

MINUTES OF MEETING
DIVERSION AUTHORITY AGRICULTURAL POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE
CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
JULY 9, 2013

The Diversion Authority Agricultural Policy Subcommittee met on July 9, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Cass County Highway Department, West Fargo, North Dakota.

Present were those whose names appear on the attached roster.

Chairman Rodger Olson called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Approval of agenda order

It was moved by Mark Bittner, seconded by Ken Bergh, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda, as amended.

Minutes

It was moved by Ken Bergh, seconded by Jon Evert and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2013, meeting.

Risk Management – crop insurance / flowage easements

Eric Dodds invited Barry Olson to the meeting to clarify information on Federal Crop Insurance. Various concepts have been discussed, including the possibility of supplemental crop insurance through the Diversion Authority. The supplemental crop insurance would be utilized in scenarios when coverage would not be provided through Federal Crop Insurance to farmland impacted by project operation. The use of flowage easements is another alternative.

Mr. Olson discussed crop insurance as a means of risk management and explained some alternative approaches to crop insurance. He discussed the potential benefits of inviting independent crop insurance providers to assess the situation.

Mark Bittner suggested establishing a baseline for properties impacted by the project. He also suggested to the Chairman that small groups be created to write out what the risks and benefits are of the separate options. Mr. Dodds said he can meet with specialists, but recommended it would also be beneficial to have ag producers involved. Chairman Olson asked for volunteers on the Diversion Authority Agricultural Policy Subcommittee to assist Mr. Dodds in meeting with crop insurance specialists.

Flowage easement values were discussed. Mr. Dodds suggested the Diversion Authority consider conducting some sample appraisals in the staging area now or this fall, to try and get a better feel for the range of a flowage easement according to the

water depth / duration. Matt Ness said he agrees that flowage easement appraisals need to be conducted at some point, but may not be necessary now. Jon Evert said the property values could change. Mark Askegaard said he did not see a need to do this until the project is authorized and the DNR process is finished. Mr. Olson said it may be valuable to know more about how flowage easement values are calculated for future reference. Mark Ottis indicated he would like to see what the value would be today.

Staging area inundation map

Lee Beauvais presented graphic simulations of the staging area for the project, which depicted how water flows in and out of the staging area in a spring flooding event. Mark Brodshaug requested that the same representations be made for a summer rainfall event.

Flood debris cleanup

Flood debris cleanup will be added to the agenda for discussion at the next Diversion Authority Agricultural Policy Subcommittee meeting.

Tile drainage concept development for the staging area

Mike Opat said they continue to study subsurface drainage in the staging area. A 6 square mile area was targeted for the study. They are looking at applying what they have learned to the rest of the staging area. A cost analysis may be ready for the next meeting.

Meeting schedule

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on August 6, 2013, at the Cass County Highway Department in West Fargo.

Adjournment

It was moved by Mark Brodshaug, seconded by Rodger Olson and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

Rodger Olson
Chairman

ATTEST:

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