



**Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
2:00 P.M. - Wednesday, December 18  
City of Fargo River Room  
Fargo, North Dakota**

Permanent, Reliable Flood Protection

The Diversion Authority Public Outreach Committee met Wednesday, December 18, 2019, in the River Room at Fargo City Hall. The following committee members were present: Rodger Olson, Cass County Joint Water Resource District; Kevin Campbell, Clay County Commissioner; Mike Thorstad, West Fargo City Commissioner; Jake Gust, Cass County Joint Water Resource District (via phone); Rick Steen, Cass County Commissioner; Shelly Carlson, Moorhead City Council Member; and Ken Pawluk, Cass County Commissioner.

The following committee members were absent: Grant Weyland, Clay County Commissioner; and John Stand, Fargo City Commissioner.

Others Present where: Joel Paulsen, Executive Director; Mary Scherling, Cass County Commissioner; Matt Stamness, Assistant Cass County Engineer; Jason Benson, Cass County Engineer; Rocky Schneider, Sadie Moen, Tammy Jo Taft, Advanced Engineering and Environmental Service, Inc.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Olson at 1:59 p.m.. Mr. Campbell motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November. Mr. Pawluk seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

#### PROJECT INFORMATIONAL POINTS

Mr. Schneider presented the updated informational points and noted they may still be edited after the meeting before being presented at the Board meeting. He explained that there were legal updates and news about the Wild Rice Control Structure contract that was recently awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The judge said they will be continuing to move forward with the project. Mr. Paulsen said the MCCJPA was there to help defend the Wild Rice Control Structure. He explained that this is the same group that was there to appeal the Buffalo Red. They should not be allowed to intervene, but Minnesota allows for them to intervene if they would like. Referring to the finance section of the document, Mr. Schneider discussed federal funding and workplan developments. There was also discussion about the audit. Ms. Carlson suggested creating a visual sheet showing where and how the money is being spent. It will help the public understand where the money is coming from and going.

#### LANDS OUTREACH

Mr. Campbell explained that are some property owners who do not want to sign easements and the MCCJPA is taking the issue to court. He said some confusion exists

regarding the type and length of easement being requested. There was discussion about easements, recent meetings for Biological and Geomorphic Monitoring easements and property acquisition in North Dakota and Minnesota. Mr. Campbell noted the easements in Minnesota had to wait until the Moorhead Clay County Joint Powers Authority (MCCJPA) was formed and then various deadlines had to be met.

#### ND WATER TOPICS OVERVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Paulsen presented at the North Dakota Legislature's Water Topic Overview Committee meeting at the beginning of December. Mr. Paulsen discussed his time at the conference and his presentation about the Project. He shared about the construction starting on the Wild Rice River Control Structure and that some were surprised to hear that the bid is awarded, and construction is moving forward.

#### RED RIVER BASIN COMMISSION CONFERENCE

Ms. Scherling explained the Project will have a booth at the conference, and Col. Jansen will be there for a few days.

#### ANALYTICS

Ms. Taft discussed how we got a tweet from the Assistant Secretary of the Army. This tweet got a lot of impressions and is a very good tweet. The animated flyover video is still performing well.

#### COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

Mr. Schneider explained the schedule to update the Communications Plan including a postcard and online survey. Mr. Steen noted some people may try to complete the survey multiple times. Mrs. Taft explained the online software can be set to ensure that does not happen. There was discussion about media sources listed as options on the post card.

#### 2020 MEETING CALENDAR

Mr. Schneider presented a draft calendar of meetings and noted this is an ongoing discussion about when the meetings should be during the year. Mr. Schneider noted the regular room for Outreach Committee meetings is the Commission Chambers and the meeting was in the River Room today because of a scheduling conflict.

Meeting adjourned at 3:02