of the Metro Flood Diversion Authority Land Management Committee was held on March 24, 2021. The following members were present: Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner; Kory Peterson, Mayor, City of Horace; Bruce Grubb, Fargo City Administrator; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Nathan Boerboom, Fargo Division Engineer; Chuck Hendrickson, Moorhead City Council; Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Duane Breitling, Cass County Commissioner; Jenny Mongeau, Clay County Commissioner; Arlette Preston, Fargo City Commissioner and Bob Zimmerman, Moorhead City Engineer.

No members were absent.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mrs. Scherling called the meeting to order at 3:08 PM. Roll call was taken, and a quorum was present.

2. AGENDA REVIEW

MOTION PASSED

Ms. Mongeau moved to approve the agenda as presented and Mr. Olson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2021 MINUTES

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Olson moved to approve the minutes from February 2021 and Mr. Zimmerman seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. PROPERTY ACQUISITION STATUS REPORT

Mr. Dodds reported that 550 properties have been acquired as of March 16, 2021 and we are initiating the LRED process on a handful of properties.

There are flowage easement appraisals underway on 470 parcels and 169 properties are currently in negotiations for environmental monitoring easements.

Mr. Dodds stated that the DA is working with cemeteries that are being impacted and the Clara Cemetery in Comstock, Minnesota, is the most impacted. Mr. Paulsen indicated that he and Mr. Bakkegard have met with the Clara Cemetery board and are currently working on a ring levee design to present to their board for approval.

Mr. Paulsen indicated that most of the other cemeteries have minimal impacts and the DA will continue to work with their respective boards to find resolve.

5. **POLICY ON DISPOSITION AND MANAGEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT LAND**

Mr. Nicholson introduced the revised draft and indicated that it had been circulated to TAG. There were only minor updates and changes from the last meeting.

Mrs. Scherling thanked all those involved for their hard work on the policy and Mr. Grubb was grateful as well, indicating that the city supports it as revised.

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Olson moved to recommend the policy to the MFDA Board of Authority for approval and Mr. Breitling seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion carried.

6. **COMMITTEE UPDATE FOR DA BOARD**

Mr. Dodds will provide the following update to the MFDA Board:

Activities and Achievements

Land Acquisition and Property Mitigation Status

• Acquisitions

- Currently working on acquiring property for:
 - Drain 27 Wetland Restoration Project
 - Red River Control Structure
 - Upstream Structures
 - Environmental Monitoring Easements
- Completed acquisitions for: Diversion Channel, Southern Embankment Reach 1, I-29 Road Raise, Wild Rice River Control Structure, and Diversion Inlet Structure
- Acquired property interests on over 600 parcels (including those acquired via last resort eminent domain, and including split parcels)

• Appraisal Work

- Appraisals being completed for: Upstream Structures (farmsteads, rural residential, etc.)
- Started Flowage Easement Valuation on over 500 parcels with tillable land in the Upstream Mitigation Area (UMA)

• Policy regarding Disposition and Management of Project Land

7. **CCJWRD UPDATE**

Mr. Dodds stated that there are no issues at this time. Mrs. Scherling inquired if we are providing them what they need and Mr. Olson indicated yes, and they are attempting to make things as painless as possible for those being affected.

Mr. Dodds also reported that Crown is producing a video and script for property owners to provide them information on the bio-geo efforts.

8. MCCJPA UPDATE

Mr. Campbell indicated that there are five or six land acquisitions on the Minnesota side that have been approved. The MCCJPA is meeting tomorrow, and he will get an update on the bio-geo and property owner meetings. They will also be discussing land needs on the Minnesota side at the Red River Control Structure.

Ms. Mongeau indicated that there is a couple that are willing to negotiate farm leases.

9. MetroCOG UPDATE

There was no update.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Olson inquired if the Kindred School District will receive any funds from the settlement. Mr. Shockley stated that as part of the fund it is between the Richland-Wilken JPA and the Kindred School District to reach an agreement on any funds that the District will receive.

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION PASSED

Mr. Campbell moved and Ms. Mongeau seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:43 pm.